PRODUCTION OF PLANTING STOCK FROM KACIP FATIMAH
[LABISIA PUMILA (BL.) F.Vill & Neves] THROUGH CUTTINGS

ROZIHAWATI HJ. ZAHARI

FH 2008 5
PRODUCTION OF PLANTING STOCK FROM KACIP FATIMAH [LABISIA PUMILA (Bl.) F.Vill & Neves] THROUGH CUTTINGS

BY

ROZIHAWATI HJ. ZAHARI

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

APRIL 2008
DEDICATE TO:

PARENTS
Hj. Zahari Bin Hj. Abd. Rahman
Hjh. Habibah Binti Hj. Othman

HUSBAND
Mohd. Fuzi Bin Bidin

BROTHER

SISTERS

NIECE
PRODUCTION OF PLANTING STOCK FROM KACIP FATIMAH [LABISIA PUMILA (Bl.) F.Vill & Neves] THROUGH CUTTINGS

By

ROZIHAWATI HJ. ZAHARI

APRIL 2008

Chairman : Nor Aini Ab. Shukor, PhD
Faculty : Forestry

Labisia pumila (Bl.) F.Vill & Naves (Myrsinaceae) has been traditionally used by Malay women in parturition. Three different varieties of this species were identified and found in Malaysia: viz pumila, alata and lanceolata. However, two of its varieties i.e pumila and alata have been commonly used in traditional medicine and researched as they are more readily available than lanceolata.

The increase in logging activities and encroachment in forests caused a decline in the production of L. pumila from its natural stands. This problem is further aggravated by its slow growth in natural forests. Moreover, it is difficult to obtain planting material from the wild. In order to address the
demand of *L. pumila*, it is necessary to find alternative methods of production, specifically vegetative propagation by cuttings, to ensure regular supply of its planting stock. This study aims to explore the possibility of mass producing *L. pumila* using different propagation systems (misting and non-misting), plant parts (stem, petiole and leaf) of two varieties (*alata* and *pumila*) and rooting media (river sand, sawdust and 1:1 v/v mixture of river sand and sawdust). This study utilized a Strip-Split Plot (SSPD) in a Randomised Complete Block Design (RCBD). This experiment was conducted in FRIM, Kepong’s, nursery.

Results after three months propagation indicated that there were significant differences in all treatments with regards to root and shoot growth. Cuttings of var. *alata* produced better than var. *pumila* in terms of root and shoot growth. Propagation in misting systems produced cuttings with higher rooting ability (84%) compared to the ones in non-misting system (72%). However, cuttings in the non-misting system showed higher shooting ability (28%). Cuttings grown in 100% river sand produced higher root and shoot abilities (87% and 26%) than those raised on mixture of 1:1 river sand and sawdust (76% and 24%) and sawdust alone (72% and 23%). Propagation using stem cuttings were found to be the best compared to leaf and petiole cuttings. Based on the elongation of root cells, stem cuttings of variety *alata* was found to be better than *pumila*. The elongation of root cell cuttings in those
three media, showed a young root primordium elongated through the cortex from parenchyma phloem cell. These root cells were bigger size grown on sawdust and mixture of river sand and sawdust compared to river sand alone. Again, stem cuttings showed the best growth performance than the other plant parts based on height and diameter. In addition, upon chemical analysis of these cuttings, the flavonoids and resorcinol-derivatives content increased in mother plant of var. *alata*. However, stem rooted cuttings of var. *alata* had decreased in resorcinol-derivatives, which means it will give less adverse effects to humans compared to var. *pumila* cuttings.

The results of this research demonstrated that *L. pumila* var. *alata* stem cuttings could be possibly propagated vegetatively through rooting of cuttings with favorable treatments such those raised on river sand medium under the misting propagation system.
Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mencari kaedah penghasilan stok melalui keratan menggunakan keratan batang, petiol dan daun. Kajian ini juga melibatkan penggunaan dua varieti iaitu *alata* dan *pumila* yang ditanam dalam media pengakaran yang berbeza iaitu 100% pasir sungai, 100% habuk kayu dan campuran (1:1 v/v) pasir sungai dan habuk kayu dengan teknik sistem renjisan dan tanpa renjisan. Rekabentuk eksperimen yang digunakan ialah “Strip-Split Plot” (SSPD) dalam RCBD (“Randomised Complete Block Design”). Ujikaji ini telah dijalankan di Tapak Semaian, FRIM, Kepong, Selangor.

Keratan menggunakan var. *alata* menghasilkan pertumbuhan akar serta pucuk yang lebih baik daripada var. *pumila*. Keratan yang ditanam menggunakan sistem renjisan menunjukkan keupayaan pengakaran yang paling tinggi (84%) berbanding dengan sistem tanpa renjisan (72%). Bagaimanapun, sistem tanpa renjisan menunjukkan keupayaan pertumbuhan pucuk yang lebih baik daripada keratan yang ditanam secara sistem renjisan. Keratan yang ditanam di dalam media 100% pasir sungai pula mencatatkan pengakaran dan pertumbuhan pucuk yang terbaik (87% dan 26%) berbanding dengan media campuran pasir sungai dan habuk kayu (76% dan 24%) dan media 100% habuk kayu (72% dan 23%). Keratan batang memberikan pertumbuhan yang terbaik dari segi pertumbuhan akar dan pucuk berbanding dengan keratan daun dan petiol. Hasil kajian keratan
rentas bagi setiap jenis keratan yang berakar telah menunjukkan bahawa keratan batang adalah mudah berakar berbanding dengan keratan petiol dan daun. Keputusan varieti alata masih juga menunjukkan tumbesaran yang lebih baik daripada varieti pumila dan bahagian keratan batang menghasilkan keputusan tahap tumbesaran dari segi ketinggian dan diameter yang paling tinggi jika dibandingkan dengan keratan daun dan petiol. Keputusan analisis kimia menunjukan bahawa kandungan kimia seperti flavonoid dan resorcinol-derivatif terdapat banyak pada pokok ibu var. alata. Sebaliknya, anak keratan batang bagi var. alata mengandungi sedikit sahaja kandungan resorcinol-derivatif, yang mana ianya akan memberi kesan yang kurang negatif terhadap manusia jika dibandingkan dengan penggunaan anak keratan bagi var. pumila.

Keputusan kajian ini telah mempamerkan bahawa varieti alata dan keratan bahagian batang yang ditanam pada media pengakaran 100% pasir sungai merupakan keperluan optimum bagi menghasilkan stok pengeluaran yang banyak dan lebih praktikal secara keratan untuk L. pumila.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In The Name of Allah, The Most Merciful and The Most Gracious.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation and sincere thanks to my supervisor, Prof. Dr. Nor Aini Ab. Shukor for her kind and untiring assistance, support and guidance throughout this study. I would also like to express my thanks to my supervisory committee members Dr. Ab. Rasip Ab. Ghani and Dr. Azmy Mohamed. Their valuable comments and criticisms were deeply appreciated. I would also like to thank the Terengganu Forest Department and Perak Forest Department, which have provided me the stock plants for this study. Sincere gratitude is also extended to Cik Zabedah Mohamad, Cik Noratul Maleka Sirajuddin and En. Jamaluddin, the FRIM’s nursery staff who have given me the assistance and cooperation in carrying out this research. Not forgetting also to Prof. Dr. Anuar Abd Rahim and Dr. Osamanu from the Faculty of Agriculture who have assisted with the statistical analysis and to Prof. Dr. Ahmad Said Sajap from Faculty of Forestry who also had contributed some ideas into enriching this research. Last but not least, I am very grateful to my beloved husband, parents and sponsors for their encouragement and support during my study in UPM.
I certify that an Examination Committee has met on 14th April 2008 to conduct the final examination of Rozihawati Zahari on her Master science thesis entitled “Production of planting stock from Labisia pumila (Bl.) F. Vill & Neves (kacip fatimah) through cuttings” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the degree of Master science.

Members of the Examination Committee were as follows:

**Ahmad Ainuddin Nuruddin, PhD**  
Associate Professor  
Faculty of Forestry  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Chairman)

**Mohamad Azani Alias, PhD**  
Associate Professor  
Faculty of Forestry  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Internal Examiner)

**Mohd. Zaki Hamzah, PhD**  
Associate Professor  
Faculty of Forestry  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Internal Examiner)

**Mohamad Osman, PhD**  
Professor  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia  
(External Examiner)

---

**HASANAH MOHD, GHAZALI, PhD**  
Professor/ Deputy Dean  
School of Graduate Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date: 26 June 2008
This thesis was submitted to Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science. The members of the Supervisory Committee are as followed:

Nor Aini Ab Shukor, PhD  
Professor  
Faculty of Forestry  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Chairman)

Azmy Mohamed, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Faculty of Forestry  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Member)

Ab. Rasip Ab. Ghani, PhD  
Forest Research Institute Malaysia  
Kepong, Selangor  
(Member)

__________________________________

AINI IDERIS, PhD  
Professor and Dean  
School of Graduate Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date: 26 June 2008
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.

________________________
ROZIHAWATI HJ. ZAHARI

Date: 05 May 2008
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<td>ANOVA</td>
<td>Analysis of variance</td>
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<tr>
<td>cm</td>
<td>Centimeter</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPLC-DAD</td>
<td>High Performance Liquid Chromatography / Diode Array Detector</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSD</td>
<td>Least Significant Difference</td>
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<td>Millimeter</td>
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<td>nm</td>
<td>Nanometer</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAR</td>
<td>Photosynthetic Active Radiation</td>
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<td>RCBD</td>
<td>Randomised Complete Block Design</td>
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<td>Relative Humidity</td>
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<td>SAS</td>
<td>Statistical Analysis System</td>
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<td>Strip-split plot Design</td>
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<td>VPD</td>
<td>Vapour pressure deficit</td>
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<td>v/v/v</td>
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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

Malaysia is one of the tropical countries blessed with great valuable resources including medicinal and aromatic plants. There are about 12,500 species of seed plants and 5000 species of cryptogams being estimated in the tropical natural forest. However, only 2000 species have been reported to have medicinal potentials (Latiff, 1994). Today, medicinal plants constitute an important group among all of mankind’s natural resources (Kanta et al., 1998). In addition, the conservation, cultivation, collection and processing of raw material of medicinal plants have been assumed as a large formal market nowadays (Kanta et al., 1998).

The production of herbal medicine and aromatic plants began to gain attention and becoming popular. The import of herbal medicine into Malaysia exceeded the export values (Lattif, 1997; Norini and Mohd Azmi, 2004). According to the Department of Statistics of Malaysia, the total import value of medicinal and aromatic plants increased from RM 140 million to more than RM 600 million between 1986 and 2002, while the export values also increased from RM 17 million to RM 45 million in 1990 and 2002 respectively (Norini and Mohd Azmi, 2004).
This country which geared its efforts towards drug discovery has given high priority to screening phytochemicals to combat diseases such as AIDS, cancer, diabetes, heart diseases, inflammation and malaria. Many aromatic plant species in local rain forests can be potentially used for the production of essential oils, turpentine, flavours and fragrances (Azizol and Rasadah, 1999).

One of the herbs that has a tremendous potential in the herbal industry production is *Labisia pumila* (Mohd Setafarzi, 2000). This species can be found in tropical and subtropical regions including Indo China and Malaysia (Burkill, 1966). In Malaysia it is locally known by various names such as “Selusuh Fatimah” (literally Fatimah’s childbirth medicine), “Rumput Siti Fatimah” (grass of our lady Fatimah), “Kunci Fatimah” (Fatimah’s key), Pokok pinggang” (waist tree), “Rumput palis” (modesty grass), “Tadah matahari” (intercepting the sun), “Mata pelanduk rimba” (forest mousedeer’s eye) and “Bunga Belangkas Hutan” (woodland Kingcrab’s flower) (Burkill, 1935). However, the most common name preferred or used by the Malays is “Kacip Fatimah” which means Fatimah’s betel scissors. According to Jamia Azdina (2004), *L. pumila* has three varieties viz; *pumila, alata* and *lanceolata*. Generally, only two varieties i.e *pumila* and *alata* have been commonly used in the traditional medicine and researched as they are readily available than the *lanceolata* based on their resources distributions.