



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**PREVALENCE OF WHITE SPOT DISEASE IN *PENAEUS MONODON*
IN RELATION TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES
AND THE OCCURRENCE OF APOPTOSIS**

ABEER HASSAN SAHTOUT

FPV 2003 5

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ABEER HASSAN SAHTOUT

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra
Malaysia in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of
Philosophy**

March 2003



SAY, O' MY LORD! ADVANCE ME IN KNOWLEDGE

Holy Quran (Surah Taha-114)

**To my beloved parents for all what they do and have done for me
I can never repay them**

Thankfulness and Gratefulness

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia In fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

THE PREVALENCE OF WHITE SPOT DISEASE IN *PENAEUS MONODON* IN RELATION TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES AND THE OCCURRENCE OF APOPTOSIS

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March 2003

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White spot disease (WSD) is an important viral disease of cultured penaeid shrimp. Despite the amount of research that has been carried out on this disease, much still remains to be done. This study was undertaken to examine the effect of different environmental parameters on the occurrence and severity of outbreaks of WSD. The study also undertook to investigate the occurrence of apoptosis and presence or activation of related genes that might result from virus infection.

Black tiger shrimp *Penaeus monodon* and pond water samples were collected from four shrimp farms located along the coast of Peninsular Malaysia, to investigate the relationship between environmental changes and the occurrence of WSD. In the study, it was found that occurrence of WSD was

more widespread during the wet season, in association with sudden drops in water temperature and salinity.

Laboratory experiments were also conducted to investigate the relationship between salinity, temperature and the occurrence of WSD. All the shrimp exposed to sudden increases in temperature and then returned to normal temperature in association with changed salinity were dead within four days of exposure. However, shrimp maintained at low salinity were less susceptible to disease.

To study the development of white spot lesions during infection, shrimp were exposed to white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) via the water borne route. At one-hour post exposure, electron microscopy revealed the appearance of white spots, which were oval or ovate in shape. White spots were visible by the naked eye three days post infection. The study also showed that there were two types of white spots, one related to viral infection, and the other related to bacterial infection. An epicomensal *Zoothamnium* sp. was able to penetrate the shrimp cuticle at these bacterial white spots.

High numbers of apoptotic cells were identified in moribund *P. monodon* infected with WSSV. Apoptotic cells showed DNA fragmentation by TUNEL fluorescence assay and gel electrophoresis of DNA extracts, while H&E stained sections revealed nuclear enlargement and chromatin condensation and margination in degenerated cells. The numbers of such cells present in

tissues of WSSV infected shrimp increased with increasing severity of infection as determined by gross signs of white spots on the cuticle, number of inclusion bodies in histopathological sections and by single and double-step (nested) PCR assay. The results suggested that apoptosis might be implicated in shrimp death caused by this virus.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**PREVALEN PENYAKIT BINTIK PUTIH DALAM *PENAEUS*
MONODON BERKAIT DENGAN PERUBAHAN PERSEKITARAN DAN
KEHADIRAN APOPTOSIS**

Oleh

ABEER HASSAN SAHTOUT

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Penyakit Bintik Putih (PBP) merupakan satu penyakit virus yang penting dalam udang temakan. Walaupun telah banyak penyelidikan dijalankan ke atas penyakit ini, masih banyak lagi belum diketahui mengenainya. Kajian ini telah dijalankan untuk memahami kesan parameter persekitaran yang berlainan ke atas kejadian dan keterukan wabak PBP. Kajian ini juga dijalankan untuk menyiasat kejadian 'apoptosis' dan kehadiran atau pengaktifan gen-gen yang berkaitan akibat jangkitan virus.

Sampel udang harimau *Penaeus monodon* dan air kolam telah diambil dari empat buah ladang udang yang terletak di sepanjang persisiran

Semenanjung Malaysia, untuk menyiasat perhubungan di antara perubahan persekitaran dan kejadian PBP. Di dalam kajian ini, di dapati kejadian jangkitan PBP lebih meluas semasa musim hujan, sejajar dengan kejatuhan mengejut suhu dan saliniti.

Eksperimen makmal juga telah dijalankan untuk menyiasat perhubungan di antara saliniti, suhu dan kejadian PBP. Udadang yang didedahkan kepada suhu yang meningkat secara mendadak dan kemudiannya diturun semula ke paras normal serentak dengan perubahan saliniti, menunjukkan kematian pada hari ke empat eksperimen dijalankan. Bagaimanapun, udang yang diletakkan di dalam saliniti yang rendah adalah kurang terdedah kepada jangkitan.

Kajian juga telah dijalankan terhadap perkembangan bintik putih semasa jangkitan, di mana udang telah didedahkan kepada virus bintik putih melalui jangkitan air. Pada masa satu jam jangkitan dilakukan, mikroskopi elektron mendedahkan kemunculan bintik-bintik putih yang berbentuk bujur atau bulat. Selepas tiga hari jangkitan, bintik putih dapat dilihat dengan mata kasar. Kajian ini juga menunjukkan terdapat dua jenis bintik, iaitu bintik yang berkait dengan jangkitan virus dan juga yang disebabkan jangkitan bakteria. Satu spesis epikomensal *Zoothamnium* sp, telah menembusi kutikel udang di tempat bintik putih oleh bakteria.

Terdapat bilangan sel apoptotik yang tinggi dalam *Penaeus monodon* nazak yang telah dijangkiti WSSV. Sel apoptotik menunjukkan pecahan DNA dengan asai TUNEL kependarfluoran dan elektroporesis gel ekstrat DNA, manakala pewarnaan H&E mendedahkan hipertropi nukleus, kondensasi dan marginasi kromatin dalam sel yang mengalami degenerasi. Bilangan sel seperti ini yang hadir pada tisu udang yang telah dijangkiti WSSV bertambah dengan meningkatnya darjah kerosakan seperti yang ditunjukkan dengan tanda-tanda kasar bintik putih di atas kutikel, bilangan badan-badan inklusi di dalam bahagian histopatologi, dan melalui asai PCR (tersarang). Keputusan menunjukkan apoptosis mungkin terlibat di dalam kematian udang yang disebabkan oleh virus ini.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My sincerest gratitude is extended to the following people who have given generous assistance during my studies which I could not have achieved success or finished my work without them.

I thank Dr. Hassan Hj. Mohd Daud, my committee chairman, for his supervision and continued guidance, support and enthusiasm throughout the period of my study.

I am also grateful to Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohamed Shariff, a member of my supervisory committee for his valuable discussions and help. He devoted much of his valuable time to guide me during my work with patience and encouragement.

I am also very grateful to the other members of my supervisory committee. Prof. Dr. Fatimah Yusoff and Associate Prof. Dr. Raha Abdul Rahim for their help, comments, guidance and advice and for allowing me the use of their facilities for my environmental and molecular work.

My sincere gratitude and special thanks to Associate Prof. Dr. Peter Davie, Massey University, for his rigorous criticism, concern and editing to a part of this thesis.

To my beloved parents and brothers and especially my brother Hayder, and sister, who gave constant encouragement and moral support. Without their prayers and patience, this work would not have been possible.

My appreciation and thanks also go to Mr. O. K. Ho, and Azela of the Electron Microscopy unit of Bio-science Institute, UPM for all their technical assistance during my work in the unit.

My thanks to all my colleagues in the Aquatic Animal Health Unit for all the suggestions and discussions we had during the study period. Thanks also to all my friends and especially to Hanan Qudsieh and Gabby for moral and mental support. Special thanks to Mr. Naser Umar Tsafe and Mr. Mohammad Ghrissi for all the help and assistance given during my work.

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

ABEER HASSAN SAHTOUT

Date:

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAHU	Aquatic animal health unit
AcMNPV	<i>Autographa californica</i> multiple embedded nucleopolyhedro viruses
ANOVA	Analysis of variance
AO	acridine orange
BmNPV	<i>Bombyx mori</i> nuclear polyhedrosis virus
bp	base pair
BSA	Bovine serum albumin
DNA	Deoxyribo nucleic acid
dNTPs	Deoxyribonucleoside triphosphates
dpi	Day post infection
DO	dissolve oxygen
DW	deionized water
EDTA	Ethylene diaminetetraacetic acid
EDAX	Energy Dispersive X-ray
GLS	Gel loading solution
H&E	Hematoxylin and Eosin
hr	Hour
KD	Kilodalton
MBV	Monodon Baculovirus
MSI	Mean severity index
MT	Metric Tone
nPCR	Nested Polymerase Chain Reaction
PBS	Phosphate Buffer Saline
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PL	Post Larvae
ppt	Parts per thousand
SD	Standard deviation
S. E	Standard error
TBE	Tris-Boric acid. EDTA
TE	Tris-EDTA