

In-Vivo Toxicity of Bioreactor-Grown Biomass And Exopolysaccharides From Malaysian Tiger Milk Mushroom Mycelium For Potential Future Health Applications

Siti Rokhiyah Ahmad Usuldin

Universiti Malaya

Imad Wan-Mohtar

Universiti Malaya

Zul Ilham

Universiti Malaya

Adi Ainurzaman Jamaludin

Universiti Malaya

Nur Raihan Abdullah

International Islamic University Malaysia

Neil Rowan (✉ nrowan@ait.ie)

Athlone Institute of Technology

Research Article

Keywords: mycelial biomass, exopolysaccharide, Zebrafish Embryo Toxicity, therapeutic

Posted Date: August 12th, 2021

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-778200/v1>

License:   This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

[Read Full License](#)

Version of Record: A version of this preprint was published at Scientific Reports on November 29th, 2021.
See the published version at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-02486-7>.

***In-vivo* Toxicity of Bioreactor-Grown Biomass and Exopolysaccharides from Malaysian Tiger Milk Mushroom Mycelium for Potential Future Health Applications**

Siti Rokhiyah Ahmad Usuldin^{1,2}, Wan Abd Al Qadr Imad Wan-Mohtar^{2,3,6, +}, Zul Ilham^{3,4}, Adi Ainurzaman Jamaludin⁴, Nur Raihan Abdullah⁵, and Neil Rowan^{6,7,+,*}

¹Agro-Biotechnology Institute, Malaysia (ABI), National Institutes of Biotechnology Malaysia (NIMB), c/o HQ MARDI, 43400, Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia

²Functional Omics and Bioprocess Development Laboratory, Institute of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

³Bioresources and Bioprocessing Research Group, Institute of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Sciences, Universiti Malaya, 50603, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

⁴Environmental Science and Management Program, Institute of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Malaya, 50603, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

⁵Department of Biotechnology, Kulliyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia, 25200 Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

⁶Bioscience Research Institute, Athlone Institute of Technology, Ireland

⁷Empower Eco Innovation Hub, Boora, Co. Offaly, Ireland

*nrowan@ait.ie

+these authors contributed equally to this work

ABSTRACT

Natural mycelial biomass (MB) and exopolysaccharide (EPS) produced from bioreactor-grown Malaysian Tiger Milk Mushroom *Lignosus rhinocerus* are considered high-end components due to their high commercial potential value in drug discovery. Both MB (0.16-10 mg/mL) and EPS (0.16-10 mg/mL) extracts were tested for Zebrafish Embryo Toxicity (ZFET) and early development effects on Zebrafish Embryos (ZE) during 24-120 h post-fertilization (HPF) in order to assess toxicity given potential application as a new therapy for treating asthma. Finding revealed that MB was deemed to be safe with an LC₅₀ of 0.77 mg/mL; EPS was shown to be non-toxic (LC₅₀ of 0.41 mg/mL). Neither MB nor EPS delayed hatching nor teratogenic defects in treated ZE at a dose of 2.5 mg/mL. There were no significant changes in the ZE heart rate after MB or EPS treatments with MB (0.16-10 mg/mL: 130 beats/min) and EPS (0.16-10 mg/mL: 140 beats/min), as compared to normal ZE (120-180 beats/min). In addition, mixing of both natural compounds MB and EPS did not affect toxicity using ZFET testing; thus, intimating their safe future use as therapeutic interventions.

Introduction

Mushrooms are filamentous fungi that have been used worldwide since prehistoric times all across the world ^{1,2}, and medically since at least 3000 BCE ^{3,4}. Mushrooms have become increasingly important as producing organisms in research and industry; food, medicines, cosmetics, detergents and biofuels are examples of high-value products produced by fungi ^{5,6}. In addition, there has been increased interest in exploiting mushroom-derived extracts as potential solutions for pressing health applications ^{7,8}, including a focused interest in biorefining these products such as through Green New Deal innovations from food waste streams that attests to enhanced focus on growing ‘circularity’ and bioeconomy ^{9,10}. Mushrooms are classified in the kingdom of Fungi and have many active constituents including, but possibly not limited to, polysaccharides, polysaccharide peptides, proteins, terpenoids, and nucleotides ¹¹. The most studied and used medicinally active ingredient in mushrooms is β -glucan. Previous research has revealed that β -glucans have broad metabolic and gastro-intestinal effects, including modulating the gut microbiome, altering lipid and glucose metabolism, reducing cholesterol; thus, leading to use of β -glucan as potential therapies for treating metabolic syndrome, obesity and diet regulation, gastrointestinal conditions, and to reduce the risk of cardiovascular and diabetes ¹².

It is appreciated that bioactive extracts derived from mushrooms can modulate the immune response affecting hematopoietic stem cells, lymphocytes, macrophages, T cells, dendritic cells and natural killer cells. Moreover, the pronounced immune-modulatory effects of β -glucans ^{13,14} has also lead to their investigation as adjuvant agents for treating cancers (solid and haematological malignancies), for immune-mediated conditions (such as allergic rhinitis, respiratory infections), and to enhance wound healing ^{12,15}. Murphy et al. ¹⁴ have reviewed over 200 patents that highlighted the therapeutic potential of β -glucans; this is evidenced by the fact that two glucans were licensed as immune-adjuvant therapy for treating cancer in Japan. However, significant challenges exist to further clinical testing and translation of β -glucans, which includes important differences that appear to exist in the effects of apparently similar β -glucan preparations that may be due to differences in sources and extraction procedures ¹². The present authors have recently identified active ingredients of *Lignosus rhinocerus* using 2D COSY, TOCSY, HMQC and HMBC analyses and reported on anti-oxidative potential of (1,3)- β -D-glucan (in the form of exopolysaccharide crude extract) as an important constituent ¹⁶. However, it is appreciated that there are many other compounds extracted from medicinal mushroom have yet to be named, such as often referred to by gel chromatography fraction ¹¹; thus, highlighting the need to conduct and report on safety.

The Tiger Milk mushroom, *Lignosus rhinocerus*, belongs to the Basidiomycota section of the Polyporaceae family and is classified as a filamentous fungus ^{17,18}. *L. rhinocerus* was grown in submerged-liquid fermentation (SLF) using a laboratory-scale stirred-tank bioreactor in order to achieve bulk cultivation and commensurate production of polysaccharides ¹⁶. When compared to solid-state fermentation (SSF), SLF has several advantages, including limited space requirements, ease of scale-up, reliable and reproducible processing, ease to monitoring, and versatility ¹⁹. Artificially-cultivated *L. rhinocerus* is also an excellent replacement in the development of therapeutic items; for example, exopolysaccharides (EPS) isolated from mushroom mycelial biomass (MB) have pharmacological properties, such as immunomodulatory, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, antiviral, and antioxidant properties ²⁰. Chen et al.²¹ discovered that *L. rhinocerotis* mycelium grown in SLF does not cause

mutagenicity or genotoxicity. FDA standards, on the other hand, demand substantial proof of no hazard for commercial usage ²¹.

Asthma affects 300 million individuals worldwide and is caused by a complex combination of inherited and environmental variables ¹⁸. Allergic asthma is a long-term condition characterized by wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, and coughing. In Malaysia, indigenous peoples have long used *L. rhinoceros* to treat asthma. The majority of today's asthma medications are made up of steroids and other anti-inflammatory drugs ¹⁸. Recent studies have reported on the efficacy of EPS from medicinal mushrooms to ameliorate pro- and anti-inflammatory responses using *ex vivo* and *in vivo* infection models with therapeutic potential ^{12,14,22}. Aqueous extracts of *L. rhinocerotis* were reported to help reduce asthma-related variables in asthma model ²³. In addition, a previous toxicity study indicated that feeding 1000 mg/kg of *L. rhinoceros* extract to rats had no detrimental consequences, hence considered safe ²⁴. As a result, a more effective asthma treatment is required and *L. rhinoceros* has the potential to be a useful adjuvant or alternative to currently available asthma medications.

A recent publication on the evaluation of the toxicity of biomass-EPS comparable medicinal mushroom mycelial extracts revealed that the zebrafish embryo toxicity (ZFET) assay can be deployed as safety screening approach before pre-clinical testing according to national and international standards ²⁵. In comparison to human cell lines, the ZFET model research has been shown to be quick, resilient, efficient, and cost-effective for early development investigations; in addition, it also represents relevant genetic structure and equivalent key organs and tissues^{26,27}. Thus, this study will help determine mushroom extract's toxicity before it is developed and potentially commercialized as new therapeutic intervention. To date, there has been no toxicity studies using the ZFET model describing use of MB and EPS of *L. rhinoceros* generated in bioreactor.

As a result, this constitutes the second study to determine the levels of toxicity of extracted MB and EPS using a zebrafish-embryo-toxicity (ZFET) model. The toxicity of MB and EPS produced from *L. rhinoceros* was tested using the Zebrafish embryo toxicity model to ensure product safety throughout the pre-commercialization phase. It is notable that the present rare *L. rhinoceros* strain ABI was successfully isolated and identified from a tropical forest near Lata Iskandar, Pahang, Malaysia ¹⁶; however, there has been limited information published on its' therapeutic potential.

Results

Zebrafish Embryo Survival Rate after MB and EPS Exposure

The survival rate of zebrafish embryos following MB and EPS exposure was studied between 0 and 120 h at MB and EPS extract concentrations of 0.16-10 mg/mL. For five days, the survival rate of embryos (prior to hatching) and larvae (post hatching) treated with MB and EPS extract were measured. The survival rate of embryos (prior to hatching) and larvae (post hatching) treated with MB and EPS extract was assessed for a maximum of five days (120 h) as the zebrafish embryos hatch typically 48 to 72 h post-fertilization (HPF). The survival rate of untreated embryos, between 0 and 120 HPF, was shown to be 100% (Figure 1a). At 48 HPF, the survival percentage for embryos treated with MB fell to 85% at concentrations >5mg/mL and 60% at 10 mg/mL. At 72 HPF, the survival rate declined to 80% at

concentrations less than 2.5 mg/mL, 65% at concentrations greater than 5 mg/mL, and 10% at concentrations greater than 10 mg/mL. At concentrations >1.25 mg/mL, the survival rate was 20% at 96 HPF, and after 120 HPF; it was observed that no embryos survived at concentrations >1.25 mg/mL (Figure 1a). The survival rate of embryos (prior to hatching) and larvae (post hatching) treated with EPS (0.110 mg/mL) throughout a five-day period is shown in Figure 1b. Between 0 and 120 h of HPF, untreated embryos (control) exhibited a 100% survival rate. After 72 h of HPF exposure, the survival rate declined to 90% at a concentration of 0.63 mg/mL, 85% at a dose of 1.25 mg/mL, and 50% at a dosage of 5 mg/mL. At 96 HPF, the survival rate declined to 75% at concentrations less than 0.63 mg/mL and 30% at concentrations greater than 1.25 mg/mL. At 120 HPF, survival rates at concentrations 0.63 mg/mL declined to 30%, while survival rates at concentrations >1.25 mg/mL were 0%, with no embryos surviving. Overall, the results suggest that MB and EPS extracts delay hatching at doses less than 1.25 mg/mL.

The Zebrafish Embryos Mortality after MB and EPS Exposure

Overall, MB and EPS extracts had dose- and time-dependent fatal effects. Figure 2 shows a high survival rate, (90%) of zebrafish embryos at concentrations of MB and EPS extracts below 1.25 mg/mL. Both MB and EPS extracts had a low survival rate at high concentrations (over 1.25 mg/mL), and none survived after 96 HPF. As a result, the fatal concentration at 50% (LC₅₀ value) of zebrafish embryos exposed to MB was 0.77 mg/mL, while the LC₅₀ value of the EPS extract was 0.41 mg/mL.

The Zebrafish Embryos Hatching after MB and EPS Exposure

Based on the embryo observation, different mushroom extract concentrations will impact upon the embryo's hatchability. The percentage of hatchability fell with increasing concentrations of mushroom extracts. Figure 3a illustrates the hatching rate of zebrafish embryos treated with MB (0.1610 mg/mL) and EPS (0.1610 mg/mL) at 0–120 HPF. No significant changes in the hatching rate were found when MB was treated with MB extract at a concentration of 0.63 mg/mL. However, at 48 HPF, the rate declined to 80% at concentrations >1.25 mg/mL. At 72 HPF, the hatching rate was lowered to 65% at 5 mg/mL. Further reduction was seen (25% hatching rate) when treated with MB at a dose of 10 mg/mL, intimating that a high mortality rate occurred after 72 HPF. The hatching rate of EPS did not alter significantly after treatment with MB extract at a dosage of 0.63 mg/mL. Less than 85% of the embryos hatched was observed after a 48-h treatment with EPS at a concentration of >1.25 mg/mL. However, due to a significant mortality rate at 72 HPF, zebrafish larvae treated with EPS at doses of 10 mg/mL had the lowest hatching rate (30%).

The Zebrafish Embryos Heart Rate after MB and EPS Exposure

During the development of many model species, including zebrafish, the heart is the major functioning organ²⁸. The heart rates of zebrafish larvae at 96 HPF (4 days) for both the MB (Fig. 4a) and EPS (Fig. 4b) treatments were 130 and 140 beats/min, respectively, according to Figure 4. According to a previous study, the normal heart rate of zebrafish embryos is 120–180 beats per minute, which is much closer to that of humans²⁹. Both extracts exhibited no significant difference in the heart rate of zebrafish larvae at 96 HPF at lower concentrations (relative to higher doses in Figure 3) ranging between 0.161.25 mg/mL for MB and 0.161.25 mg/mL for EPS. The heart rate of zebrafish larvae at these concentrations

was not determined because both MB and EPS extracts at 2.5, 5 and 10 mg/mL demonstrated very little to no survival at 96 HPF.

The Morphology of Larvae and Zebrafish Embryos after MB and EPS Exposure

Potential morphological abnormalities in embryos and larvae were detected and measured from 0 HPF to 120 HPF. At 120 h following exposure to MB and EPS at doses of 0.63 mg/mL and 1.25 mg/mL respectively, no obvious teratogenic effect on embryos and larvae (Figure 5). These findings infer that MB and EPS have no teratogenic effects on zebrafish embryo development prior to- and post hatching. The development of zebrafish embryos and larvae were unaffected by exposure to 0.63 mg/mL MB (Figure 6) and 1.25 mg/mL EPS (Figure 7); however, numerous defects were observed when the concentration of MB and EPS was increased to 10 mg/mL MB (Figure 8) and 10 mg/mL EPS (Figure 9). Coagulated embryos observed from 24 HPF (segmentation) to 48 HPF (pharyngula), along with loss of yolk sac resulting in un-hatched were most common abnormalities reported using MB treatments. Moreover, EPS-treated zebrafish hatched at 72 HPF, where tail deformity and damaged blood cells were observed after 120 HPF; defects included missing fins, guts, and melanophores.

Discussion

This work investigates and reports on acute toxicity of zebrafish embryos post exposure to MB and EPS derived from a rare Malaysian-origin Tiger Milk mushroom *L. rhinocerus* grown in a bioreactor. Bioactive compounds, such as β -glucans, were found in these *L. rhinocerus* MB-EPS extracts; use of β -glucans have gained appeal in recent years for a number of emerging applications including biopolymers³⁰ and biomedicines³¹. It is notable that mushroom-derived β -glucans have many new therapeutic properties, including (a) potential new or complementary immunotherapies against Coronavirus disease (SARS-CoV-2)¹⁴, (b) potential new therapeutic agent for mitigating diseases associated with gastrointestinal mucosal damage, such as peptic ulcers and inflammatory bowel disease³², (c) potential as anticancer drugs for lung and breast cancer³³, and (d) potentially asthmatic treatment^{23,34}. However, there is a marked gap in knowledge surrounding the toxicity (if any), of these mushroom-derived bioactive compounds; particularly use of Zebrafish trials that would aid product development and implementation.

Zebrafish embryos have been extensively studied and documented as a reliable and popular model for developmental biology, toxicity, and, more recently, drug discovery³⁵. Zebrafish are easy to breed and keep. Zebrafish embryos develop quickly; where they are fully developed five days after conception. Light microscopy can easily examine morphological structures and internal organs, such as the brain, eyes, heart, liver, and kidney due to the embryo's transparency. Dyes can be used to measure organ-specific and overall developmental toxicity visually or quantitatively. Due to its small size, a single Zebrafish embryo can be maintained in low fluid volumes for the first six days of development including use of microtiter plates. The permeability of zebrafish embryos is prominent; for example, small chemicals added to fish water permeate into the embryos easily simplifying drug administration and assay processing³⁶. Chemical screening can be completed after a few days due to the embryo's rapid development. The zebrafish is a unique vertebrate model for high-throughput chemical screening, which is beneficial for preclinical drug discovery and toxicity assessment^{37,38}.

The ZFET approach was used to expose fertilized zebrafish embryos to quantities of *L. rhinocerus* extract, MB (0.16-10 mg/mL), and EPS (0.16-10 mg/mL) that were shown to be non-toxic. Overall, MB at concentrations of 2.5 mg/mL and EPS at concentrations of 2.5 mg/mL did not delay embryo hatching and had a >80% survival rate at 24 to 120 HPF. In addition, there were no significant differences in the embryo heart rate between the MB and EPS concentrations of 1.25 mg/mL and the typical ones. Only use of MB and EPS doses of >0.63 mg/mL and >1.25 mg/mL respectively were teratogenic effects observed with zebrafish embryo defects evident. The test revealed that MB has a larger LC₅₀ value of 0.77 mg/mL than EPS, which has a lower LC₅₀ value of 0.41 mg/mL. Despite the fact that both MB and EPS extracts were obtained from *L. rhinocerus* mycelium, they may differ in terms of compound composition produced from the fruiting body and mycelial extraction procedures^{39,40}. *L. rhinocerus* mycelium and culture broth demonstrated similar or increased bioactivities including antioxidant capacities, compared to use of fruiting bodies³⁹. Moreover, EPS exhibited lower LC₅₀ value than MB due to its different mycelial extraction methodology. This is possibly related to the fact that MB is directly obtained from dried fungal mycelium, whereas EPS is derived post series of physico-chemical extractions using active fungal mycelia^{16,41}. The embryo's ability to burst through the chorion (Fig. 8) and hatch after 5 days, may be limited by morphological defects such as tail deformity. A coagulated embryo and the absence of a heartbeat are both considered deadly.

Certain medicinal mushrooms have been tested on the effects of toxicity on zebrafish embryos in comparison to *Lignosus* species. Recent research on *Ganoderma lucidum* exposure found that MB had no effect on ZE hatching at concentrations ranging from 250 to 5000 g/mL and EPS at 3000 g/mL. It is notable that neither MB nor EPS were found to be teratogenic at concentrations of <3000 g/mL²⁵. Both EPS and endopolysaccharide (ENS) concentrations of 1 mg/mL in *G. applanatum* did not cause embryo hatching delays and were shown to have 88% survival rate when tested from 24 to 120 HPF⁴². Consequently, this new ZFET data could be useful in identification of potential health risks associated with the MB-EPS consortia. However, more testing is merited to identify the LC₅₀ value of MB-EPS extract for large-scale human trials and for larger animals before this innovation may be used commercially (e.g., pigs, rabbits, and adult trout). A similar biosafety approach using zebrafish was used to test EPS from the wild-Serbian mushroom *Ganoderma. applanatum*⁴³, which exhibited higher yet safe LC₅₀ value (1.41 mg/mL) than the current wild-Malaysian *L. rhinocerus* study (0.41 mg/mL). The MB of *L. rhinocerus* demonstrated a harmless biosafety status of bioreactor cultivated *L. rhinocerus* mycelia and EPS products; thus, supporting further pre-commercialization. Usuldin et al.¹⁶ found that MB production (~6 g/L: 30 g dry form) from a 5-L bioreactor culture supports high EPS yield and can be produced in large quantities. When compared to dried polysaccharides, powdered MB is more applicable for pharmaceutical industry. The latter is notable as 300 mg of dry tuber biomass from the Malaysian *L. rhinocerus* has been reported to potentially improve respiratory health in both *in vivo* and *in vitro* models³⁴.

This constitutes the first toxicity investigation of *L. rhinocerus* (Malaysian tropical rain forest mushroom) grown in a bioreactor where results were compared with extracts from other *Lignosus* species. Table 1 shows four studies that have previously described: the assessment of *L. rhinocerus* MB with cervical cancer cells (24 mg/mL)⁴⁴, neurite bearing cells (1.75 – 5.93 mg/mL)⁴⁵, MTT assay for normal human cells (200 µg/mL)³⁹ and developmental toxicity in pregnant Sprague-Dawley (SD) rats (3.4 mg/mL)⁴⁶. Notwithstanding this, there has been no published research on the toxicity of EPS. The results of the study

used the Zebrafish 3.0 toxicity model to evaluate and assess what was to be non-toxic mycelial biomass (0.77 mg/mL) and EPS (0.41 mg/mL) in *L. rhinocerus* bioreactor samples. This Zebrafish model was used to offer evidence for the safe use of Malaysian bioactive mycelial biomass and polysaccharides *L. rhinocerus* that offers potential as new therapeutic intervention.

The findings from this research highlight the increasing trend towards the intensive exploiting and sustaining bio-based resources, such as developing food and marine ecosystems including bioeconomy¹⁰, where these bio-inspired materials may be refined and scaled up for commercial use through advances in biotechnology as described here. Notably, this emerging area will be future-proofed through accelerating digitalization, where metadata outputs will potentially inform food for good, therapeutics, cosmetics, personal care products, smart packaging along with offering putative interventions to help mitigate against Covid-19 disease^{9,47,51}.

Methods

Tiger Milk Mushroom

Wild-Malaysian Tiger milk mushroom, *Lignosus rhinocerus* strain ABI was isolated from Lata Iskandar, Pahang, Malaysia at tropical rainforest (23 to 28°C), coordinated of 4.1949° N, 101.1923° E¹⁶. The sclerotium was cultured on potato dextrose agar (PDA) plate (Sigma-Aldrich, Dorset, UK) and incubated under the dark condition at room temperature. The strain was stored and maintained on PDA slants at 4°C⁴⁸.

Culture Conditions

The fungal inoculum was prepared according to Wan Mohtar et al.⁴⁹ blueprint fungal production plan, which includes two seed culture stages. The mycelium was cultivated for ten days under dark conditions at an initial pH of 5, 150 rpm, and 30 C with slight adjustments for the first seed culture. Four mycelial agar squares (1 cm x 1 cm each) were cut from a ten-day-old plate culture and inoculated into a 250 mL Erlenmeyer flask using sterile scalpels (100 mL of medium). The first seed culture was then homogenized for 10 seconds with a sterile Waring hand mixer in order to produce more hyphal tips with uniform mycelium diameters. The homogenized mycelial culture was transferred to a 500 mL shake flask (200 mL medium) as the inoculum for the second seed culture and incubated for eleven days under dark circumstances on an orbital shaker at initial pH5, 150 rpm, and 30°C. Unless otherwise stated, the liquid culture medium of seed cultures contained glucose (3 percent (w/ v), yeast extract (0.1 percent (w/ v), peptone (0.2 percent (w/ v), potassium dihydrogen phosphate (KH₂PO₄) (0.046 percent (w/ v), dipotassium hydrogen phosphate (K₂HPO₄) (0.1 percent (w/ v), and magnesium sulphate heptahydrate (MgSO₄.7H).

High-Scale Bioreactor fermentation

A stirred-tank (STR) bioreactor was used with total volume of 5-L (3.5-L working volume) (Sartorius Stedim, Biostat B-plus, Germany). Blueprint of Usuldin et al.¹⁶ was followed; 10% (v/v) of the seed culture was used to inoculate the STR using parameters as follows: temperature (30 °C); pH 5.0; dissolved oxygen (DO) (20 % - 40 %); air flow rate 3 L/min; agitation speed (200 rpm). The mycelium was cultured in the bioreactor for 11 days and the resulting mycelial pellets were isolated. The media formulation for bioreactor use was the same as for shake flask, unless otherwise stated.

Mycelial biomass and Exopolysaccharide Production

The harvested mycelial biomass (MB) from the bioreactor was filtered three times with distilled water using a vacuum Buchner funnel filter. The filtered MB was dried at 35 °C in a food dehydrator until it reached a consistent weight⁴¹. The filtrate was precipitated by adding 95% (v/v) ethanol at a ratio of 1:4 to the filtrate and leaving it overnight at 4 °C to obtain EPS. After that, the sample was centrifuged for 15 minutes at 10,000 rpm. The supernatant was discarded, and the pellet was dried at 35°C in a food dehydrator until it reached a consistent weight.

Sample preparation for toxicity test

Dried MB and EPS were prepared at room temperature for toxicity testing. 10 mg/mL of stock solution was prepared by dissolving each of dried MB and dried EPS in embryo media (Danio-SprintM media). Later, it was diluted in two-fold and further diluted in a 96-well microplate (200 µL/well) using serial dilution to obtain seven different concentrations in the range between 0.16 to 10 mg/mL. For a standard control, zebrafish embryos in embryo media solution were used as untreated sample (0 mg/mL).

Upkeep and Breeding of Zebrafish System

For setting up the breeding system, a couple of adult zebrafish were placed in a breeding tank the day before the breeding occurred. The following day, embryos were taken, cleansed and incubated in embryo medium (Danio-SprintM media) for two hours. Only healthy fertilized embryos were selected for the zebrafish embryo toxicity testing, meanwhile the dead and coagulated embryos were discarded²⁵.

The Zebrafish Embryo Toxicity (ZFET) Test

Firstly, at 0 HPF, zebrafish embryos (were exposed to samples (200 µL) in 96-well microplates (embryo/well) at seven different concentrations ranging from 0.16-10 mg/mL. The experiments were designed with exposure group, both treated and untreated, contained a total of 12 embryos each. The successfully treated embryos were cultured at ambient temperature (25 to 28°C) for 5 days. The cumulative mortality and development abnormalities of embryos and larvae of zebrafish were observed and examined for every 24 HPF from 0 – 120 HPF. Observation data for the survival rate, hatching rate, heart rate, morphological malformations and teratogenic defects were captured and recorded using an inverted microscope with a digital camera. The heartbeats were counted using a stopwatch (three embryos/ minute). Lethal endpoints were defined based on coagulation and the nonappearance of a heartbeat. Developmental defects such as pericardial oedema, yolk sac oedema, non-hatched, twisted body, and twisted tail were observed and recorded. The LC₅₀ values were considered based on the principle of toxicity in which >1 mg/mL are considered relatively harmless, 0.1-1 mg/mL are practically non-toxic, 0.01-0.1 mg/mL are considered slightly toxic, 0.001-0.01 mg/mL are considered moderately toxic, 0.0001-0.001 mg/mL are considered highly toxic, and 0.0001 mg/mL are considered super toxic.

Ethics declaration

The breeding of Zebrafish (*Danio rerio* F. Hamilton, 1822) brood stocks and the *in vivo* methodology was approved by Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Malaysia and a licensed Danio Assay Laboratories Sdn. Bhd. (1075617-T), Director, Animal

Biochemistry & Biotechnology Laboratory (ABBTech), Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Biotechnology & Biomolecular Sciences, UPM, Selangor. danioassay@gmail.com. The research was carried out in accordance with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) ⁵⁰ No. 236: Fish Embryo Acute Toxicity (FET) Test (OECD, 2013), under compliance of IACUC UPM with triplicate on all samples, and ARRIVE guidelines.

Statistical Evaluation

All of the graphs and figures were made with GraphPad Prism version 8.0. (GraphPad Soft-ware, Inc.). The lethal concentration at 50% (LC₅₀) of treated samples toward zebrafish embryos was evaluated using the same methods. The heart rates of three different animals were presented as a mean standard error of mean (S.E.M). A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to find significant differences, followed by a post hoc test using Dunnett's Multiple Comparison. To determine if there was a significant difference between the means of the treated group and embryos in embryo media, p 0.001***, p 0.01**, p 0.05*, and were deployed.

References

- 1 Waktola, G. & Temesgen, T. Application of mushroom as food and medicine. *Advances in Biotechnology and Microbiology* **113**, 1-4, doi:<https://doi.org/10.19080/AIBM.2018.11.555817> (2018).
- 2 Vunduk, J. *et al.* Polysaccharides of *Pleurotus flabellatus* strain Mynuk produced by submerged fermentation as a promising novel tool against adhesion and biofilm formation of foodborne pathogens. *Lwt* **112**, 108221, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lwt.2019.05.119> (2019).
- 3 Sullivan, R., Smith, J. E. & Rowan, N. J. Medicinal mushrooms and cancer therapy: translating a traditional practice into Western medicine. *Perspectives in biology and medicine* **49**, 159-170, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1353/pbm.2006.0034> (2006).
- 4 Smith, J. E., Rowan, N. J. & Sullivan, R. Medicinal mushrooms: a rapidly developing area of biotechnology for cancer therapy and other bioactivities. *Biotechnology Letters* **24**, 1839-1845 (2002).
- 5 Cerimi, K., Akkaya, K. C., Pohl, C., Schmidt, B. & Neubauer, P. Fungi as source for new bio-based materials: a patent review. *Fungal biology and biotechnology* **6**, 1-10, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40694-019-0080-y> (2019).
- 6 Meyer, V. *et al.* Current challenges of research on filamentous fungi in relation to human welfare and a sustainable bio-economy: a white paper. *Fungal biology and biotechnology* **3**, 1-17, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40694-016-0024-8> (2016).
- 7 Wan-Mohtar, W. *et al.* Fruiting-body-base flour from an oyster mushroom-a waste source of antioxidative flour for developing potential functional cookies and steamed-bun. *AIMS Agriculture and Food* (2018).
- 8 Wan-Mohtar, W. A. A. Q. I. *et al.* Fruiting-body-base flour from an Oyster mushroom waste in the development of antioxidative chicken patty. *Journal of food science* **85**, 3124-3133, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1111/1750-3841.15402> (2020).
- 9 Rowan, N. J. & Galanakis, C. M. Unlocking challenges and opportunities presented by COVID-19 pandemic for cross-cutting disruption in agri-food and green deal innovations: Quo Vadis? *Science of the Total Environment*, 141362, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.141362> (2020).
- 10 Rowan, N. J. & Casey, O. Empower Eco Multi-Actor HUB: a triple helix “academia-industry-authority” approach to creating and sharing potentially disruptive tools for addressing novel and emerging new Green Deal opportunities under a United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals framework. *Current Opinion in Environmental Science & Health*, 100254 (2021).
- 11 Guggenheim, A. G., Wright, K. M. & Zwickey, H. L. Immune modulation from five major mushrooms: application to integrative oncology. *Integrative Medicine: A Clinician's Journal* **13**, 32 (2014).

- 12 Murphy, E. J., Rezoagli, E., Major, I., Rowan, N. J. & Laffey, J. G. β -glucan metabolic and immunomodulatory properties and potential for clinical application. *Journal of Fungi* **6**, 356, doi:<https://doi.org/10.3390/jof6040356>. (2020).
- 13 Pogue, R., Murphy, E. J., Fehrenbach, G. W., Rezoagli, E. & Rowan, N. J. Exploiting immunomodulatory properties of beta-glucans derived from natural products for improving health and sustainability in aquaculture-farmed organisms: concise review of existing knowledge, innovation and future opportunities. *Current Opinion in Environmental Science & Health*, 100248 (2021).
- 14 Murphy, E. J. *et al.* β -Glucan extracts from the same edible shiitake mushroom *Lentinus edodes* produce differential in-vitro immunomodulatory and pulmonary cytoprotective effects—Implications for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) immunotherapies. *Science of the Total Environment* **732**, 139330 (2020).
- 15 Pushparajah, V. *et al.* Characterisation of a New Fungal Immunomodulatory Protein from Tiger Milk mushroom, *Lignosus rhinocerotis*. *Scientific Reports* **6**, 30010, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1038/srep30010> (2016).
- 16 Usuldin, S. R. A. *et al.* In-depth spectral characterization of antioxidative (1, 3)- β -D-glucan from the mycelium of an identified tiger milk mushroom *Lignosus rhinocerus* strain ABI in a stirred-tank bioreactor. *Biocatalysis and Agricultural Biotechnology* **23**, 101455 (2020).
- 17 Abdullah, N., Haimi, M. Z. D., Lau, B. F. & Anuar, M. S. M. Domestication of a wild medicinal sclerotial mushroom, *Lignosus rhinocerotis* (Cooke) Ryvarden. *Industrial crops and products* **47**, 256-261, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.indcrop.2013.03.012> (2013).
- 18 Johnathan, M., Gan, S. H., Ezumi, M. F. W., Faezahtul, A. H. & Nurul, A. A. Phytochemical profiles and inhibitory effects of Tiger Milk mushroom (*Lignosus rhinocerus*) extract on ovalbumin-induced airway inflammation in a rodent model of asthma. *BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine* **16**, 167, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12906-016-1141-x> (2016).
- 19 Supramani, S. A. R. I. Z. A. M. S. M. K. A. W.-M. W. A. A. Q. I. Optimisation of biomass, exopolysaccharide and intracellular polysaccharide production from the mycelium of an identified *Ganoderma lucidum* strain QRS 5120 using response surface methodology. *AIMS Microbiology* **5**, 19-38, doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.3934/microbiol.2019.1.19> (2019).
- 20 Phan, C.-W., David, P. & Sabaratnam, V. Edible and medicinal mushrooms: emerging brain food for the mitigation of neurodegenerative diseases. *Journal of medicinal food* **20**, 1-10, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1089/jmf.2016.3740> (2017).
- 21 Chen, T.-I., Zhuang, H.-W., Chiao, Y.-C. & Chen, C.-C. Mutagenicity and genotoxicity effects of *Lignosus rhinocerotis* mushroom mycelium. *Journal of ethnopharmacology* **149**, 70-74, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jep.2013.06.001> (2013).
- 22 Masterson, C. H. *et al.* Purified β -glucans from the Shiitake mushroom ameliorates antibiotic-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae*-induced pulmonary sepsis. *Letters in Applied Microbiology* **71**, 405-412, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1111/lam.13358>. (2020).
- 23 Johnathan, M. *et al.* *Lignosus rhinocerotis* Cooke Ryvarden ameliorates airway inflammation, mucus hypersecretion and airway hyperresponsiveness in a murine model of asthma. *PLoS one* **16**, e0249091, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0247639> (2021).
- 24 Lee, S. S., Tan, N. H., Fung, S. Y., Pailoor, J. & Sim, S. M. Evaluation of the sub-acute toxicity of the sclerotium of *Lignosus rhinocerus* (Cooke), the Tiger Milk mushroom. *Journal of ethnopharmacology* **138**, 192-200, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jep.2011.09.004> (2011).
- 25 Taufek, N. M. *et al.* Performance of mycelial biomass and exopolysaccharide from Malaysian *Ganoderma lucidum* for the fungivore red hybrid Tilapia (*Oreochromis* sp.) in Zebrafish embryo. *Aquaculture Reports* **17**, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aqrep.2020.100322> (2020).
- 26 Paatero, I. *et al.* Analyses in zebrafish embryos reveal that nanotoxicity profiles are dependent on surface-functionalization controlled penetration of biological membranes. *Scientific Reports* **7**, 8423, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-017-09312-z> (2017).
- 27 Saleem, S. & Kannan, R. R. Zebrafish: an emerging real-time model system to study Alzheimer's disease and neurospecific drug discovery. *Cell Death Discovery* **4**, 45, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41420-018-0109-7> (2018).
- 28 Bakkars, J. Zebrafish as a model to study cardiac development and human cardiac disease. *Cardiovascular research* **91**, 279-288 (2011).

- 29 Baker, K., Warren, K. S., Yellen, G. & Fishman, M. C. Defective “pacemaker” current (I_h) in a zebrafish mutant with a slow heart rate. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* **94**, 4554–4559 (1997).
- 30 Choudhary, S. in *New and Future Developments in Microbial Biotechnology and Bioengineering* 171–181 (2020).
- 31 van Steenwijk, H. P., Bast, A. & de Boer, A. Immunomodulating Effects of Fungal Beta-Glucans: From Traditional Use to Medicine. *Nutrients* **13**, doi:<https://doi.org/10.3390/nu13041333> (2021).
- 32 Veeraperumal, S. *et al.* Restitution of epithelial cells during intestinal mucosal wound healing: The effect of a polysaccharide from the sclerotium of *Lignosus rhinocerotis* (Cooke) Ryvar den. *J Ethnopharmacol* **274**, 114024, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jep.2021.114024> (2021).
- 33 Vetvicka, V., Teplyakova, T. V., Shintyapina, A. B. & Korolenko, T. A. Effects of Medicinal Fungi-Derived β -Glucan on Tumor Progression. *Journal of Fungi* **7**, 250, doi:<https://doi.org/10.3390/jof7040250> (2021).
- 34 Tan, E. S. S., Leo, T. K. & Tan, C. K. Effect of tiger milk mushroom (*Lignosus rhinoceros*) supplementation on respiratory health, immunity and antioxidant status: an open-label prospective study. *Scientific Reports* **11**, 11781, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-91256-6> (2021).
- 35 Zhang, C., Willett, C. & Fremgen, T. Zebrafish: an animal model for toxicological studies. *Current Protocols in Toxicology* **17**, 1.7. 1-1.7. 18, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1002/0471140856.tx0107s17> (2003).
- 36 Su, T. *et al.* The feasibility of the zebrafish embryo as a promising alternative for acute toxicity test using various fish species: A critical review. *Science of The Total Environment*, 147705, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.147705> (2021).
- 37 Abramenko, N. *et al.* Acute Toxicity of Cu-MOF Nanoparticles (nanoHKUST-1) towards Embryos and Adult Zebrafish. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences* **22**, 5568, doi:<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms22115568> (2021).
- 38 Dubińska-Magiera, M., Migocka-Patrzałek, M., Lewandowski, D., Daczewska, M. & Jagla, K. Zebrafish as a Model for the Study of Lipid-Lowering Drug-Induced Myopathies. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences* **22**, 5654, doi:<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms22115654> (2021).
- 39 Lau, B. F. *et al.* The Potential of Mycelium and Culture Broth of *Lignosus rhinocerotis* as Substitutes for the Naturally Occurring Sclerotium with Regard to Antioxidant Capacity, Cytotoxic Effect, and Low-Molecular-Weight Chemical Constituents. *PLoS one* **9**, e102509, doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0102509> (2014).
- 40 Lau, B. F., Abdullah, N. & Aminudin, N. Chemical composition of the tiger's milk mushroom, *Lignosus rhinocerotis* (Cooke) Ryvar den, from different developmental stages. *J Agric Food Chem* **61**, 4890–4897, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1021/jf4002507> (2013).
- 41 Abdullah, N. R. *et al.* Pellet diameter of *Ganoderma lucidum* in a repeated-batch fermentation for the total production of biomass-exopolysaccharide-endopolysaccharide and its anti-oral cancer beta-glucan response. *AIMS Microbiol* **6**, 379–400, doi:<https://doi.org/10.3934/microbiol.2020023> (2020).
- 42 Wan-Mohtar, W. A. A. Q. I. *et al.* Investigations on the use of exopolysaccharide derived from mycelial extract of *Ganoderma lucidum* as functional feed ingredient for aquaculture-farmed red hybrid Tilapia (*Oreochromis* sp.). *Future Foods* **3**, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fufo.2021.100018> (2021).
- 43 Wan-Mohtar, W. A. A. Q. I., Ilham, Z., Jamaludin, A. A. & Rowan, N. Use of Zebrafish Embryo Assay to Evaluate Toxicity and Safety of Bioreactor-Grown Exopolysaccharides and Endopolysaccharides from European *Ganoderma applanatum* Mycelium for Future Aquaculture Applications. *International journal of molecular sciences* **22**, 1675 (2021).
- 44 Lau, B. F., Abdullah, N., Aminudin, N., Lee, H. B. & Tan, P. J. Ethnomedicinal uses, pharmacological activities, and cultivation of *Lignosus* spp. (tigers milk mushrooms) in Malaysia - A review. *J Ethnopharmacol* **169**, 441–458, doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jep.2015.04.042> (2015).
- 45 Phan, C. W., David, P., Naidu, M., Wong, K. H. & Sabaratnam, V. Neurite outgrowth stimulatory effects of culinary-medicinal mushrooms and their toxicity assessment using differentiating Neuro-2a and embryonic fibroblast BALB/3T3. *BMC Complement Altern Med* **13**, 261, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1186/1472-6882-13-261> (2013).
- 46 Jhou, B. Y., Liu, H. H., Yeh, S. H. & Chen, C. C. Oral reproductive and developmental toxicity of *Lignosus rhinocerotis* mycelium in rat. *J Ethnopharmacol* **208**, 66–71, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jep.2017.06.029> (2017).

- 47 Galanakis, C. M., Aldawoud, T. M. S., Rizou, M., Rowan, N. J. & Ibrahim, S. A. Food Ingredients and Active Compounds against the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic: A Comprehensive Review. *Foods* **9**, 1701, doi:<https://doi.org/10.3390/foods9111701> (2020).
- 48 Wan-Mohtar, W. A. *et al.* Antimicrobial properties and cytotoxicity of sulfated (1,3)-beta-D-glucan from the mycelium of the mushroom *Ganoderma lucidum*. *J Microbiol Biotechnol* **26**, 999-1010, doi:10.4014/jmb.1510.10018 (2016).
- 49 Wan-Mohtar, W. A. A. Q. I., Abd Malek, R., Harvey, L. M. & McNeil, B. Exopolysaccharide production by *Ganoderma lucidum* immobilised on polyurethane foam in a repeated-batch fermentation. *Biocatalysis and Agricultural Biotechnology* **8**, 24-31, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bcab.2016.08.002> (2016).
- 50 OECD. *Test No. 236: Fish Embryo Acute Toxicity (FET) Test*. (2013).
- 51 Rowan, N.J. Pogue, R. Editorial overview: Green new deal era — Current challenges and emerging opportunities for developing sustaining and disruptive innovation. *Current Opinion Environ Sci Health*, **22** doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.coesh.2021.100294> (2021).

Acknowledgements (not compulsory)

We want to thank Universiti Malaya under the GPF084A-2020 and IIRG003A-2020IISS awarded to Dr Wan-Mohtar and Agro-Biotechnology Institute (ABI), Malaysia under the Bio-Analytical Industry Development Programme (BIDP) awarded to Ms Siti Usuldin. The work was also funded by H2020 MSCA RISE project [number 872217/19] awarded to Prof Neil Rowan.

Author contributions statement

Conceptualization, A.U.; methodology, W.M.; software, W.M.; validation, A.J; formal analysis, N.R.; investigation, Z.I.; resources, N.R.; data curation, N.R.; writing—original draft preparation, A.U.; writing—review and editing, A.J.; visualization, R.A.; supervision, Z.I. ; project administration, W.M. ; funding acquisition and writing – review and editing, N.R. All authors reviewed the manuscript.

A.U: Ahmad Usuldin; R.A: Raihan Abdullah; Z.I: Zul Ilham; A.J: Ainurzaman Jamaludin; W.M.: Wan-Mohtar; N.R: Neil Rowan

Additional information

The corresponding author and co-author(s) declare no competing interests.

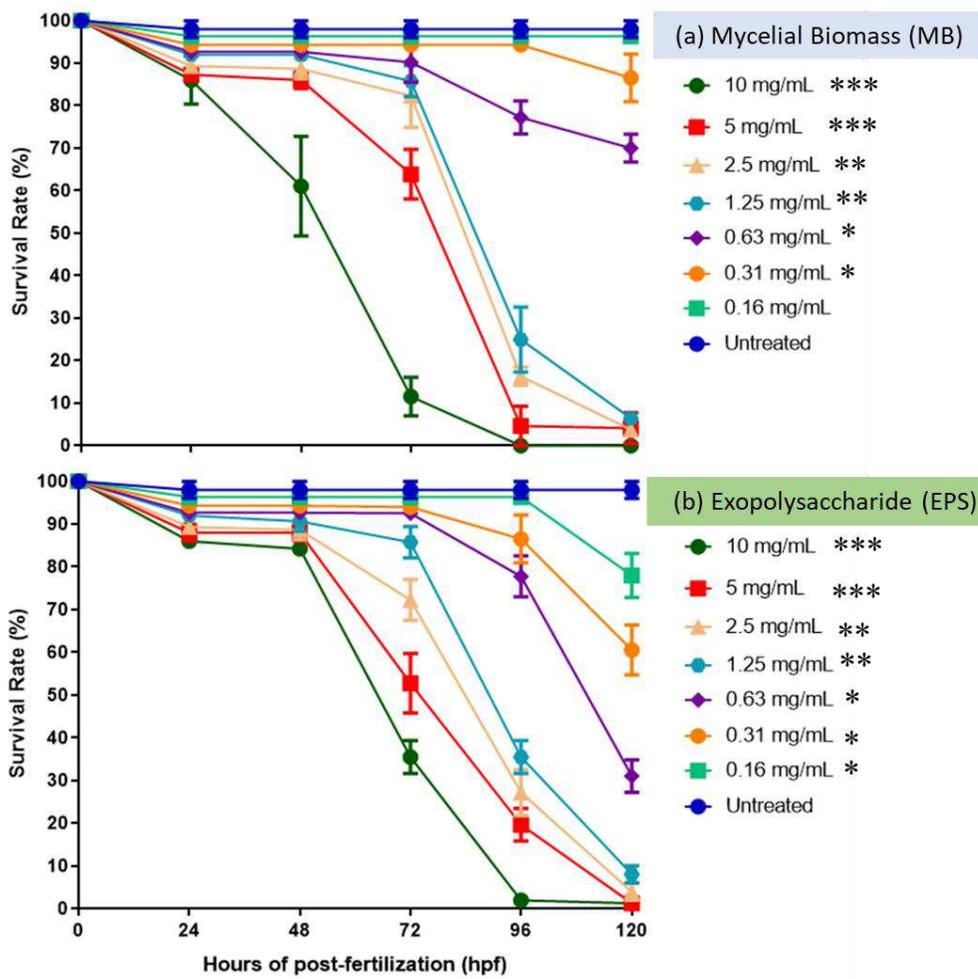


Figure 1. The performance of Tiger milk mushroom, *Lignosus rhinocerus* strain ABI (a) MB and (b) EPS extract at concentrations of 0.16-10 mg/mL on the survival rate of zebrafish embryos at 0-120 h. Symbols: *** p < 0.001, ** p < 0.01 and * p < 0.05. No embryos survived for both samples at concentration tested >5.0 mg/mL after 96 h-post-fertilization (HPF).

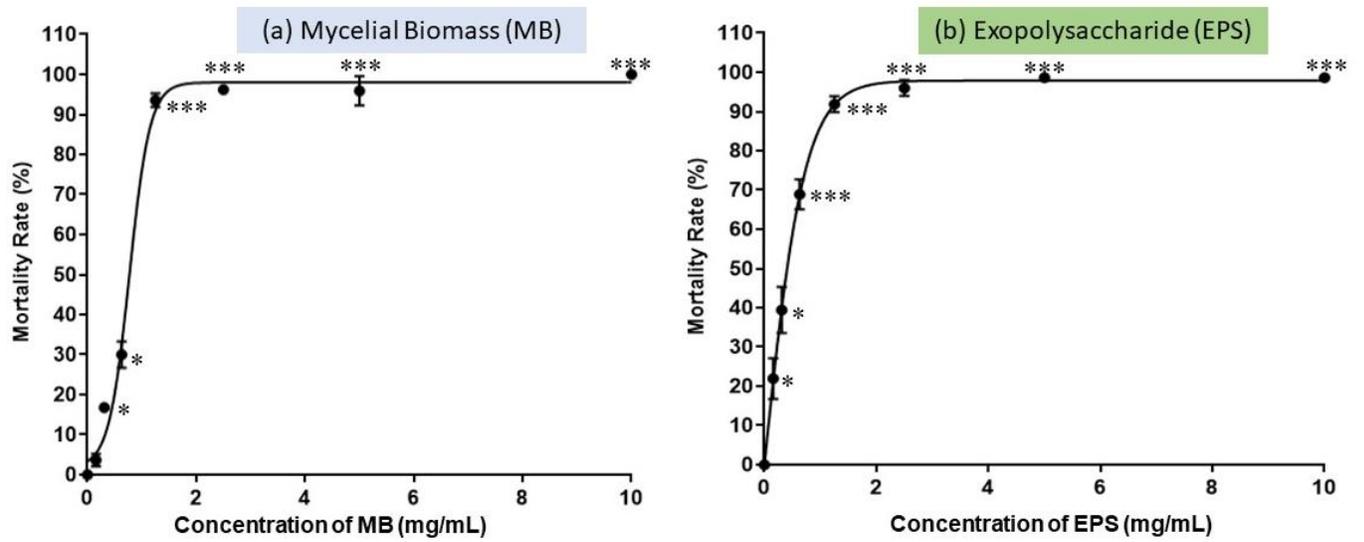


Figure 2. Effect of Tiger milk mushroom, *Lignosus rhinocerus* strain ABI (a) MB extract at concentrations of 0.16-10 mg/mL and (b) EPS at concentrations of 0.01-10 mg/mL on zebrafish embryos mortality rate after 120 HPF. Symbols: *** $p < 0.001$, ** $p < 0.01$ and * $p < 0.05$. The LC_{50} value for MB extract was 0.77 mg/mL while LC_{50} value for EPS extract was 0.41 mg/mL.

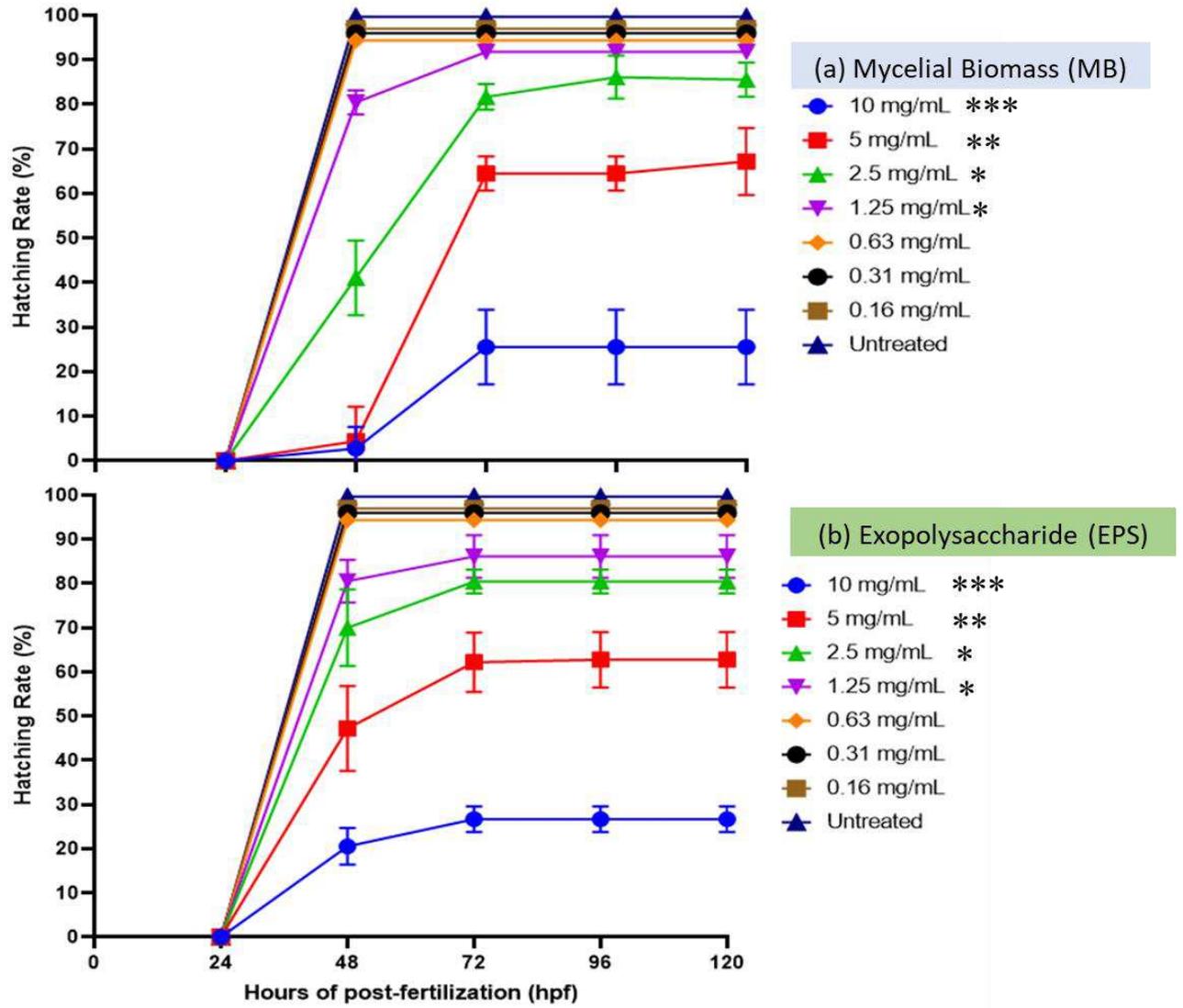


Figure 3. Hatching rate of zebrafish embryos at 0 to 120 HPF with Tiger milk mushroom *Lignosus rhinocerus* strain ABI, with MB and EPS extract at concentrations of 0.16-10 mg/mL. Symbols: *** $p < 0.001$, ** $p < 0.01$ and * $p < 0.05$. **(a)** For MB, low hatching rate (<25%) was observed at concentration 10.0 mg/mL due to high mortality rate. Meanwhile, **(b)** for EPS, low hatching rate (<30%) was observed at concentrations 10 mg/mL due to high mortality rate. High hatching rate was observed at concentrations >1.25 mg/mL (>80%).

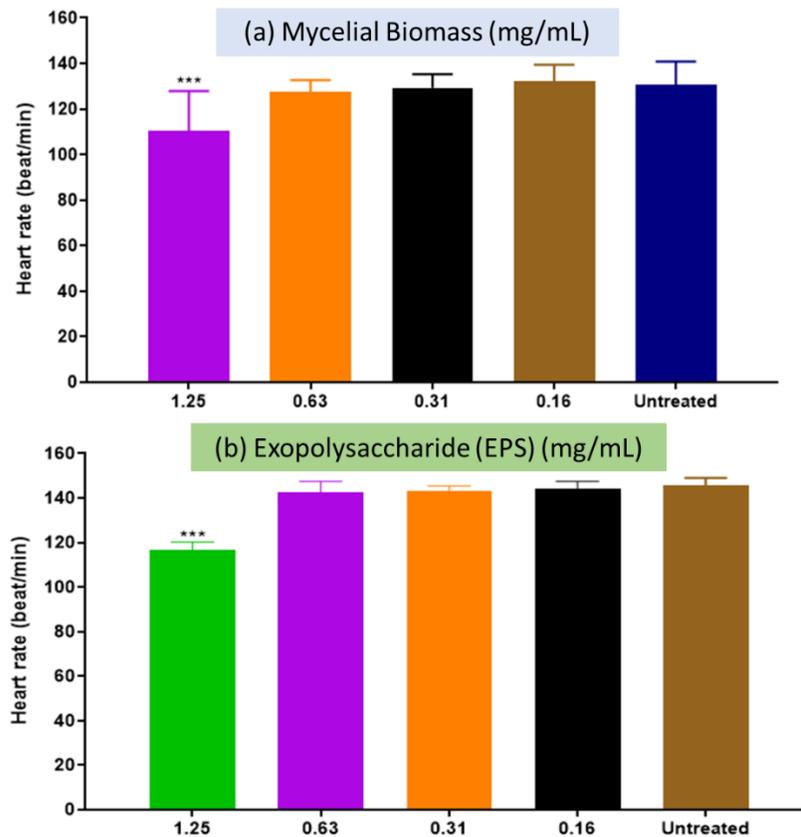


Figure 4. Effect of Tiger milk mushroom *Lignosus rhinocerus* strain ABI, with MB and EPS extract at concentrations of 0.16-10 mg/mL on heart rate of zebrafish embryos at 96 HPF. *** $p < 0.05$ significantly different from the untreated group (zebrafish embryos in medium only). * $P < 0.05$ significantly different from the untreated group (zebrafish embryos in medium only). For **(a)** MB, no data at concentrations > 2.5 mg/mL due to embryo death. Meanwhile, **(b)** for EPS, no data at concentrations > 2.5 mg/mL recorded due to embryo death.

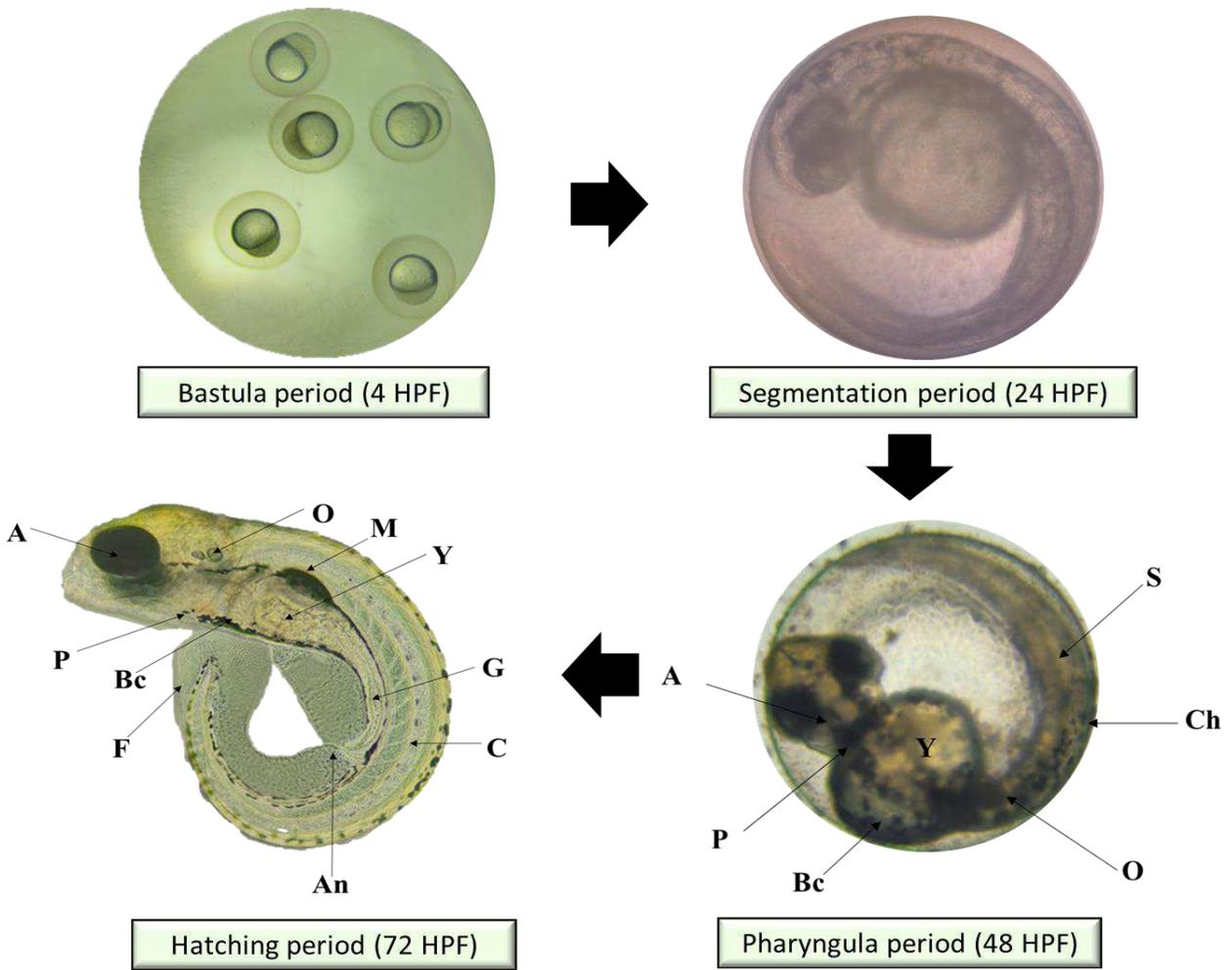


Figure 5. Effect of MB-EPS extracts (0.16-10 mg/mL) of Tiger Milk mushroom *Lignosus rhinocerus* strain *ABI* showing normal zebrafish embryogenesis at different HPF development.

There were 4 periods depicted as according to Taufek et al., [16]: Blastula (4 HPF), b) Segmentation (24 HPF), c) Pharyngula (48 HPF), and d) Hatching (72 HPF). A – eye anlage; An – anus; Bc – blood cells; C – chorda; Ch – chorion; F – fin; G – gut; M – melanophores; O – ear bud; P – pericardium; S – somites; Y – yolk sac. Scale bar =0.5 mm. The inverted microscope procedure was used to produce the images.

Mycelial Biomass (MB) at 0.63 mg/mL

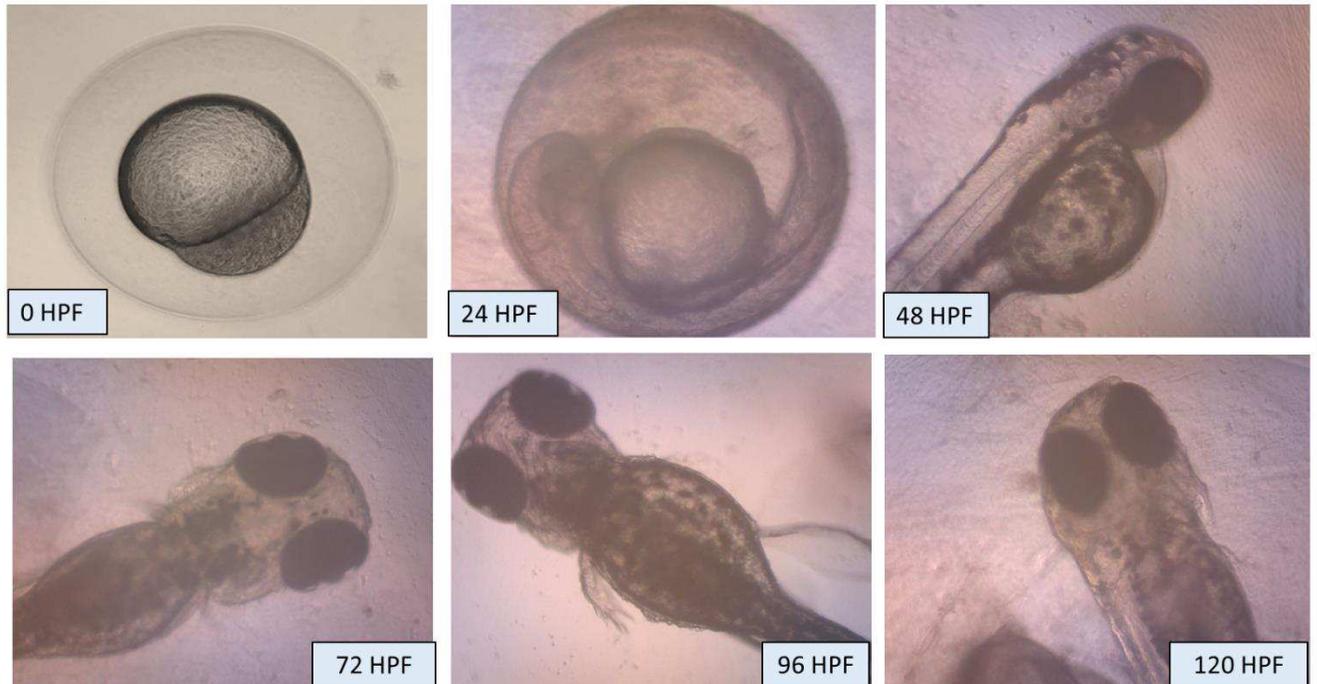


Figure 6. Illustrations of zebrafish embryo and larvae development after treated with Tiger Milk mushroom *Lignosus rhinocerus* strain at EPS concentration of 0.63 mg/mL. Descriptions were captured using inverted microscope at 100X (0 and 24 HPF) and 40X magnification (48-20 HPF).

Exopolysaccharide (EPS) at 1.25 mg/ml

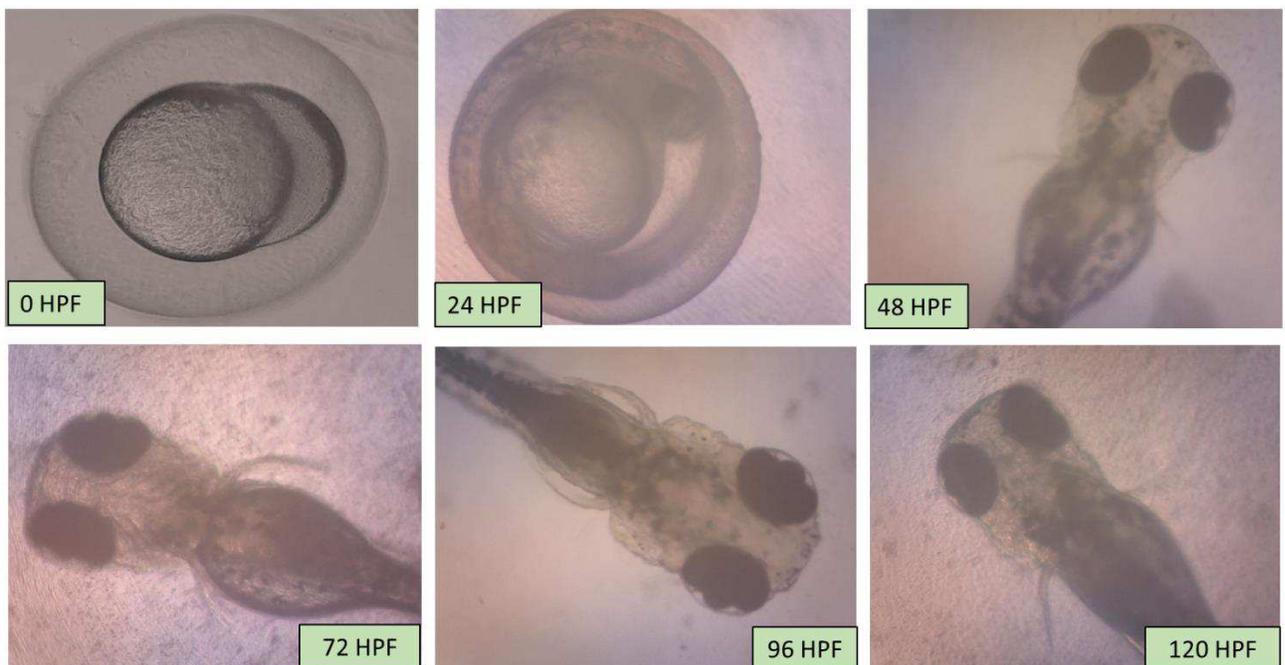


Figure 7. Illustrations of zebrafish embryo and larvae development after treated with Tiger Milk mushroom *Lignosus rhinocerus* strain ABI at EPS concentration of 1.25 mg/mL. Descriptions were captured using inverted microscope at 100X (0 and 24 HPF) and 40X magnification (48-20 HPF).

(a) Mycelial Biomass (MB) at 10.0 mg/mL

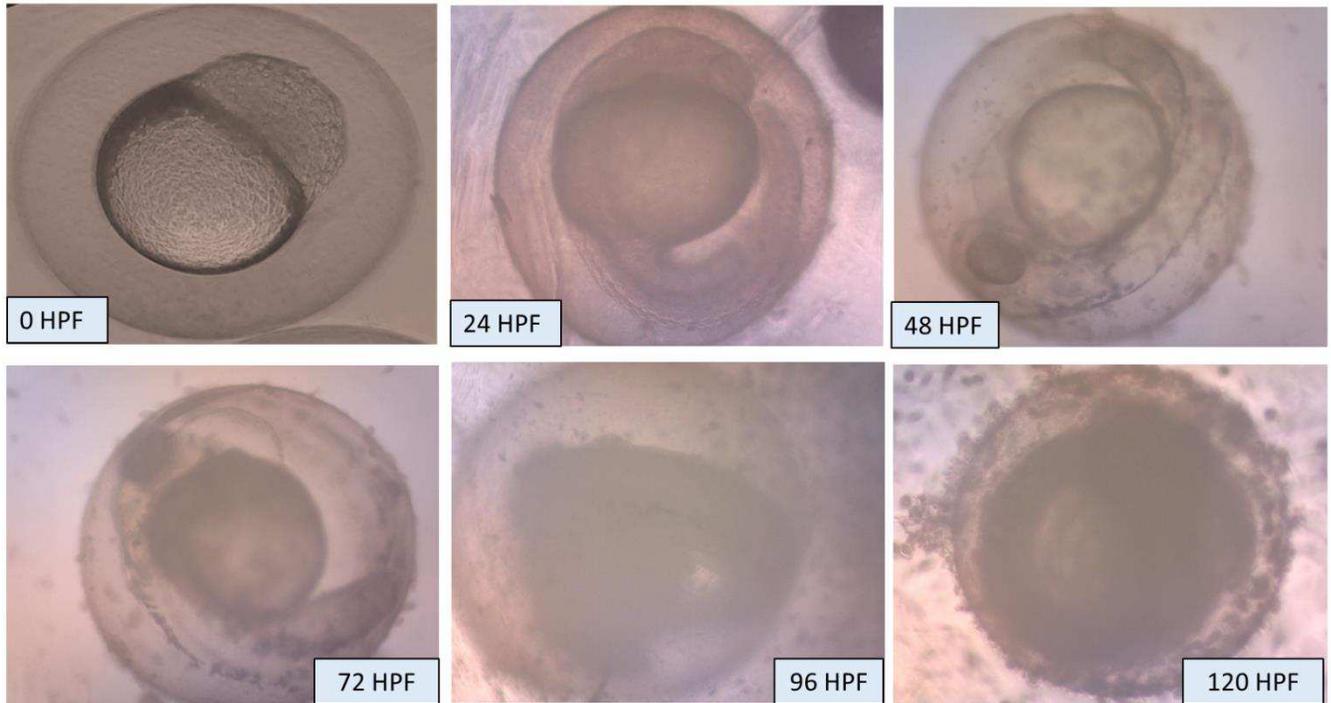


Figure 8. Illustrations of zebrafish embryo and larvae development after treated with Tiger Milk mushroom *Lignosus rhinocerus* strain ABI at high EPS concentration of 10.0 mg/mL. Descriptions were captured using inverted microscope at 100X (0 and 24 HPF) and 40X magnification (48-20 HPF).

(b) Exopolysaccharide (EPS) at 10.0 mg/ml

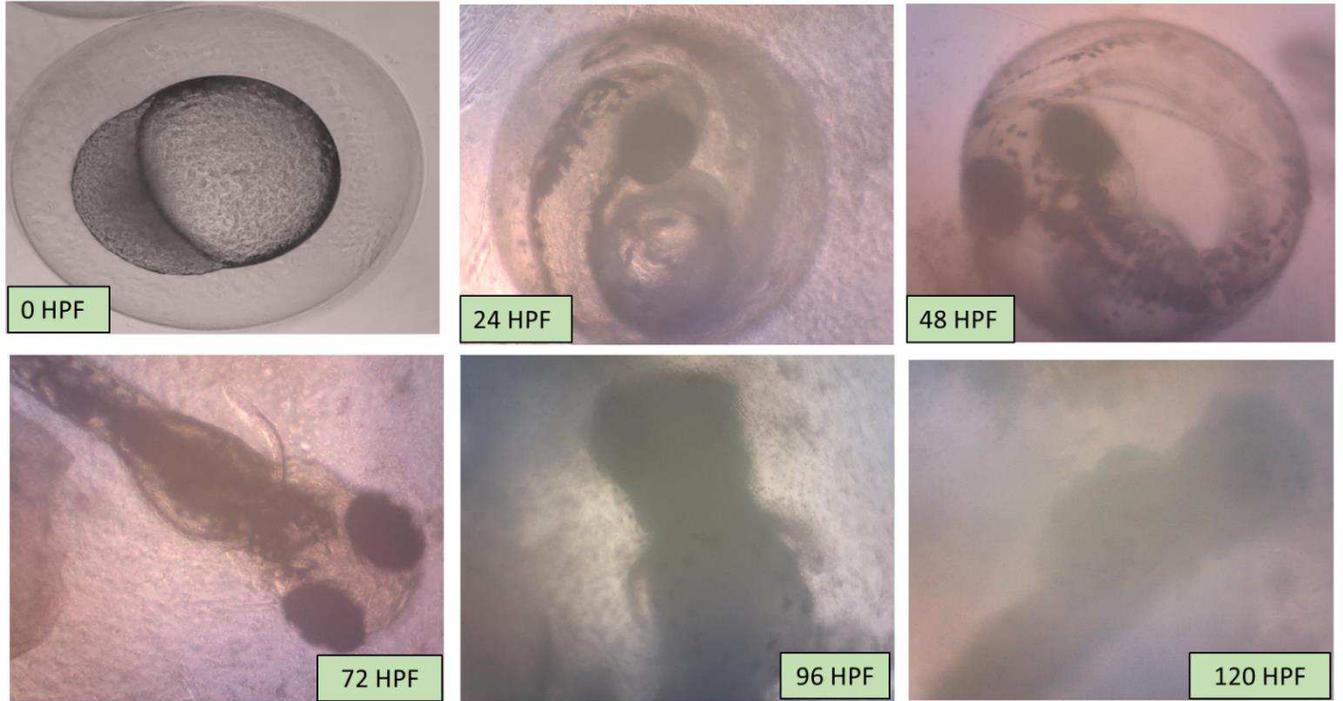


Figure 9. Illustrations of zebrafish embryo and larvae development after treated with Tiger Milk *Lignosus rhinocerus* strain ABI at high EPS concentration of 10.0 mg/mL. Descriptions were captured using inverted microscope at 100X (0 and 24 HPF) and 40X magnification (48-20 HPF).

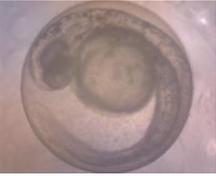
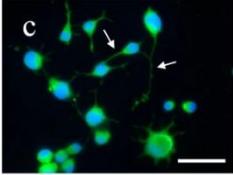
Fungal source	Toxicity model	Image	Non-toxic concentrations (mg/mL)		References
			Mycelial Biomass (MB)	Exopolysaccharide (EPS)	
<i>L. rhinocerus</i>	<i>In vivo</i> – Zebrafish embryos and larvae		0.77	0.41	<i>Current study</i>
<i>L. rhinocerotis</i>	<i>In vitro</i> - Cervical cancer cells (Ca Ski, HPV-16)	NA	25	-	44
<i>L. rhinocerotis</i>	<i>In vitro</i> - Differentiating mouse neuroblastoma (N2a) cells		1.75– 5.93	-	45
<i>L. rhinocerotis</i>	<i>In vitro</i> -MTT assay	NA	0.2	-	39
<i>L. rhinocerotis</i>	<i>In vivo</i> - Developmental toxicity in pregnant Sprague-Dawley (SD) rats	NA	3.4	-	46

Table 1. Similarity with literature for non-toxicity evaluation of mycelium biomass (MB) and exopolysaccharide (EPS) from the rare Tiger milk mushroom *Lignosus* sp. [NA: Not Available]