UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

MORPHOLOGICAL AND GENETIC DIVERSITY OF JATROPHA CURCAS L. IN MALAYSIA

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FP 2011 38
MORPHOLOGICAL AND GENETIC DIVERSITY OF JATROPHA CURCAS L. IN MALAYSIA

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

May 2011
DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate my thesis to:

My beloved parents in law for giving me constant encouragement and support

and

My beloved wife,

Vahideh Bani Ali

who has been great source of motivation and inspiration
MORPHOLOGICAL AND GENETIC DIVERSITY OF

JATROPHA CURCAS L. IN MALAYSIA

By

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May 2011

Chairman: Assoc. Prof. Mohd Rafii Bin Yusop, PhD

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Considering vast semi wild distribution of *J. curcas* species, genetic diversity should be existed in different parts of Peninsular Malaysia. Unfortunately, there is no information on the genetic diversity of this species in this country, while the knowledge of genetic variability of *J. curcas* is completely necessary for introducing its breeding programs. For this purpose, a study of different *J. curcas* accessions in Malaysia is required to identify highly potential elite accessions that are capable of high sustainable yields in different agro-climatic zones.

Fifty nine *J. curcas* accessions were collected from Selangor, Kelantan and Terengganu states were evaluated *in-situ* and *ex-situ* and also by molecular (RAPD) markers. The objectives were to determine the genetic variation and diversity of *J. curcas* accessions in three states of Malaysia, to evaluate the performance of different accessions of *J. curcas*, to assess variability at the molecular level among
the accessions and to identify superior *J. curcas* accessions to develop improved populations.

*In-situ* evaluation of 59 *J. curcas* based on Zangemeister’s method, Accessions B-05-06, B-02-04, B-05-09, T-01-09, T-01-04, T-01-10, D-01-10, D-01-08 and D-01-06 were distinguished with high oil content, collar diameter, number of fruits per cluster and leaf area. Out of the 59 collected accessions, 48 accessions were survived in nursery and planted in field for evaluation. Results of genetic diversity analysis using 14 morphological characters indicated that the presence of genetic variability among the *J. curcas* accessions. Broad sense heritability of all the traits were high with values exceeded 63%. Molecular analysis using RAPD markers revealed that the majority of accessions from Selangor state were clustered separately from accessions of other states. This indicated that the genetic divergence of the Selangor accessions compared to all accessions from Kelantan and Terengganu.

Two accessions collected from Kelantan and Selangor states, D-01-09 and B-03-02 respectively had relatively higher average total yield, 100-seed weight, oil content and growth characteristics compared to all other accessions. Finally, this study provides important insight in the accessions of *J. curcas* and this finding could be used as background information for breeding and improvement program of this species in Malaysia.
Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

MORFOLOGI DAN KEPELBAGAIAN GENETIK
JATROPHA CURCAS L. DI MALAYSIA

Oleh

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Berdasarkan taburan yang luas spesis J. curcas separa-liar di merata bahagian di Malaysia, kepelbagaian genetik sepatutnya wujud. Malangnya, tiada maklumat mengenai kepelbagaian genetik spesies ini di negara ini, sedangkan pengetahuan tentang kepelbagaian genetik J. curcas amat diperlukan untuk memulakan program pembiakbakaannya. Untuk maksud ini, satu kajian ke atas pelbagai akses berbeza di Malaysia diperlukan untuk mengenalpasti akses unggul yang berpotensi tinggi yang berupaya memberikan hasil tinggi secara berterusan pada zon klimatik yang berbeza.

Lima puluh sembilan aksesi J. curcas dikumpulkan dari Negeri Selangor, Kelantan dan Terengganu telah buat penilaian secara in-situ dan ex-situ dan juga menerusi kaedah penanda RAPD. Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk menentukan variasi genetik dan kepelbagaian aksesi J. curcas dari tiga negeri di Malaysia, mengkaji prestasi setiap aksesi J. curcas, menilai kepelbagaian pada tahap molekular antara aksesi terpilih bagi menghasilkan populasi yang lebih baik dan mengenalpasti aksesi J. curcas yang unggul.
Daripada 59 akses yang telah dikumpulkan, 48 akses yang hidup di tapak semai ditanam di ladang untuk penilaian. Keputusan daripada analisa kepelbagaian genetik menggunakan 14 ciri morfologi menunjukkan terdapat variasi yang tinggi di antara aksesi *J. curcas* yang dikaji. Secara keseluruhannya, keterwarisan luas adalah tinggi untuk semua ciri dan nilainya melebihi 63%. Analisa molekul menggunakan penanda RAPD, menunjukkan kebanyakan aksesi daripada Selangor dikelompokan secara berasingan daripada aksesi dari negeri yang lain. Ini menunjukkan terdapat kepelbagaian genetik aksesi dari Selangor berbanding aksesi dari Kelantan dan Terengganu.

Dua akses *J. curcas* daripada negeri Kelantan dan Selangor, D-01-09 dan B-03-02 masing-masing secara relatifnya menghasilkan purata hasil keseluruhan, berat 100 biji benih, kandungan minyak dan ciri pertumbuhan yang tinggi berbanding dengan aksesi lain. Akhirnya, kajian ini menyediakan pemahaman yang penting terhadap aksesi *J. curcas* tersebut dan hasil penemuan ini boleh digunakan sebagai informasi asas untuk program pembiakbakaan dan kemajuan spesies ini di Malaysia.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to express his heartfelt gratitude and sincere thanks to his committee members, Associate Professor Dr. Mohd Rafii Bin Yusop, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Said Saad and Dr. Puteri Edaroyati Bt Megat Wahab, for their guidance, assistance and encouragement throughout the completion of the work. I feel much honored to have worked with them for the last three years. This study could not be completed without the kind help, friendship and support of Alireza Biabanikhankahdani and Ali Ranjbarfard, who provided excellent help in the field and molecular lab. I would also like to thank the other friends who made this project a success. I am also grateful to the Crop Science Department and staff, especially Rosdi Abd Ghani and Mohd Helmi Hamisan for their help, kindness and friendship.

Most of all, I am grateful to my parents, sisters, brothers for their love, support and encouragement. Finally, a very heartfelt gratitude and appreciation goes to my beloved wife, Vahideh Bani Ali, for her constant encouragement, patience, great companion and moral support throughout my graduate program and for being there for his. Without them, I could have not been through this stage of my life and career. I would like to praise God for His infinite blessings.
I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 06 May 2011 to conduct the final examination of Mahmoodreza shabanimofrad on his thesis entitled “Morphological and molecular diversity of *Jatropha curcas* in Malaysia” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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DECLARATION

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

________________________________________
MAHMOODREZA SHABANIMOFRAD

Date: 6 May 2011
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