

**IMPROVEMENT OF THE SOLUBILITY OF THE VP2
HYPERVARIABLE REGION OF INFECTIOUS BURSAL DISEASE
VIRUS BY FUSION TO THE NP PROTEIN OF NEWCASTLE DISEASE
VIRUS**

By

RAFIDAH SAADUN

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

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fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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Chairman: Professor Datin Khatijah Mohd. Yusoff, PhD

Faculty: Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences

Infectious bursal disease virus (IBDV) has five proteins, VP1, VP2, VP3, VP4 and VP5. The VP2 protein is the major host-protective immunogen of IBDV. The hypervariable region (HVR) of the VP2 protein [VP2(HVR)] elicits neutralising antibodies. The coding sequence of the VP2(HVR) was amplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and ligated to the 3' end of the NP gene of Newcastle disease virus (NDV). The NP-VP2(HVR) fusion protein was produced under the control of *trc* promoter in the bacterial expression vector, pTrcHis2, for intracellular expression in *Escherichia coli* TOP 10 cells. The NP-VP2(HVR) was expressed as a 75 kDa fusion protein containing the *myc* epitope and His-tag at its C-terminal end. However, most of the fusion proteins produced in the cell existed as insoluble inclusion bodies. Thus, the NP-VP2(HVR) region was then sub-cloned into

pRSETA and pET-43.1(a) expression vectors which contain the T7 promoters. The recombinant plasmids were then introduced into *E. coli* BL 21 (DE3), BL 21 (SI) dan Origami B cells respectively. The yields of the NP-VP2(HVR) fusion protein produced by the different vectors in the respective *E. coli* strains were compared. Although the levels of protein expression still remained the same in the various *E. coli* strains, the solubility of the NP-VP2(HVR) fusion proteins improved significantly in BL 21 (DE3), BL 21 (SI) and Origami B cells from 80% to 97%. The development of these fusion systems will be useful as an alternative strategy in protein solubilization.

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

**PENINGKATAN DALAM KETERLARUTAN BAHAGIAN
HIPERVARIASI VP2 VIRUS PENYAKIT BURSA BERJANGKIT
DENGAN MENGGABUNGKANNYA KEPADA PROTEIN NP VIRUS
PENYAKIT SAMPAR AYAM**

Oleh

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Pengerusi: Profesor Datin Khatijah Mohd. Yusoff, PhD

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Virus penyakit bursa berjangkit (IBDV) mengandungi lima protein iaitu VP1, VP2, VP3, VP4 dan VP5. Protein VP2 pada IBDV ini berfungsi sebagai gen hos-pertahanan yang utama. Ini disebabkan oleh di dalam protein VP2 tersebut terdapat satu bahagian yang dikenali sebagai bahagian hipervariasi (HVR) [VP2(HVR)] yang mampu mencetuskan antibodi peneutralan. Dalam kajian ini, jujukan berkod VP2(HVR) telah digandakan menggunakan teknik tindak balas rantaian polimerase (PCR) dan kemudiannya dicantumkan di hujung 3' pada gen NP virus penyakit sampar ayam (NDV) yang terletak dalam vektor penghasilan bakteria, pTrcHis2 di bawah kawalan promoter *trc*. Hasil gabungan DNA NP-VP2(HVR) seterusnya dimasukkan ke dalam sel *Escherichia coli* TOP 10 untuk penghasilan protein. Protein gabungan NP-VP2(HVR) yang mengandungi epitop *myc* dan His-tag di hujung C-terminal telah dihasilkan pada saiz 75 kDa. Walau bagaimanapun, kebanyakan protein gabungan yang

terhasil di dapati wujud sebagai gumpalan protein tidak larut. Oleh yang demikian, bahagian NP-VP2(HVR) kemudiannya disubklonkan ke dalam vektor pengekspresan, pRSETA dan pET-43.1(a) di bawah kawalan promoter T7. Seterusnya plasmid rekombinan dimasukkan ke dalam sel-sel BL 21 (DE3), BL 21 (SI) dan Origami B. Perbandingan hasil protein gabungan NP-VP2(HVR) dalam setiap jenis *E. coli* dilakukan. Walaupun terdapat persamaan pada paras protein yang terhasil dalam pelbagai jenis *E. coli* yang digunakan, namun peningkatan secara berturutan sebanyak 80% hingga 97% dalam keterlarutannya dapat dilihat dalam sel BL 21 (DE3), BL 21 (SI) dan Origami B. Dengan kejayaan sistem penyatuan tersebut, diharap ianya berfaedah sebagai strategi alternatif yang boleh diaplikasikan dalam penghasilan protein larut.

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I certify that an Examination Committee has met on 9th of Disember 2005 to conduct the final examination of Rafidah Saadun on her Master of Science thesis entitled “Improvement of the Solubility of the VP2 Hypervariable Region of Infectious Bursal Disease Virus by Fusion to the NP Protein of Newcastle Disease Virus” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (High Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (High Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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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.

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