



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**EFFECTS OF CONDENSED TANNINS FROM *LEUCAENA  
LEUCOCEPHALA* (LAM.) DE WIT HYBRID ON METHANE MITIGATION,  
RUMEN FERMENTATION, AND POPULATIONS OF METHANOGENS  
AND PROTOZOA *IN VITRO***

**TAN HUI YIN**

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By

**TAN HUI YIN**

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

**March 2012**

## DEDICATION

*This thesis is dedicated to my parents  
for their love, endless support  
and encouragement*

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**EFFECTS OF CONDENSED TANNINS FROM *LEUCAENA LEUCOCEPHALA* (LAM.) DE WIT HYBRID ON METHANE MITIGATION, RUMEN FERMENTATION, AND POPULATIONS OF METHANOGENS AND PROTOZOA *IN VITRO***

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**TAN HUI YIN**

**March 2012**

**Chairman: Professor Ho Yin Wan, PhD**

**Institute : Bioscience**

Methane is the second most important greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming and climate change. Methane production from livestock, predominantly ruminants, accounts to about one-third of global anthropogenic methane production. Methane produced during ruminal fermentation also represents a loss of gross energy consumed up to 12%. Thus, there is an urgent need to reduce methane emission from ruminants. This study was carried out to investigate the effects of condensed tannins (CTs), a plant secondary metabolite, from *Leucaena leucocephala* hybrid-Rendang (LLR) on methane mitigation, rumen fermentation, and molecular diversities and populations of methanogens and protozoa *in vitro*. The study was divided into four experiments.

In the first experiment, extraction, purification and determination of molecular weights of crude and pure CT extracts from LLR were carried out. It was found that

the number-average molecular weights ( $M_n$ ) determined using quadrupole time-of-flight mass spectrometer were 1087.99 and 1070.51 Da for crude and pure CT extracts, respectively.

In the second experiment, different levels of crude and pure CTs extracted from LLR were investigated for their effects on methane production and rumen fermentation parameters such as pH, dry matter degradability, nitrogen disappearance and volatile fatty acid concentrations. Crude CT concentrations of 0 (control), 10, 25, 40 and 55 mg, and 500 mg of oven dried guinea grass (*Panicum maximum*) with 40 ml of buffered rumen fluid were incubated for 24 h using an *in vitro* gas production procedure. Results showed that total gas production decreased linearly ( $P<0.05$ ) with increasing inclusions of crude CT levels. A linear decrease ( $P<0.01$ ) in methane production was observed at higher concentrations of crude CTs of 40 and 55 mg/500 mg DM, with reduction of 32.4% for both levels when compared to the control. Total volatile fatty acid concentration (mmol/L) decreased linearly ( $P<0.01$ ) and propionate production increased at a linear rate ( $P<0.01$ ) with additions of crude CTs. However, at 40 and 55 mg of crude CTs, *in vitro* dry matter (DM) degradation was significantly ( $P<0.05$ ) reduced. Pure CT concentrations of 0 (control), 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 mg were also studied using the *in vitro* gas production procedure. Results showed that total gas (ml/g DM) decreased (linear  $P<0.01$ ; quadratic  $P<0.05$ ) with increased levels of pure CT inclusion. Methane production (ml/g DM) decreased (linear  $P<0.01$ ; quadratic  $P<0.01$ ) with increasing levels of pure CTs. Total volatile fatty acid concentration (mmol/L) decreased linearly ( $P<0.01$ ) and quadratically ( $P<0.01$ ) with increasing pure CT inclusions. *In vitro* DM degradation and nitrogen disappearance declined linearly ( $P<0.01$ ) with increasing levels of pure CTs. The

results of the study showed that pure CTs from LLR at a relatively low level of 20 mg could reduce methane production by 57% without negatively affecting *in vitro* DM degradability and *in vitro* nitrogen disappearance. Although crude CTs and pure CTs at higher concentrations could also reduce methane emissions, they have substantive negative effects on DM digestibility.

Experiments three and four were carried out to estimate the populations and molecular diversities of methanogenic archaea and protozoa. Estimation of rumen methanogens and protozoal populations using microbiological methods and real-time PCR assay showed linear reductions in total methanogens ( $P < 0.01$ ) and total protozoa ( $P < 0.01$ ) with increasing levels of CTs. CT inclusion exhibited linear, quadratic and cubic effects on methanogens in the order *Methanobacteriales*.

Molecular diversities of rumen methanogens and protozoa from bovine rumen fluid incubated with pure CTs at 20 mg/500 mg DM or without CTs (control) was investigated using 16S rRNA and 18S rRNA gene libraries, respectively. The predominant order of rumen methanogens in the 16S rRNA gene libraries of the control and CT treatment was found to belong to a novel group of rumen archaea that is distantly related to the order *Thermoplasmatales*, with 59.5% (15 phylotypes) and 81.4% (21 phylotypes) of the total clones from the control and treatment clone libraries, respectively. The 16S rRNA gene library of the control was found to have higher proportions of methanogens in the orders *Methanomicrobiales* (32%) and *Methanobacteriales* (8.5%) as compared to those of the CT treatment clone library (16.9% and 1.7% respectively). The phylotype placed in the order

*Methanosarcinales* was only found in the control clone library. The study indicated that CTs could alter the diversity of bovine rumen methanogens.

The 18S rRNA gene libraries of the protozoa revealed that all the clones were distributed in the orders *Entodiniomorpha* and *Trichostomatida*. A higher percentage of clones in the genus *Entodinium* (11.1% increase), and a lower percentage of clones in the genera *Ostracodinium* and *Anoplodinium* (5% and 3% decrease, respectively) were found in the CT treatment clone library.

In conclusion, the results indicated that pure CTs at the concentration of 20 mg/500 mg DM has the potential to be used as a feed supplement to reduce methane production by decreasing and altering the total methanogenic archaea and protozoal populations in ruminants, without adversely affecting DM degradability and nitrogen disappearance. However, *in vivo* experiments should be carried out to further evaluate the efficacy of CTs in methane mitigation.

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

**KESAN-KESAN TANIN  
TERPELUWAP DARI *LEUCAENA LEUCOCEPHALA* (LAM.) DE WIT  
HIBRID TERHADAP MITIGASI  
METANA, FERMENTASI RUMEN SERTA POPULASI METHANOGEN  
DAN PROTOZOA *IN VITRO***

Oleh

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**Mac 2012**

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Metana ialah gas rumah hijau kedua terpenting yang menyumbang kepada pemanasan global dan perubahan iklim. Pengeluaran metana dari ternakan, khususnya ruminan, menyumbang kira-kira satu pertiga daripada pengeluaran metana antropogen global. Metana yang dihasilkan semasa fermentasi ruminan juga mewakili kerugian tenaga kasar daripada makanan sehingga 12%. Maka, adalah penting untuk mengurangkan penghasilan metana daripada ruminan. Kajian ini dijalankan untuk menyiasat kesan-kesan tannin terkondensasi (CT), sejenis metabolit sekunder tumbuhan, dari *Leucaena leucocephala* hybrid-Rendang (LLR) dalam pengurangan metana, fermentasi rumen, dan diversiti molekul serta populasi methanogen dan protozoa secara *in vitro*. Kajian ini dibahagikan kepada empat eksperimen.



Dalam eksperimen pertama, pengestrakan, penulenan dan penentuan berat-berat molekul ekstrak CT yang mentah dan tulen dari LLR telah dijalankan. Ia didapati nombor-purata berat-berat molekul sederhana ( $M_n$ ) yang ditentukan menggunakan spektrometer jisim “quadruple time-of-flight” ialah 1087.99 dan 1070.51 Da, masing-masing untuk ekstrak CT yang mentah dan tulen.

Dalam eksperimen kedua, pelbagai tahap CT yang mentah dan tulen dari LLR telah dikaji untuk kesan-kesan pengeluaran metana serta parameter fermentasi rumen seperti pH, degradasi bahan kering, kehilangan nitrogen dan kepekatan asid lemak meruap. Kepekatan CT mentah iaitu 0 (kawalan), 10, 25, 40 dan 55 mg, dan 500 mg rumput kuda (*Panicum maksimum*) yang dikeringkan dengan ketuhar serta 40 ml bendalir rumen diinkubasi untuk 24 h menggunakan prosedur pengeluaran gas *in vitro*. Keputusan menunjukkan jumlah pengeluaran gas berkurang secara linear ( $P<0.05$ ) dengan pertambahan tahap-tahap CT mentah. Pengurangan linear ( $P<0.01$ ) dalam penghasilan metana telah diperhatikan di kepekatan-kepekatan CT mentah yang lebih tinggi, iaitu 40 dan 55 mg/500 mg DM, dengan pengurangan 32.4% untuk kedua-dua tahap berbanding dengan kawalan. Kepekatan jumlah asid lemak meruap (mmol/L) turun secara linear ( $P<0.01$ ) dan penghasilan propionik bertambah pada suatu kadar linear ( $P<0.01$ ) dengan penambahan CT mentah. Bagaimanapun, pada 40 dan 55 mg CT mentah, degradasi bahan kering *in vitro* (DM) nyata sekali ( $P<0.05$ ) berkurang. Kepekatan CT tulen 0 (kawalan), 10, 15, 20, 25 dan 30 mg juga dikaji dengan menggunakan prosedur pengeluaran gas *in vitro*. Keputusan menunjukkan jumlah gas (ml/g DM) turun (linear  $P<0.01$ ; kuadratik  $P<0.05$ ) dengan kenaikan tahap penambahan CT tulen. Penghasilan metana (ml/g DM) turun (linear  $P<0.01$ ; kuadratik  $P<0.01$ ) dengan peningkatan tahap-tahap CT

tulen. Kepekatan jumlah asid lemak meruap (mmol/L) turun secara linear ( $P < 0.01$ ) dan kuadratik ( $P < 0.01$ ) dengan pertambahan CT tulen. Degradasi DM *in vitro* dan kehilangan nitrogen turun secara linear ( $P < 0.01$ ) dengan peningkatan tahap-tahap CT tulen. Keputusan-keputusan kajian menunjukkan CT tulen dari LLR pada satu tahap yang agak rendah iaitu 20 mg dapat mengurangkan penghasilan metana sebanyak 57% tanpa kesan pengaruh negatif ke atas degradasi DM *in vitro* dan kehilangan nitrogen *in vitro*. Walaupun CT mentah dan CT tulen pada kepekatan-kepekatan yang lebih tinggi boleh mengurangkan penghasilan metana, namun kesan negatif yang substantif pada degradasi DM telah ditunjukkan.

Eksperimen tiga dan empat dijalankan untuk menganggar populasi dan diversiti molekul archaea methanogenik dan protozoa. Anggaran methanogen rumen dan populasi protozoal menggunakan kaedah-kaedah mikrobiologi dan asai PCR masa nyata menunjukkan pengurangan linear dalam jumlah methanogen ( $P < 0.01$ ) dan jumlah protozoa ( $P < 0.01$ ) dengan peningkatan tahap-tahap CT. Penambahan CT menunjukkan kesan-kesan linear, kuadratik dan kubik pada methanogen dalam order *Methanobacteriales*.

Diversiti molekul methanogen rumen dan protozoa dari bendalir rumen yang diinkubasi dengan CT tulen 20 mg/500 mg DM atau tanpa CT (kawalan) dikaji dengan menggunakan gen perpustakaan 16S rRNA and 18S rRNA, masing-masing. Order utama methanogen rumen dalam gen perpustakaan 16S rRNA kawalan dan rawatan CT didapati berkait dengan sekumpulan archaea rumen novel yang berkaitan dengan methanogen dari order *Thermoplasmatales*, dengan 59.5% (15 phylotypes) dan 81.4% (21 phylotypes) daripada jumlah klon dari klon perpustakaan

kawalan dan rawatan, masing-masing. Gen perpustakaan 16S rRNA kawalan didapati mempunyai pecahan methanogen yang lebih tinggi dari order *Methanomicrobiales* (32%) dan *Methanobacteriales* (8.5%) apabila dibanding dengan klon perpustakaan rawatan CT (16.9% dan 1.7% masing-masing). Phylotype yang berkait dengan order *Methanosarcinales* hanya ditemui dalam klon perpustakaan kawalan. Kajian menunjukkan CT boleh mengubah diversiti methanogen pada rumen.

Gen perpustakaan 18S rRNA protozoa menunjukkan bahawa semua klon tergolong dalam order *Entodiniomorpha* dan *Trichostomatida*. Peratusan yang lebih tinggi untuk klon-klon dari genus *Entodinium* (peningkatan 11.1%), dan pengurangan peratusan klon-klon dalam genera *Ostracodinium* and *Anoplodinium* (5% dan 3% pengurangan, masing-masing) telah ditemui dalam klon perpustakaan rawatan CT.

Kesimpulannya, keputusan-keputusan menunjukkan CT tulen pada kepekatan 20 mg/500 mg DM mempunyai potensi untuk digunakan sebagai satu makanan tambahan untuk mengurangkan penghasilan metana dengan mengurangkan dan meminda jumlah dan populasi archaea methanogenik dan protozoal pada ruminan, tanpa menjejaskan degradasi DM dan kehilangan nitrogen. Bagaimanapun, eksperimen-eksperimen *in vivo* sepatutnya dijalankan untuk seterusnya menilai kemujaraban CT dalam mitigasi metana.

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Thank you all for everything. Do enjoy life and may all your dreams come true.

I certify that an Examination Committee met on **date of viva voce** to conduct the final examination of **Tan Hui Yin** on her **Doctor of Philosophy** thesis entitled “Effects of Condensed Tannins from *Leucaena leucocephala* Hybrid on Methane Mitigation, Rumen Fermentation and Populations of Methanogens and Protozoa *In Vitro*” in accordance with the Universities and University College Acte 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 Doctor of Philosophy.

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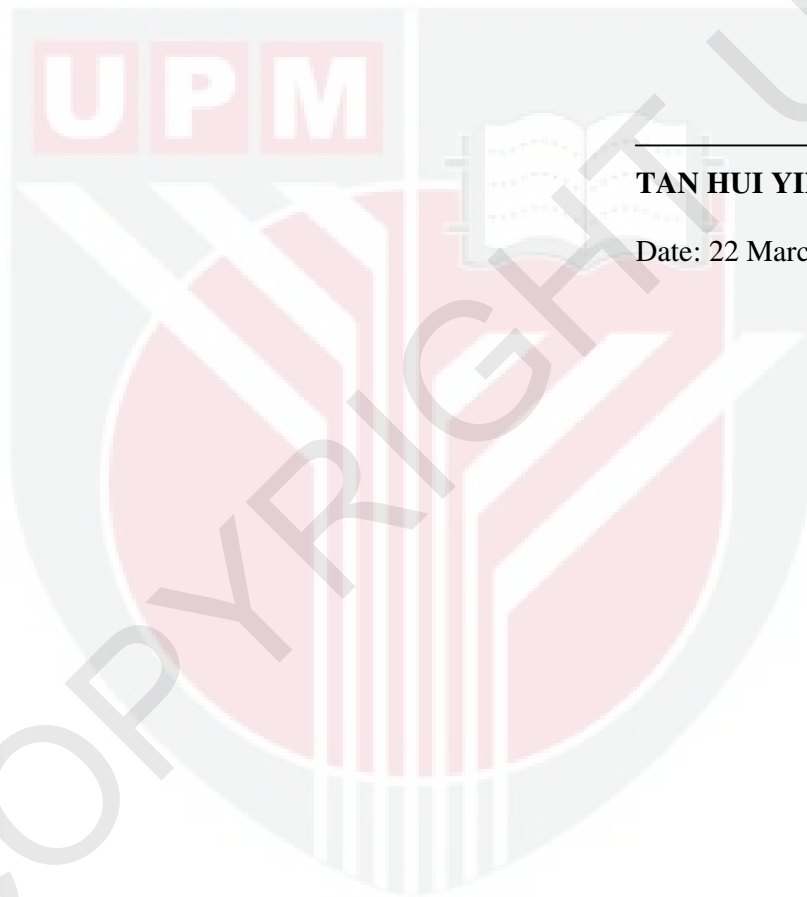
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Date:

## DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is 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.



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**TAN HUI YIN**

Date: 22 March 2012





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<b>DEDICATION.....</b>	ii
<b>ABSTRACT.....</b>	iii
<b>ABSTRAK.....</b>	vii
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....</b>	xi
<b>APPROVALS.....</b>	xiii
<b>DECLARATION.....</b>	xv
<b>LIST OF TABLES.....</b>	xxi
<b>LIST OF FIGURES.....</b>	xxiii
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....</b>	xxvii
 <b>CHAPTER</b>	
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	1
<b>2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	
2.1 Tropical forage legumes for ruminant production system	6
2.2 <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	8
2.3 Tannins	10
2.3.1 Hydrolysable tannins	11
2.3.2 Condensed tannins	12
2.4 Characterization of condensed tannins	13
2.4.1 Structure	13
2.4.2 Molecular weight	18
2.5 Occurrence and biosynthesis of condensed tannins	19
2.6 Functions of condensed tannins in ruminant nutrition	21
2.6.1 Nitrogen metabolism	21
2.6.2 Rumen metabolism	23
2.6.3 Rumen microbial population	25
2.6.4 Methane mitigation	28
2.7 Factors causing variations in CT function	30
2.8 Methane production in ruminants	32
2.8.1 Methanogenesis and anaerobic fermentation in ruminants	32
2.8.2 The role of methanogenic archaea and rumen protozoa in methanogenesis	34
2.9 Manipulation of rumen methanogenesis	36
2.9.1 Alternative pathway to methanogenesis	37
2.9.2 Manipulation using yeast culture	38
2.9.3 Manipulation using organic acids	39
2.9.4 Manipulation using plants extracts	40
2.9.5 Manipulation using hydroxymethylglutaryl-SCoA inhibitors	41
2.9.6 Methanogen Genomics to Discover Targets for Methane Mitigation	41

<b>3</b>	<b>EXTRACTION, PURIFICATION AND DETERMINATION OF MOLECULAR WEIGHT OF CONDENSED TANNINS</b>	
3.1	Introduction	43
3.2	Materials and methods	44
3.2.1	Experimental forage	44
3.2.2	Extraction of crude condensed tannins	45
3.2.3	Purification of condensed tannins	45
3.2.4	Molecular weight determination by Gel Permeation Chromatography	46
3.2.5	Molecular weight determination by Q-TOF LC/MS	47
3.3	Results	48
3.3.1	Yields of crude and pure condensed tannins from LLR	48 49
3.3.2	Molecular weight distribution of crude and pure condensed tannins from LLR	
3.4	Discussion	51
3.4.1	Extraction and purification of condensed tannins	51
3.4.2	Molecular weights of crude and pure condensed tannins from LLR	52
3.5	Conclusions	55
<b>4</b>	<b>EFFECTS OF CONDENSED TANNIN EXTRACT ON <i>IN VITRO</i> GAS PRODUCTION, METHANE PRODUCTION AND RUMEN FERMENTATION CHARACTERISTICS</b>	
4.1	Introduction	56
4.2	Materials and methods	58
4.2.1	Preparation of sample	58
4.2.2	Extraction of crude condensed tannin extract	58
4.2.3	Purification of condensed tannins	58
4.2.4	Animals and rumen liquor sampling	59
4.2.5	<i>In vitro</i> gas production test	59
4.2.5.1	Experiment with different concentrations of crude condensed tannin inclusion	59
4.2.5.2	Experiment with different concentrations of pure condensed tannin inclusion	61
4.2.6	Determination of total gas production	61
4.2.7	Measurement of methane and carbon dioxide production	61
4.2.8	Determination of <i>in vitro</i> dry matter degradability and <i>in vitro</i> nitrogen disappearance	62
4.2.9	Determination of volatile fatty acids	63
4.3.10	Statistical analysis	63
4.3	Results	64
4.3.1	Experiment with crude condensed tannins	64
4.3.1.1	Effects of crude condensed tannin extract on total gas, methane and carbon dioxide production	64
4.3.1.2	Effects of crude condensed tannins on <i>in vitro</i> gas production	65

	<i>in vitro</i> dry matter degradability and <i>in vitro</i> nitrogen disappearance	
4.3.1.3	Effects of crude condensed tannins on pH and volatile fatty acid production	67
4.3.2	Experiment with pure condensed tannins	69
4.3.2.1	Effects of pure condensed tannins on total gas, methane and carbon dioxide production	69
4.3.2.2	Effects of pure condensed tannins on <i>in vitro</i> dry matter degradability and <i>in vitro</i> nitrogen disappearance	71
4.3.2.3	Effects of pure condensed tannins on pH and volatile fatty acid production	71
4.4	Discussion	72
4.4.1	Effects on total gas, methane and carbon dioxide production	74
4.4.2	Effects on <i>in vitro</i> dry matter degradability and <i>in vitro</i> nitrogen disappearance	75
4.4.3	Effect on volatile fatty acid production	77
4.5	Conclusions	79
<b>5</b>	<b>QUANTIFICATION AND MOLECULAR DIVERSITY OF RUMEN METHANOGEN POPULATIONS</b>	
5.1	Introduction	81
5.2	Materials and methods	82
5.2.1	Preparation of pure CT extract	82
5.2.2	<i>In vitro</i> gas production test	82
5.2.3	Estimation of rumen methanogens using classical microbiological method (Most Probable Number Methodology)	83
5.2.4	Quantification of methanogen population using real time PCR	83
5.2.4.1	Isolation of genomic DNA	83
5.2.4.2	PCR amplification of 16S rRNA gene of methanogens	84
5.2.4.3	Agarose gel electrophoresis	84
5.2.4.4	Cloning and extraction of plasmid	85
5.2.4.5	Restriction fragment length polymorphism and sequencing	85
5.2.4.6	Sequence analysis and identification of clones	86
5.2.4.7	Real-time PCR standard and sample quantification	88
5.2.5	Methanogen Diversity	88
5.2.5.1	16S rRNA gene libraries and phylogenetic analysis	91
5.2.5.2	Nucleotide sequence accession number	91
5.2.6	Statistical analysis	

5.3	Results	91
5.3.1	Isolation of genomic DNA and PCR amplification	91
5.3.2	Analysis of restriction fragment length polymorphism fingerprints	92
5.3.3	Real-time PCR standard curve generation	92
5.3.4	Real-time PCR assays	96
5.3.5	Quantification of methanogen populations	100
5.3.6	Diversity of methanogens	106
5.3.6.1	Sequence similarity analysis	106
5.3.6.2	Phylogenetic placement of sequences	110
5.4	Discussion	115
5.4.1	Effects of condensed tannins on rumen methanogen populations	115
5.4.2	Effects of condensed tannins on rumen methanogen diversity	116
5.5	Conclusions	119
<b>6</b>	<b>QUANTIFICATION AND MOLECULAR DIVERSITY OF RUMEN PROTOZOAL POPULATIONS</b>	
6.1	Introduction	120
6.2	Materials and methods	121
6.2.1	Preparation of pure CT extract	121
6.2.2	<i>In vitro</i> gas production test	121
6.2.3	Estimation of rumen protozoa using classical microbiological method	122
6.2.4	Quantification of protozoal population using real time PCR	122
6.2.4.1	Isolation of genomic DNA	122
6.2.4.2	PCR amplification of 18S rRNA gene of protozoa	123
6.2.4.3	Agarose gel electrophoresis	123
6.2.4.4	Cloning and extraction of plasmid	123
6.2.4.5	Restriction fragment length polymorphism	124
6.2.4.6	Sequencing, analysis and identification of clones	124
6.2.4.7	Real-time PCR standard and sample quantification	125
6.2.4.8	Statistical analysis for quantification of protozoal population	126
6.2.5	Protozoal Diversity	126
6.2.5.1	Phylogenetic analysis	126
6.2.5.2	Statistical analysis of diversity and differences between libraries	128
6.2.5.3	Nucleotide sequence accession number	128
6.3	Results	129
6.3.1	Isolation of genomic DNA and PCR amplification	129
6.3.2	Analysis of restriction fragment length polymorphism fingerprints	129
6.3.3	Real-time PCR standard curve generation	132

6.3.4	Real-time PCR assays	132
6.3.5	Quantification of protozoal population	137
6.3.6	Protozoal Diversity	139
6.3.6.1	Sequence similarity analysis	139
6.3.6.2	Phylogenetic placement of sequences	146
6.3.6.3	Statistical analysis of libraries	149
6.4	Discussion	151
6.4.1	Effects on rumen protozoal populations	151
6.4.2	Effects of CTs on rumen protozoal diversity	152
6.5	Conclusions	155
<b>7</b>	<b>GENERAL DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>164</b>
	<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>166</b>
	<b>APPENDIX</b>	<b>188</b>
	<b>BIODATA OF STUDENT</b>	<b>192</b>
	<b>LIST OF PUBLICATIONS</b>	<b>194</b>