



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***OPTIMIZATION OF PROTECTIVE AGENTS FOR FREEZE DRYING OF  
Paenibacillus polymyxa Kp10 LIVE CELLS***

**HAYATUN SYAMILA BINTI NASRAN**

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By

**HAYATUN SYAMILA BINTI NASRAN**

**Thesis Submitted to School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in  
Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

**December 2018**

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

**OPTIMIZATION OF PROTECTIVE AGENTS FOR FREEZE DRYING OF  
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**December 2018**

**Chairman : Assoc. Prof. Nor'Aini binti Abdul Rahman, PhD**  
**Faculty : Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences**

In recent years, biocontrols have been considered to be used in inhibiting pests and pathogens to enhance plant growth performance in agriculture sector. This is due to concerns about usage of chemical fungicides for controlling fungal pathogens that may produce bad effects on environments such as contaminating ground waters with chemical residues and polluting soil for crops. Effects of the chemical fungicides also bring harmful to human as users and consumers of crops fields. Biofungicides for fungal pathogens in plant crops are normally kept in farm at room temperature and this condition may reduce viability of microorganism during storage. Protective agent application during freeze drying of the microorganism could improve survival of the culture throughout the freeze drying process. In this study, freeze drying was chosen as a technique for preservation and protective agent formulation was determined to improve viability of *Paenibacillus polymyxa* Kp10 after freeze drying by using response surface methodology (RSM). A five-level, three-variable central composite design (CCD) was used to evaluate the effects of skim milk, lactose and sucrose as protective agents on the viability of *P. polymyxa* Kp10 due to freeze drying. *Paenibacillus polymyxa* Kp10 was screened for its potential in inhibiting fungal pathogens as biofungicides using fresh and freeze dried culture. Fresh and freeze dried strain was tested with food-borne pathogen to indicate its antimicrobial activity. 5% (v/v) was chosen as inoculum size and the highest cell production was at 22 h. Optimum combination of protective agents analysed by RSM was 20% (w/v) skim milk, 10% (w/v) lactose and 27.5% (w/v) sucrose for freeze drying process of *P. polymyxa* Kp10. The predicted value for cell viability obtained was 5.833 log CFU/ml under the optimum combination after freeze drying process. This value was slightly different to the experimental value (5.452 log CFU/ ml). *P. polymyxa* Kp10 were found to inhibit *Colletrichum gloeosporioides* and *C. truncatum* through dual culture test with percentage of inhibition of radial growth (PIRG) at 60.11% and 62.8%, respectively. Freeze dried *P. polymyxa* Kp10 inhibited *C. gloeosporioides* and *C. truncatum* at 66.52% and 60.18%, respectively. For antimicrobial activity, the result showed that the activity reduced by 43.6% from 4930.56±0.04 AU/ mL to 2780.94±0.05

AU/ mL after freeze drying of *P. polymyxa* Kp10. Thus, *P. polymyxa* Kp10 can be freeze dried with the combination of protective agents and its activity showed stability after the freeze drying process.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat of Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**PENGOPTIMUMAN EJEN PELINDUNG BAGI PROSES PENGERINGAN  
SEJUK BEKU SEL-SEL HIDUP *Paenibacillus polymyxa* Kp10**

Oleh

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Beberapa tahun kebelakangan ini, pengawalan bio boleh digunakan untuk menghalang makhluk perosak, kulat perosak di samping membantu pertumbuhan pokok dalam industri pertanian. Pengawalan biodigunakan kerana penggunaan racun kimia kulat yang mengawal kulat perosak boleh menyebabkan kesan buruk pada alam sekitar seperti mencemarkan air di bawah tanah dengan sisa-sisa kimia seterusnya mencemari tanah untuk tanaman. Kesan-kesan racun kimia kulat ini juga boleh membahayakan manusia sebagai pengguna produk pertanian. Bio-racun kulat yang digunakan kebiasaannya disimpan di stor ladang pada suhu bilik dan keadaan ini boleh mengurangkan kemandirian mikrob dalam bio-racun kulat semasa penyimpanan. Penggunaan ejen pelindung semasa proses pengeringan sejuk beku boleh membantu mikrob hidup sepanjang proses *insitu*. Dalam kajian ini, pengeringan sejuk beku telah dipilih sebagai teknik dan formulasi ejen pelindung telah dikaji untuk meningkatkan daya hidup *Paenibacillus polymyxa* Kp10 semasa pengeringan sejuk beku menggunakan kaedah 'Response Surface Methodology' (RSM). Satu kaedah lima peringkat dengan tiga pengubahsuaian 'CCD' telah digunakan untuk menilai kesan interaktif antara susu skim, sukrosa dan laktosa sebagai ejen pelindung untuk kemandirian *P. polymyxa* Kp10 semasa pengeringan sejuk beku. *P. polymyxa* Kp10 telah disaring kerana potensinya sebagai bio-racun kulat dalam menghalang kulat perosak menggunakan kultur segar dan kering beku. Untuk aktiviti anti-mikrob, kultur segar dan kering beku telah diuji dengan bakteria perosak makanan. 5% (v/v) telah dipilih sebagai saiz inoculum dan produksi sel paling tertinggi telah dihasilkan pada jam ke-22. Penggabungan ejen pelindung yang optimum oleh RSM ialah 20% (w/v) susu skim, 10% (w/v) laktosa dan 27.5% (w/v) sukrosa. Nilai yang diramalkan untuk kemandirian sel ialah 5.833 log CFU/ mL di bawah penggabungan optimum selepas proses pengeringan sejuk beku. Nilai ini agak berlainan dengan 5.452 log CFU/ mL iaitu nilai ujikaji. *P. polymyxa* Kp10 telah dapat menghalang *Colletrichum gloeosporioides* dan *C. truncatum* menggunakan ujian dwi-kultur pada 60.11% dan 62.8%, masing-masing sebagai penghalangan pertumbuhan radial (PIRG). Kultur sejuk beku *P. polymyxa* Kp10 telah menghalang *C. gloeosporioides* and *C.*

*truncatum* pada 66.52% dan 60.18% masing-masing. Untuk aktiviti anti-mikrobial, aktiviti berkurang dari  $4930.56 \pm 0.04$  AU/ mL kepada  $2780.95 \pm 0.05$  AU/ mL selepas *P. polymyxa* Kp10 melalui pengeringan sejuk beku. Oleh itu, *P. polymyxa* Kp10 boleh disejukkbeu dengan penggabungan ejen-ejen pelindung dan aktivitiya masih stabil selepas pengeringan sejuk beku.



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

°C	Degree Celsius
μL	Microlitre
%	Percentage
AU/ ml	Arbitrary per Millilitre (for antimicrobial activity)
A <sub>600nm</sub>	Optical Density at Wavelength 600 nanometer
BBRC	Biomanufacturing & Bioprocessing Research Center
BHI	Brain Heart Infusion
CCD	Composite Central Design
CFU / ml	Colony Forming Unit per Millilitre
g	Gram
h	Hour
IPTG	Isopropyl β-D-1-thiogalactopyranoside
L	Litre
M	Molar
mbar	Millibar
min	Minutes
ml	Millilitre
M mol	Millimolarity
OD	Optical Density
PDA	Potato Dextrose Agar
PIRG	Percentage of Inhibition of Radial Growth
rpm	Revolutions per Minutes
RSM	Response Surface Methodology

SEM	Scanning Electron Microscope
w/v	Weight per Volume
x g	Relative Centrifugal Force



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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Research Background

Freeze drying or known as lyophilization is a drying process where solvent, usually water, or the suspension medium is freeze at very low temperature then sublimated into vapour state directly from solid state (Liu et al., 2008). Freeze drying is of the successful method in preserving living cells for long term storage (Cieurzyńska & Lenart, 2009). Therefore, preparation of the bacteria and maintainance techniques must be established to ensure the bacteria viability and stability (Morgan et al., 2006). However, there is several factors affect effectiveness of the cells preservation. One of them is protective agents used for cells viability conservation during freeze drying process (Zhao & Zhang, 2005). A suitable protective agent may be able to reduce cells damage during the freeze drying process. Optimization of protective agents as freeze drying medium is essential for enhancing the bacteria survival during the desiccation.

In classical optimization, there is a parameter change and other parameters are kept constant. This method needs many experiments where it is time-consuming, high cost and less accurate. As alternative, most of optimization studies have been performed using response surface methodology (RSM) where it is effective in developing, improving and optimizing of microbial processes (Bas & Boyaci, 2007a).

Freeze drying method is suitable for preservation of variety of heat-sensitive products including drugs, foods, enzymes even culture microorganisms (Cieurzyńska & Lenart, 2009). Thus, the freeze drying is applicable for preservation of bacteria that used for biological control so they can be represented in commercial form which can keep longer and easily for storage (Zhan et al., 2011).

The biological control is one of the alternatives for chemical fungicides that can bring harm to environment, contaminate ground water sources and its content such as methyl bromide caused ozone layer depletion in the atmosphere (Naing et al., 2013). Biological control could be a way to against the fungal pathogens by applied antagonistic microorganism mechanism yet safer to the environment (Harman & Hayes, 1993 and Hernandez-Blanco *et al.*, 2007). Several studies have been reported about bacteria that can be used as biocontrol agent as well as can be used for plant growth promoting rhizobacteria.

The bacterial genera that have been identified as potential biocontrol agents including *Lysobacter*, *Bacillus*, *Paenibacillus*, *Azotobacter* and *Pseudomonas*. For example, *Pseudomonas putida* was recognized can control *F. oxysporum f. sp. melonis* effectively

as the biofungicide where *P. putida* caused Fusarium wilt on muskmelon (Bora et al., 2004). In 2005, Hang et al. were used *B. subtilis* S1-0210 to control gray mold disease on strawberry caused by *Botrytis cinerea*. These examples show that biological control could control the fungal pathogen problems without harm the crops production by synthetic chemical effects.

Biological control is also available for food industry as food preservatives to prevent food spoilage. Preservatives are applied by agro food companies in pre-cooked food, meat products, sauces, cheese, canned fish, meat, vegetables and fruits, cooked and frozen crustaceans and other food products (Silva & Lidon, 2016). For example, *Lactobacillus* spp. produced bacteriocin that can inhibit pathogenic microorganisms (Mahrous et al., 2013). *Paenibacillus* species are recognized can produce two classes of bacteriocins, lantibiotics and pediocins (Grady et al., 2016). These lantibiotics include paenicidin A and penisin both produced by *Paenibacillus* strains (Lohans et al., 2012 and Baidara et al., 2016). Paenibacillin has more stable in pH and heat as well as has broad range in activity against foodborne pathogens thus the paenibacillin can be one of the alternatives for food preservative (Abriouel et al., 2011).

## 1.2 Objectives of the Study

Thus, objectives of this study were:

1. To determine the effect of inoculum size on *P. polymyxa* Kp10 batch cultivation.
2. To optimize the formulation of protective agents using response surface methodology (RSM) for improvement of the survivility of live cells of *P. polymyxa* Kp10 during freeze drying for formulation of live cells in powderized form.
3. To evaluate the inhibitory effects of *P. polymyxa* Kp10 against pathogenic fungus *Colletotrichum truncatum* and *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* as biofungicide.

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