



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**STRUCTURAL GENE CHARACTERIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF
REAL-TIME PCR DETECTION METHOD FOR
INFECTIOUS BRONCHITIS VIRUS**

ZARIRAH MOHAMED ZULPERI

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**MASTER OF SCIENCE
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ZARIRAH MOHAMED ZULPERI

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Science**

August 2008



Dedicated to

**My lovely dad and mum,
Mr. Mohamed Zulperi Zakaria and Mrs. Samirah Ismail**

**My beautiful sis,
Ms. Dzarifah Mohamed Zulperi**

And to all my wonderful families and friends

Thank you very much; you all are the light of my life



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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REAL-TIME PCR DETECTION METHOD FOR
INFECTIOUS BRONCHITIS VIRUS**

By

ZARIRAH MOHAMED ZULPERI

August 2008

Chairman: Abdul Rahman Omar, PhD

Faculty: Veterinary Medicine

Infectious bronchitis virus (IBV) causes an acute, highly contagious disease that associated with significant economical losses to the poultry industry worldwide. Since IB vaccine induced immunity is serotype-specific, vaccine failures are often associated with the emergence of antigenic variants that differ from the vaccine viruses. Hence, structural genes characterization of IBV isolates is required for developing strategies to improve currently used vaccines. This study described the sequence analysis of structural genes S1, S2, M and N of two Malaysian IBV strains, MH5365/95 and V9/04. The structural genes were amplified using gene-specific primers in reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and cloned into TOPO TA cloning vector. The cloned products were then sequenced and complete nucleotide and amino acid sequences of the genes were determined and analyzed using bioinformatics tools. Nucleotide sequence alignments revealed many point mutations, short deletions and insertions in S1 region of both IBV strains. Sequence and phylogenetic analysis of S1 and M genes



showed that MH5365/95 and V9/04 are variant strain since it does not relate to any Massachusetts vaccine strains of IBV. Analysis based on other structural genes (S2, M and N), indicated both strains are highly related to each other and there were less mutation occurred in the respective genes.

A one step real-time PCR procedure using SYBR Green I dye was used in this study. The developed PCR was performed using a pair of newly designed primers against N gene. Amplification was detected when primer was used with vaccine strains, H120, Volvac[®] ND+IB MLV, Cevac[®] BI L, Poulvac[®] IB H-120, Cevac[®] Bron 120 L, Beaudette and M4 and non-vaccine strains, T-strain, MH5365/95 and V9/04 with T_M ranging from 85.2°C to 86.0°C. The sensitivity of the assay was compared to the conventional method for IBV detection, virus isolation test using 18 clinical samples from IB suspected cases. Six out of 18 suspected IB cases were positive when analyzed using the real-time PCR assay while none of the samples showed consistent results through lesion observation when analyzed using the virus isolation method followed by HA test. Therefore, the SYBR Green I real-time PCR was found to be more sensitive than virus isolation method. In addition, it was found the assay could detect up to $1:10^3$ dilution of RNA with the concentration 1×10^{-1} ng/ μ l. The assay was also proven to be specific in IBV detection since no specific amplification signal was detected when tested avian viruses such as AIV H9N2, IBDV isolate MB067/05 and NDV isolate 00/IKS. Therefore, the study has successfully developed a rapid, sensitive and specific method for IBV detection using SYBR Green I based real-time PCR when compared to virus isolation and HA test. However, further experiment for improvement of the assay is needed to evaluate the reliability of the system in order to replace the traditional diagnostic method for IBV detection.

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

PENCIRIAN STRUKTUR GEN DAN PEMBANGUNAN KAEDAH PCR MASA NYATA BAGI PENGESANAN VIRUS PENYAKIT BRONKITIS

Oleh

ZARIRAH MOHAMED ZULPERI

Ogos 2008

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Penyakit virus bronkitis (IB) menyebabkan penyakit berjangkit yang kronik dan ia menyebabkan kerugian yang besar dalam industri penternakan ayam di seluruh dunia. Oleh sebab vaksin yang terdapat pada masa kini adalah terhad kepada sesetengah serotip, kebanyakan kes kegagalan vaksin IB adalah disebabkan wujudnya serotip IB baharu yang berlainan dengan vaksin IB yang terdapat di pasaran. Oleh itu, kajian terhadap penstrukturan gen virus IB adalah penting untuk menyusun, membangun dan memperbaiki strategi dalam penggunaan dan penyediaan vaksin IB. Dalam kajian ini, gen struktur S1, S2, M dan N bagi dua isolat IB dari Malaysia, MH5365/95 dan V9/04 telah dianalisis. Gen struktur tersebut telah diamplifikasi menggunakan pencetus yang spesifik dalam tindak balas berantai polimerase (PCR) transkriptase berbalik dan hasil PCR telah diklon ke dalam vektor TOPO TA. Klon tersebut disahkan melalui analisis penjujukan nukleotida dan asid amino menggunakan perisian bioinformatik. Didapati, jujukan nukleotida pada gen S1 bagi isolat MH5365/95 dan V9/04 mempunyai banyak



mutasi titik, mutasi pendek dan penambahan nukleotida. Analisis filogenetik bagi gen struktur S1 dan M menunjukkan isolat MH5365/95 dan V9/04 adalah strain varian kerana tidak mempunyai persamaan dengan vaksin IBV strain Massachusetts. Analisis gen struktur yang lain (S2, M dan N) menunjukkan terdapat persamaan di antara kedua-dua isolat dan hanya sedikit proses mutasi yang berlaku di dalam gen tersebut.

PCR masa nyata (real-time PCR) menggunakan pewarna SYBR Green I telah digunakan dalam kajian ini. PCR masa nyata yang dibangunkan ini menggunakan sepasang pencetus baru yang direka berdasarkan kepada gen N. Amplifikasi telah dikesan apabila pencetus tersebut diuji dengan strain vaksin, H120, Volvac[®] ND+IB MLV, Cevac[®] BI L, Poulvac[®] IB H-120, Cevac[®] Bron 120 L, Beaudette dan M41 dan strain bukan vaksin, T-strain, MH5365/95 dan V9/04 dengan T_M pada suhu di antara 85.2°C sehingga 86.0°C. Perbandingan sensitiviti asai tersebut telah dijalankan dengan menggunakan kaedah tradisional untuk mengesan IB iaitu kaedah pengasingan virus melalui ujian sampel klinikal yang disyaki positif IB. Daripada eksperimen tersebut, enam daripada lapan belas sampel klinikal tersebut didapati positif IB apabila kaedah PCR masa nyata digunakan tetapi keputusan adalah tidak konsisten apabila analisis menggunakan kaedah pengasingan virus diikuti dengan ujian HA. Oleh itu, asai PCR masa nyata didapati adalah lebih sensitif berbanding kaedah pengasingan virus. Di samping itu, PCR masa nyata didapati dapat mengesan virus sehingga 10^{-3} pencairan RNA iaitu bersamaan dengan 1×10^{-1} ng/ μ l RNA. Ia juga adalah spesifik terhadap virus IB kerana tiada amplifikasi dapat dikesan apabila diuji menggunakan virus unggas yang lain seperti AIV H9N2, IBDV isolat MB067/05 dan NDV isolat 00/IKS. Oleh yang demikian, kaedah PCR masa nyata menggunakan pewarna SYBR Green I adalah sensitif, spesifik, cepat dan mudah bagi mengesan IBV apabila dibandingkan dengan kaedah pengasingan virus

dan ujian HA. Walau bagaimanapun, kajian lanjutan diperlukan untuk menguji tahap keberkesanan asai ini sebelum ia dapat menggantikan kaedah diagnosis tradisional dalam pengesanan virus IB.

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I certify that an Examination Committee has met on 27th August 2008 to conduct the final examination of Zarirah binti Mohamed Zulperi on her Master of Science thesis entitled “Structural Gene Characterization and Development of Real-Time PCR Detection Method for Infectious Bronchitis Virus” 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 of Science.

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DECLARATION

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

ZARIRAH MOHAMED ZULPERI

Date: 22 September 2008



TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEDICATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	viii
APPROVAL	ix
DECLARATION	xi
LIST OF TABLE	xv
LIST OF FIGURES	xvii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xxii
CHAPTER	
1. INTRODUCTION	1:1
2. LITERRATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Coronaviruses	2:1
2.2 Avian infectious bronchitis virus	2:3
2.2.1 Clinical signs and pathogenicity	2:3
2.2.2 Distribution of IBV worldwide	2:5
2.2.3 IBV and the Malaysia scenario	2:7
2.2.4 IBV genome, encoded proteins and virion structure	2:8
2.3 Diagnosis of IBV	2:14
2.3.1 Virus isolation	2:14
2.3.2 Serotype-specific test	2:16
2.3.3 Molecular assays for IBV detection	2:18
2.4 Real-Time PCR	2:20
2.4.1 Threshold cycle and melting curve analysis of RRT-PCR	2:21
2.4.2 Development of real-time RT-PCR assay for IBV detection	2:22
2.5 Phylogenetic analysis	2:24
2.5.1 Definitions and types of trees	2:24
2.5.2 Bootstrap confidence level for phylogenetic trees	2:25
2.5.3 Phylogenetics analysis of IBV	2:28
3. STRUCTURAL GENE CHARACTERIZATION OF MALAYSIAN IBV ISOLATES, MH5365/95 and V9/04	
3.1 Introduction	3:1
3.2 Materials and Methods	
3.2.1 Virus isolates	3:4
3.2.2 Propagation of virus stock	3:4
3.2.3 Virus harvesting	3:5
3.2.4 Lesion of infected embryo	3:5



3.2.5	Viral RNA extraction	3:5
3.2.6	Determination of RNA concentration and purity	3:6
3.2.7	Primer design for PCR amplification	3:7
3.2.8	RT-PCR amplification	3:8
3.2.9	Agarose gel electrophoresis	3:11
3.2.10	Ethidium bromide staining	3:11
3.2.11	Extraction and purification of RT-PCR product	3:11
3.2.12	Cloning the RT-PCR product	3:12
3.2.13	DNA sequencing	3:15
3.2.14	Sequence assembly and analysis	3:16
3.2.15	Phylogenetic analysis	3:18
3.3	Results	
3.3.1	Propagation of virus stock	3:19
3.3.2	Amplification of IBV genes	3:19
3.3.3	Screening for positives recombinant clones	3:20
3.3.4	Restriction enzyme digestion analysis	3:20
3.3.5	Structural gene characterization of S1 gene	3:41
3.3.6	Structural gene characterization of S2 gene	3:47
3.3.7	Structural gene characterization of M gene	3:52
3.3.8	Structural gene characterization of N gene	3:57
3.4	Discussion	3:62
3.5	Conclusion	3:68
4. DEVELOPMENT OF SYBR GREEN I BASED REAL-TIME PCR FOR DETECTION OF INFECTIOUS BRONCHITIS VIRUS ISOLATES		
4.1	Introduction	4:1
4.2	Materials and Methods	
4.2.1	References and control positive IBV	4:4
4.2.2	Viral RNA extraction	4:4
4.2.3	Determination of RNA concentration and purity	4:5
4.2.4	Primer design for detection of IBV	4:5
4.2.5	One-step SYBR Green I based reverse-transcriptase real-time	4:5
4.2.6	Melting curve analysis	4:6
4.2.7	Specificity determination	4:6
4.2.8	Detection limit	4:7
4.2.9	Comparison of virus isolation and SYBR Green I one-step real- time PCR	4:7
4.2.10	DNA sequencing	4:10
4.2.11	Sequence assembly and analysis	4:10
4.3	Results	
4.3.1	Evaluation of one-step SYBR Green I based RRT-	4:11

PCR on IBV strains	
4.3.2 Melting curve analysis	4:11
4.3.3 Specificity determination	4:12
4.3.4 Detection limit	4:17
4.3.5 Comparison between virus isolation in embryonated chicken eggs and one-step SYBR Green I based RRT- PCR in detecting IBV	4:21
4.3.6 Nucleotide and amino acids sequence analysis	4:29
4.4 Discussion	4:35
4.5 Conclusion	4:39
5. GENERAL DISCUSSION	5:1
6. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS	6:1
7. REFERENCES	7:1
APPENDIX	a:1-a:71
BIODATA OF STUDENT	
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	

LIST OF TABLES

Tables

	PAGE
2.1 Coronavirus species ^a	2:2
2.2 Comparison of different detection method for detection and differentiation of IBV strains	2:23
2.3 Comparison between three phylogenetics method; Neighbor-joining, Maximum parsimony and Maximum likelihood	2:28
3.1 Primers employed for amplification and sequencing of S1 gene, S2 gene, M gene and N genes	3:7
3.2 Related IBV S1 sequences used in comparison	3:16
3.3 Related IBV S2 sequences used in comparison	3:17
3.4 Related IBV M sequences used in comparison	3:17
3.5 Related IBV N sequences used in comparison	3:18
3.6 Distance between S1 gene nucleotide sequences of H120, MH5365/95 and V9/04 with other IBV strains	3:46
3.7 Distance between S2 gene nucleotide sequences of H120, MH5365/95 and V9/04 with other IBV strains	3:51
3.8 Distance between M gene nucleotide sequences of H120, MH5365/95 and V9/04 with other IBV strains	3:56
3.9 Distance between N gene nucleotide sequences of H120, MH5365/95 and V9/04 with other IBV strains	3:61



4.1	List of IBV strains used in the study	4:4
4.2	Primers employed for universal detection for different strains of IBV	4:5
4.3	List of suspected IBV cases	4:8
4.4	Data analysis of SYBR Green I based one-step real-time PCR for the detection of ten IBV strains, three other avian viruses and no template control	4:15
4.5	Detection limit of the SYBR Green I assay	4:18
4.6	Comparison of results obtained from real-time PCR and virus isolation for suspected IBV cases	4:23
4.7	Threshold (C_T) value and melting temperature (T_M) recorded during real-time PCR test for samples obtained from suspected IB cases	4:24



LIST OF FIGURES

Figures

	PAGE
2.1 (a) The surface of IBV is covered with large club-shaped projections or spikes – the S protein. The bulbous part of the protein is called S1. Two more proteins, M and E, protrude only slightly from the surface. Within the particle is the genetic material, RNA, surrounded by a fourth protein, N (Cavanagh, 2003)	2:13
2.1 (b) Genome organization of IBV	2:13
2.2 (a) The figure illustrates the most common terminology for phylogenetic rooted trees: root, branch, branch point and leaf	2:27
2.2 (b) The figure shows phylogenetic tree for unrooted tree type. In this unrooted tree, the branches are blue and the leaves are labeled as such	2:27
3.1 Two-Step RT-PCR amplification product of S1 gene for three IBV strains; H120, MH5365/95 and V9/04	3:21
3.2 PCR screening for S1 gene of IBV H120 strain	3:22
3.3 PCR screening for S1 gene of IBV MH5365/95 strain	3:23
3.4 PCR screening for S1 gene of IBV V9/04 strain	3:24
3.5 <i>EcoRI</i> digested of plasmid with S1 gene of IBV strains; H120, MH5365/95 and V9/04 strains	3:25
3.6 One-Step RT-PCR amplification for S2 gene of three IBV strains; H120, MH5365/95 and V9/04	3:26



3.7	PCR screening for S2 gene of IBV H120 strain	3:27
3.8	PCR screening for S2 gene of IBV MH5365/95 strain	3:28
3.9	PCR screening for S2 gene of IBV V9/04 strain	3:29
3.10	<i>EcoRI</i> digested of plasmid with S2 gene of IBV strains; H120, MH5365/95 and V9/04 strains	3:30
3.11	One-Step RT-PCR amplification product of M gene for three IBV strains; H120, MH5365/95 and V9/04	3:31
3.12	PCR screening for M gene of IBV H120 strain	3:32
3.13	PCR screening for M gene of IBV MH5365/95 strain	3:33
3.14	PCR screening for M gene of IBV V9/04 strain	3:34
3.15	<i>EcoRI</i> digested of plasmid with M gene of IBV strains; H120, MH5365/95 and V9/04 strains	3:35
3.16	Two-Step RT-PCR amplification product of N gene for three IBV strains; H120, MH5365/95 and V9/04	3:36
3.17	PCR screening for N gene of IBV H120 strain	3:37
3.18	PCR screening for N gene of IBV MH5365/95 strain	3:38
3.19	PCR screening for N gene of IBV V9/04 strain	3:39
3.20	<i>EcoRI</i> digested of plasmid with N gene of IBV strains; H120, MH5365/95 and V9/04 strains	3:40



3.21	Phylogenetic relationships of IBV strains based on nucleotide sequences from S1 gene. The phylogenetic trees were displayed in PHYLIPS format including bootstrap values. Distances estimation was calculated using program TREECON for Windows Version 1.3b	3:44
3.22	Phylogenetic relationships of IBV strains based on amino acid sequences from S1 gene. The phylogenetic trees were displayed in PHYLIPS format including bootstrap values. Distances estimation was calculated using program TREECON for Windows Version 1.3b	3:45
3.23	Phylogenetic relationships of IBV strains based on nucleotide sequences from S2 gene. The phylogenetic trees were displayed in PHYLIPS format including bootstrap values. Distances estimation was calculated using program TREECON for Windows Version 1.3b	3:49
3.24	Phylogenetic relationships of IBV strains based on amino acid sequences from S2 gene. The phylogenetic trees were displayed in PHYLIPS format including bootstrap values. Distances estimation was calculated using program TREECON for Windows Version 1.3b	3:50
3.25	Phylogenetic relationships of IBV strains based on nucleotide sequences from M gene. The phylogenetic trees were displayed in PHYLIPS format including bootstrap values. Distances estimation was calculated using program TREECON for Windows Version 1.3b	3:54
3.26	Phylogenetic relationships of IBV strains based on amino acid sequences from M gene. The phylogenetic trees were displayed in PHYLIPS format including bootstrap values. Distances estimation was calculated using program TREECON for Windows Version 1.3b	3:55
3.27	Phylogenetic relationships of IBV strains based on nucleotide sequences from N gene. The phylogenetic trees were displayed in PHYLIPS format including bootstrap values. Distances estimation was calculated using program TREECON for Windows Version 1.3b	3:59



3.28	Phylogenetic relationships of IBV strains based on amino acid sequences from N gene. The phylogenetic trees were displayed in PHYLIPS format including bootstrap values. Distances estimation was calculated using program TREECON for Windows Version 1.3b	3:60
4.1	Amplification plot of different IBV strains. The C_T value was set at 0.01. All the positives IBV strains showed typical sigmoid curve of the amplification with the C_T values ranging from 7.37 to 18.38 whereas no specific amplification was detected from other avian viruses and no template control	4:13
4.2	Melting curve profiles of SYBR Green I for different IBV strains. The melting temperature (T_M) of the IBV strains ranged from 85.0°C to 86.0°C. Primer-dimer or non-specific product was detected in other avian viruses and NTC indicate the primer pair is specifically design for the detection of IBV strains	4:14
4.3	Confirmation of real-time PCR product of IBV strains, other avian strains and NTC by agarose gel electrophoresis	4:16
4.4	Real-time PCR detection of serially diluted RNA of IBV H120 strain	4:19
4.5	Real-time PCR detection of serially diluted RNA of IBV MH5365/95 strain	4:20
4.6	Confirmation of real-time PCR product of IBV suspected cases from second passage by agarose gel electrophoresis (above and below samples run on separate gel)	4:25
4.7	Confirmation of real-time PCR product of IBV suspected cases from first passage by agarose gel electrophoresis	4:26
4.8	Confirmation of real-time PCR product of IBV suspected cases from second passage by agarose gel electrophoresis (above and below samples run on separate gel)	4:27

4.9	Confirmation of real-time PCR product of IBV suspected cases from third passage by agarose gel electrophoresis (above and below samples run on separate gel)	4:28
4.10	The targeted primers were aligned with other coronaviruses. It showed the primers do not have any specific target to other coronaviruses except IBV sequences. Primers binding region were highlighted in yellow color.	4:31
4.11	Nucleotide sequence alignment of differences IBV strains based on N gene. Nucleotide sequence of partial nucleocapsid gene of IBV from nucleotide 458-773 from five published sequence in GenBank, five virus vaccine, three reference strains, two Malaysian IBV strains and six positive IBV results from suspected IB cases were compared with the published references. A dot indicated position where the sequence is identical to that of the reference	4:32
4.12	Amino acid sequence alignment of IBV strains based on N gene. Amino acid sequence of partial nucleocapsid gene of IBV from protein 153-262 from five published sequence in GenBank, five virus vaccine, three reference strains, two Malaysian IBV strains and six positive IBV results from suspected IB cases were compared with the published references. A dot indicated position where the sequence is identical to that of the reference	4:34

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

%	percent
°C	degree celcius
µg	microgram
µl	microliter
µM	micromolar
µm	micronmeter
AGPT	agar gel precipitin test
AMV	avian myeloblastosis virus
bp	base pair
CAM	chlorioallantoic membrane
cDNA	copied DNA
CEK	chicken embryo kidney
cRNA	copied RNA
C _T	threshold cycle
DMSO	dimethyl sulfoxide
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
dNTP	deoxynucleotide triphosphate
ds	double-stranded
E	small membrane protein
<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>
ELISA	enzyme linked immunosorbent assay
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FRET	fluorescence resonance energy transfer
g	gram
HA	haemagglutination test
HI	haemagglutination inhibition
HVR	hypervariable region
HVR	hypervariable
IB	infectious bronchitis
IBDV	infectious bursal disease virus
IBV	infectious bronchitis virus
kb	kilo basepair
LB	Luria-Bertani
M	membrane glycoprotein
Mass	Massachusetts
MgCl	magnesium chloride
min	minutes
ml	milliliter
mM	milimolar
mRNA	messenger RNA
N	nucleocapsid protein
NDV	Newcastle disease virus
ng	nanogram
NTC	non-template control
OD	optical density



