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EPIDEMIOLOGY OF HAEMORRHAGIC SEPTICAEMIA IN CATTLE AND BUFFALOES IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

KHADAK SINGH BISHT

FPV 2007 4

DEDICATED WITH LOVE AND GRATITUDE

TO

MOTHER: DURA DEVI BISHT

WIFE: MAHESWARI BISHT (MISU)

SONS: BIRAJ BISHT AND BISHAL BISHT

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

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF HAEMORRHAGIC SEPTICAEMIA IN CATTLE AND BUFFALOES IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

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A retrospective study on haemorrhagic septicaemia (HS) was conducted through a questionnaire survey in 64 districts of Peninsular Malaysia. One thousand four hundred and eighty nine deaths (1489) due to HS were reported from January 1993 to December 2003. Outbreaks of the disease were reported almost every year despite many precautionary measures taken. Out of the eleven (11) states surveyed in Peninsular Malaysia, HS was identified as endemic in Terengganu, Kelantan and Perak while the remaining states were considered as no disease. Time series seasonal decomposition method distinguished the patterns (seasonal, secular trend, cyclic and irregularity fluctuations) of the HS occurrence and its relationship with the climatological pattern (rainfall, temperature and humidity), while movement of animals during the main festive seasons and vaccination was also described.

Two hundred and four buffaloes (204) and four (4) cattle died of HS in Batang Padang, Perak in 2003. An epidemiological investigation was performed during the

outbreak where clinical samples were collected, farmers were interviewed and field visit was made. *Pasteurella multocida* B:2 was isolated and identified from both the heart blood and nasal swabs of the affected animals. The buffaloes that died in the pond in the grazing area played a major role in the rapid spread of the disease. The explosive outbreak was due to a combination of factors such as introduction of the healthy carriers from the endemic areas, significant climatic changes and low immune status of the susceptible herds.

Development of an ELISA test system for HS diagnosis was validated based on samples from both HS infected and uninfected populations. An area under receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve showed that the test was highly accurate, separating the population into two different disease status groups. The cut-off value obtained by the ROC analysis for indirect ELISA gave 86.4% diagnostic sensitivity and 84.2% diagnostic specificity, based on 0.51 OD cut-off point.

The status of cattle as carriers of *P. multocida B:2* was investigated in three bovine herds in the no disease areas and three bovine herds in the endemic areas. A total of 186 animals from the selected farms were selected and followed for three to five consecutive times over a period of six months to determine their status as carriers of the HS-causing organism. Isolation of the organism was performed using mice and the serum antibody was detected using indirect ELISA. Bacteriological analysis did not reveal any of the sampled animals to harbour the HS-causing organism at any point during the 6-month study period. However, some level of immunity appeared to be existed within these populations. The mean optical density (OD) values in the no disease areas were lower than the mean OD values in the endemic areas ($p<.05$).

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ELISA revealed an increase in the antibody titers after the 2nd months of study in the endemic areas. However, this could be the result of vaccination. The role of carrier animals remained unclear and poorly understood. It could be postulated that latent carriers (if they exist within these populations) remain without shedding for a period of 6 months. The limitations during the field investigation included poor cooperation from the farmers, poor understanding by farmers on the importance of herd health program and the archaic animal management and husbandry.

Pasteurella multocida B:2 isolated from the outbreak investigations were further studied by species specific and type specific multiplex PCR method. The REP-PCR and single primer PCR provided a better trace method for the epidemiological investigation in the disease outbreaks giving many strains that caused the HS. The results of the plasmid profile showed identical patterns in all isolates.

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KAJIAN EPIDEMIOLOGI PENYAKIT BERDARAH LEMBU DALAM LEMBU DAN KERBAU DI SEMENANJUNG MALAYSIA

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Kajian retrospektif penyakit hawar berdarah atau "Haemorrhagic Septicaemia" (HS) telah dijalankan melalui kajian soal selidik di 64 daerah di Semenanjung Malaysia. Seribu empat ratus dan lapan puluh sembilan (1489) kematian yang disebabkan oleh HS telah di laporkan daripada Januari 1993 hingga Disember 2003. Maklumat epidemiologi berkenaan dengan corak penyakit, jumlah dan faktor penyebab untuk kejadian cetusan wabak penyakit HS telah dilaporkan. Cetusan wabak penyakit dilaporkan berlaku setiap tahun walaupun banyak langkah pencegahan penyakit telah dijalankan. Daripada sebelas (11) negeri yang diselidik, Terengganu, Kelantan dan Perak didapati sebagai kawasan endemik cetusan wabak HS di Semenanjung Malaysia. Negeri-negeri lain pula bebas daripada penyakit tersebut. Kaedah *time series seasonal decomposition* telah digunakan untuk mengenalpasti corak musim, gaya sekular, kitaran dan ketidakstabilan yang tidak menentu kejadian penyakit HS dan hubunganya dengan corak cuaca hujan, suhu persekitaran dan kelembapan serta

pergerakan haiwan semasa musim perayaan dan semasa vaksinasi juga telah dihuraikan.

Dua ratus empat (204) ekor kerbau dan empat (4) ekor lembu telah disahkan mati disebabkan oleh HS di Batang Padang, Perak pada tahun 2003. Siasatan epidemiologi telah dijalankan semasa cetusan wabak penyakit berlaku, sampel klinikal dikumpul, penternak ditemuduga dan kawasan yang terlibat juga ditinjau. *Pasteurella multocida* B:2 telah dipencilkan dan dikenalpasti daripada darah jantung dan kesatan hidung ke atas haiwan daripada haiwan-haiwan dari kawasan terlibat. Kerbau yang mati di dalam kolam di kawasan ragutan didapati memainkan peranan penting di dalam rebakan penyakit tersebut. Cetusan wabak penyakit adalah disebabkan oleh kombinasi faktor-faktor seperti pengangkutan masuk haiwan pembawa penyakit yang sihat ke kawasan endemik, perubahan cuaca yang nyata serta status imuniti yang rendah dikalangan kelompok haiwan yang terlibat.

Pengkajian sistem ELISA untuk diagnosa penyakit HS telah disahkan kesahihannya berdasarkan pada sampel daripada kumpulan yang dijangkiti dan kumpulan bebas yang penyakit. Daripada kawasan di bawah lengkungan ROC, didapati bahawa ujian tersebut mempunyai kejituan yang tinggi yang membahagikan populasi kepada dua kategori status penyakit. Nilai *cut-off* yang didapati dari analisa ROC (untuk indirect ELISA) telah memberi 86.4% sensitiviti diagnosa dan 84.2% kejituan diagnosa berdasarkan 0.51 poin *cut-off*

Status lembu sebagai haiwan pembawa penyakit organisma *P. mulotcida* B:2 telah diselidik di dalam tiga kelompok lembu di kawasan bukan endemik dan tiga kelompok di kawasan endemik. Lembu-lembu dari setiap ladang yang terpilih telah

dipantau sebanyak 3 ke 5 kali selama tempoh 6 bulan untuk menentukan status pembawa penyakit yang disebabkan oleh organisma pembawa penyakit HS. Sejumlah seratus lapan puluh enam (186) ekor lembu telah di pantau selama kajian ini dijalankan. Pemencilan organisma dilakukan dengan teknik pemencilan dalam mencit dan antibodi serum pula dikesan mengunakan kaedah indirect ELISA. Analisa bakteriologi tidak menunjukkan mana-mana lembu yang dikaji sebagai pembawa organisma penyebab penyakit HS pada sepanjang 6 bulan kajian tersebut/dujalankan.

Walau bagaimanapun, terdapat segelintir daripada populasi yang mempunyai tahap rendah immuniti terhadap penyakit tersebut. Nilai purata OD dari esei- ELISA di kawasan bukan endemik kurang daripada nilai purata OD di kawasan endemik ($p<0.05$). Ujian ELISA menunjukkan peningkatan dalam kadar antibodi berlaku selepas bulan kedua di kawasan endemik tetapi peningkatan ini berkemungkinan disebabkan oleh vaksinasi. Peranan haiwan pembawa penyakit masih tidak jelas dan juga kurang difahami. Maka teori bagi pembawa penyakit yang terpendam adalah jikalau organisma pembawa penyakit wujud di bahagian tonsil lembu di kalangan populasi yang dikaji, organisma tersebut tidak akan disebarkan selama 6 bulan. Beberapa kekurangan/ batasan kajian ini termasuklah faktor-faktor seperti ketiadaan kerjasama dari pihak penternak, ketidakfahaman penternak mengenai kepentingan program kesihatan sejagat kelompok dan juga pengurusan perladangan tradisional yang dipraktikan oleh peternak.

Pemencilan organisma *P. multocida* B:2 yang didapati daripada cetusan rebakan penyakit yang dikaji telah diselidik semula melalui pengkhususan spesies dan

pengkhususan jenis dengan mengunakan kaedah *multiplex* PCR. REP-PCR dan *single primer* PCR adalah kaedah-kaedah pengesan yang lebih baik untuk penyiasatan epidemiologi semasa cetusan wabak bagi pelbagai strain penyebab HS berlaku. Hasil profil plasmid menunjukkan corak serupa dalam semua pencilan organisma.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
DEDICATION		ii
ABSTRACT		iii
ABSTRAK		vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS		x
APPROVAL		xii
DECLARATION		xiv
LIST OF TABLES		xix
LIST OF FIGURES		xxii
LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS		xxvi
CHAPTER		
I	**INTRODUCTION**	
II	**LITERATURE REVIEW**	2.1
	Pasteurella multocida organism	2.1
	History and Nomenclature	2.1
	Morphological, Cultural and Biochemical Characteristics	2.2
	Serological Classification	2.2
	Epidemiology of Haemorrhagic Septicaemia	2.4
	Haemorrhagic Septicaemia in Peninsular Malaysia	2.4
	Haemorrhagic Septicaemia in Asia and South East Region	2.5
	Haemorrhagic Septicaemia in the Western Countries	2.7
	Age, Species and Breed Susceptibility	2.8
	Seasonal Distribution of the Disease	2.9
	Transmission of the Disease	2.10
	Carrier Animals	2.11
	Pathogenesis	2.13
	Natural Immunity	2.13
	Clinical Sign	2.14
	Diagnosis	2.15
	Prevention and Control	2.16
	Diseases caused by *Pasteurella multocida* in other Livestock and Birds	2.18
	Animal Inoculation	2.19
	Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) and Test Validation	2.20
	Plasmids of *Pasteurella multocida*	2.20
	Molecular Characterisation of *Pasteurella multocida*	2.22
	Economic Importance of Haemorrhagic Septicaemia	2.23
III	**RETROSPECTIVE STUDY ON HAEMORRHAGIC SEPTICAEMIA IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA**	3.1
	Introduction	3.1
	Materials and Methods	3.4
	Definitions of Key Variables	3.4

	Description of the Study Area	3.5
	Target and Study Population	3.6
	Source of Information	3.6
	Data Management and Analysis	3.7
	Components of Time Series Variables	3.8
	Decomposition Matrix	3.8
	Moving Average	3.9
	Seasonality and Randomness	3.10
	Deseasonalised Data	3.11
	Trend and Cyclic Fluctuations	3.11
	Result	3.13
	Descriptive Statistics	3.13
	Spatial Distribution of Haemorrhagic Septicaemia	3.13
	Endemic and No Disease Areas	3.17
	Temporal Distribution of Haemorrhagic Septicaemia	3.26
	Distribution of Haemorrhagic Septicaemia by Age, Sex and Species	3.31
	Patterns of Haemorrhagic Septicaemia by Time Series	3.32
	Seasonal - Decomposition	3.34
	Moving Average	
	Seasonal Indices	3.35
	Secular Trend and Cyclic Fluctuations	3.38
	Effects of Climatological Factors on HS Seasonal and Cyclical Fluctuations	3.42
	Variations in the Livestock Population	3.43
	Vaccination Status	3.44
	Economic Loss	3.46
	Discussion	3.48
IV	**AN INVESTIGATION ON THE OUTBREAK OF HAEMORRHAGIC SEPTICAEMIA IN TAPAH, PERAK, MALAYSIA**	4.1
	Introduction	4.1
	Materials and Methods	4.2
	Background of the Outbreak	4.2
	Case Definition	4.3
	Data Collection	4.3
	Sample Collection	4.4
	Serum from Known Infected Animals	4.4
	Serum from Known Uninfected Animals	4.4
	Antisera Production in Cattle and Rabbit against *Pasteurella multocida* B:2	4.5
	Preparation of Antigen	4.5
	Production of Antiserum	4.6
	Indirect Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (Indirect ELISA)	4.6
	Isolation and Identification of the *Pasteurella multocida* Serotype B:2	4.7
	Mice Inoculation	4.7

	Staining	4.7
	Culture and Biochemical Test	4.8
	Rapid Slide Agglutination Test	4.8
	Statistical Analysis	4.10
	Results	4.12
	Outbreak Investigation	4.12
	Clinical Investigation	4.12
	Mortality	4.14
	Rainfall	4.15
	Vaccination	4.17
	Management and Feeding	4.17
	Movement of Animal	4.19
	Isolation and Identification of the *Pasteurella multocida* Serotype B:2	4.20
	Diagnostic ELISA	4.21
	Indirect Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (Indirect ELISA)	4.24
	Control Strategy	4.24
	Discussion	4.25
V	**A PROSPECTIVE STUDY OF *PASTEURELLA MULTOCIDA* B:2 CARRIER STATUS OF CATTLE IN THE ENDEMIC AND NO DISEASE AREAS IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA**	5.1
	Introduction	5.1
	Materials and Methods	5.4
	Target and Study Population	5.4
	Study Design	5.4
	Data Collection	5.6
	Sample Collection	5.6
	Nasopharyngeal Swab	5.6
	Mouse Inoculation	5.7
	Serum Samples	5.8
	Analysis of Samples	5.8
	Bacteriological Samples	5.8
	Indirect Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (Indirect ELISA)	5.9
	Data Analysis	5.9
	Results	5.11
	Description of Study Population	5.11
	Management Practices of the Farms	5.14
	Farms in the Endemic Areas	5.14
	Farms in the No Disease Areas	5.14
	Isolation and Identification of *Pasteurella multocida* B:2	5.16
	Indirect Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (Indirect ELISA)	5.18
	Seroprevalence of Haemorrhagic Septicaemia in the Endemic Areas	5.19
	Seroprevalence of Haemorrhagic Septicaemia in the No Disease Areas	5.22

	Data Analysis	5.25
	Discussion	5.30
VI	**CHARACTERISATION OF *PASTEURELLA MULTOCIDA* TYPE B ISOLATES USING REP AND SINGLE PRIMER PCR AND PLASMID PROFILING**	6.1
	Introduction	6.1
	Materials and Methods	6.3
	Bacteria	6.3
	Conventional Identification of *Pasteurella multocida* Serotype B	6.3
	Genomic DNA Extraction from *Pasteurella multocida* Serotype B	6.3
	Multiplex PCR for the Confirmation of *P. multocida* Serotype B	6.4
	Characterisation of *Pasteurella multocida* Isolates	6.5
	Repetitive Extragenic Palindromic (REP-PCR) Amplification	6.5
	Single Primer PCR Amplification	6.6
	Electrophoresis of PCR Products	6.6
	Plasmid Extraction from *Pasteurella multocida*	6.7
	Results	6.8
	Multiplex PCR Assay	6.8
	REP-PCR Amplification Profile	6.8
	Single Primer PCR Amplification Profile	6.11
	Isolation of Plasmid DNA from *Pasteurella multocida* B Isolates	6.14
	Discussion	6.15
VII	**GENERAL DICUSSION AND CONCLUSION**	7.1
REFERNCES		R.1-R.19
APPENDICES		A.1-A.33
BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR		B.1-B.3

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1.1	Total census for cattle and buffalo from 1993 to 2004 in Peninsular Malaysia	1.2
2.1	Haemorrhagic septicaemia status in Asia from 1996 to 2003 (With countries having HS since last eight years)	2.7
3.1	Time series decomposition matrix comprising seven components used for time series analysis ($T_tC_tS_tI_t$= original data, T_tC_t= 12 months moving average, S_tI_t= ratio to moving average, S_t= seasonal index, I_t= satio of moving average and seasonal index, T_t = Trend and C_t = ratio of moving average and trend)	3.9
3.2	Distribution of 64 districts that responded during the questionnaire survey from 11 states in Peninsular Malaysia	3.14
3.3	The last date of HS outbreaks recorded in the states, districts and towns from 1993-2003	3.16
3.4	Categorisation of HS endemicity based on the 3 years of HS occurrence from 2001-2003 among the responding districts in Peninsular Malaysia	3.24
3.5	Total number of haemorrhagic septicaemia cases from January 1993 to December 1993 in Peninsular Malaysia.	3.27
3.6	Differences in mean HS cases, rainfall, temperature and humidity between north-west (N-W) and south-east (S-E) monsoon months in Peninsular Malaysia independent t-test for a period between 1993 and 2003	3.31
3.7	Distribution of monthly ratio, unadjusted seasonal indices (mean season indices for each month) and the adjusted seasonal indices between January 1993 and December 2003	3.37
3.8	The total number of cattle and buffaloes and the vaccination coverage (%) by year 1993 to 2003	3.45

3.9	Estimated economic loss (MYR) in cattle and buffaloes due to haemorrhagic septicaemia from 1993 to 2003 in Peninsular Malaysia	3.47
4.1	Herd mortality rates due to haemorrhagic septicaemia during the outbreak in Tapah, Perak, Malaysia, 2003	4.13
4.2	Mortality rates and relative risk of death due to the haemorrhagic septicaemia in both cattle and buffaloes in Tapah Perak, 2003	4.15
4.3	Calculation of diagnostic sensitivity and diagnostic specificity aided by a 2 x 2 table that associates infection status of haemorrhagic septicaemia with test results from infected and uninfected animals	4.23
4.4	The sensitivity, specificity, positive likelihood ratio (LR+), negative likelihood ratio (LR-), positive predictive value (PPV), negative predictive value (NPV) based on the infected and uninfected reference population	4.23
5.1	Number of samples taken from haemorrhagic septicaemia endemic and no disease areas from April - October, 2003	5.11
5.2	Farm history of animals with total number of animals, animals followed, management system, vaccination record, type of breed, age at sampling and common illness reported in Selangor and Kelantan Farms	5.13
5.3	The number of cattle that were followed and repeatedly sampled for the HS study from April 2003 - October 2003	5.17
54	Overall mean optical density (OD) and standard deviation (sd) from the samples collected in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th samplings (K1-K5) in the endemic areas	5.19
5.5	Mean optical density (OD) and standard deviation (sd) from the samples collected in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th samplings (K1-K5) in the three endemic farms	5.20

5.6 Seroprevalence of haemorrhagic septicaemia between the farms in the endemic areas (Kelantan) based on the ELISA assays of *P. multocida* B:2 in each visits' sampling from the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th samplings 5.21

5.7 Overall mean optical density and standard deviation (sd) from the sample collected in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th sampling (S1, S2, S3, S4 and S5) in the no disease areas 5.22

5.8 Mean optical density (OD) and standard deviation (sd) from the sample collected in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th sampling (S1-S5) in the no disease areas 5.23

5.9 Seroprevalence of haemorrhagic septicaemia between the farms in the no disease areas (Selangor) based on the ELISA assays of *P. multocida B:2* from each visits sampling from the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th samplings 5.24

5.10 Statistical analysis conducted by repeated measure of analysis of variance of overall (HS endemic and no disease) ELISA assays 5.25

5.11 Statistical analysis conducted by repeated measure ANOVA between ELISA assays in the no disease areas and endemic areas 5.26

5.12 Statistical analysis conducted by Bonferroni *posthoc* ANOVA showing the significant difference among the ELISA assay pairs performed for overall each visit 5.28

5.13 Statistical analysis conducted by independent sample t test showing the significant difference between the mean scores OD values from the endemic and no disease area in each visits 5.29

6.1 Molecular variation showing by different strain among outbreak and stock *P. multocida* serotype B isolates 6.13

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
3.1	Distribution of districts that respond and did not respond from the 75 districts in Peninsular Malaysia	3.13
3.2	The percentages of haemorrhagic septicaemia outbreaks based on categories of years	3.15
3.3	Map showing endemicity of haemorrhagic septicaemia in different states of Peninsular Malaysia between 1993 and 2003	3.18
3.4	Total number of haemorrhagic septicaemia cases in by state Peninsular Malaysia from 1993-2003 by states	3.19
3.5	Prevalence of HS (per 1000) in Peninsular Malaysia from 1993-2003 by states	3.20
3.6	Total number of HS cases based on the states in Peninsular Malaysia from 1993-1998 (553 cases) and 1999-2003 (936 cases)	3.21
3.7	Prevalence of HS (cases/10000) in the endemic, moderately endemic and the non- endemic states from 1993-2003	3.22
3.8	Prevalence of HS (cases/10000) in the 3 endemic states (Terengganu, Perak and Kelantan) over the last 3 years from 2001-2003	3.22
3.9	Distributions of HS cases by species in districts of Peninsular Malaysia between 1993 and 2003, Seberang P.= (Seberang Prai) included 2 districts Seberang Selatan and Seberang Utara	3.25
3.10	Percentages of mean HS outbreak based on quarters of the year for a period of 1993 and 2003 (1st quarter= Jan-Mar, 2nd quarter= April-June, 3rd quarter= July-Sept, 4th quarter= Oct-Dec)	3.28

3.11	Total HS cases during N-E= north-east (April-September) and S-W= south-west (October to March) monsoon between 1993 and 2003	3.29
3.12	Distributions of HS cases during north-east (April-September) and south-west (October to March) monsoon between 1993 and 2003 based on months	3.30
3.13	Distribution of HS cases during north-east (April-September) and south-west (October to March) monsoon between 1993 and 2003 based on years	3.30
3.14	Distribution of HS cases in cattle and buffalo between 1993 and 2003 based on the age of the animals	3.32
3.15	Prevalence of HS (cases/10000) by species between 1993 and 2003	3.33
3.16	Centered moving averages of haemorrhagic septicaemia cases between 1993 and 2003	3.35
3.17	Monthly adjusted seasonal indices showing above 100 and below 100 indicated that seasonality was higher or lower than the usual for the relevant months for haemorrhagic septicaemia cases between 1993 and 2003	3.36
3.18	The original data set and trend line for rainfall (mm) showing upward trend between 1993 and 2003 in Peninsular Malaysia	3.39
3.19	The original data set, 12 months centered moving average, and trend line of HS cases showing upward trend from 1993-2003 in Peninsular Malaysia	3.40
3.20	The cyclic patterns showing major peaks and minor peaks of HS cases in Peninsular Malaysia from 1993-2003	3.41
3.21	Seasonal indices of haemorrhagic septicaemia cases temperature, rainfall and humidity during 1993-2003	3.43

4.1	Spot map showing haemorrhagic septicaemia outbreak areas in Batang Padang, Perak Malaysia, 2003	4.2
4.2	Schematic diagram showing protocol for isolation and identification of *P. multocida* B:2. S/P= subcutaneous, I/P= Intra peritoneal	4.9
4.3	Distribution of haemorrhagic septcaemia cases in relation to days during the HS outbreak in Perak from 29th September to 16th October 2003	4.14
4.4	Haemorrhagic septicaemia outbreak occurrence in Tapah, Perak in relation to the weekly rainfall (mm) between July 14th (2nd week) to October 28th (4th week)	4.16
4.5	Monthly distribution of rainfall in Tapah, Perak from January 2003 to December 2003	4.16
4.6	Distribution of rainfall in Tapah, Perak in September and October and annual rainfall in 2003	4.17
4.7	A group of buffaloes near pond at the grazing land	4.18
4.8	This buffalo died from haemorrhagic septicaemia showing hemorrhages in the pelvic and udder region	4.18
4.9, 4.10	A group of buffaloes found dead in pond in Banir, Perak Malaysia	4.19
4.11	Optical density (OD) values of test positive and test negative samples for the development of haemorrhagic septicaemia diagnostic test	4.22
4.12	Receiver operating characteristic plot with diagonal reference line showing area under ROC curve (highly accurate) from two sets of data, infected and uninfected	4.22
4.13	Distribution of optical density (OD) values in indirect ELISA from the outbreak area of Banir, Perak in 2003	4.24

5.1	Swabbing Materials: flexible wire, cotton, measuring scale and cutter (A) used for preparing the nasopharyngeal swab material, flexible wire (B) and (C)	5.7
5.2	The percentage of sampled animal age groups in the haemorrhagic septicaemia endemic and no disease area	5.12
5.3	Mean antibody response of *Pasteurella multocida* B:2 based on cutoff point (0.51), showing low antibody titer in no disease areas and high antibody titer in endemic areas in Peninsular Malaysia	5.18
6.1	Multiplex PCR (species specific PCR and HS type specific PCR) amplified products. In lanes M= Marker (100bp), NC= Negative control, T1-T7 isolates represented the outbreak profile and V1-V9 represented the VRI strains amplified products of 460bp in all the isolates of *P. multocida* and 560bp in all the *P. multocida*: B	6.8
6.2	REP PCR profiles: Lanes M, Marker, 100bp DNA ladder plus, NC-negative control, T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7 isolates from 2003 outbreak isolates	6.9
6.3	REP PCR profiles. Lanes M, Marker, 100bp DNA ladder plus, V1, V2, V3, V4, V5, V6, V7, V8, V9 isolates from stocks of *P. multocida*:B	6.10
6.4	Schematic distribution of the *P. multocida* type B isolates by REP-PCR profiles. Lanes M, Marker, 100bp DNA ladder plus, NC-negative control, T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7 isolates from 2003 outbreak and V1, V2, V3, V4, V5, V6, V7, V8, V9 isolates from VRI reference strains of the *P. multocida*:B isolates. The amplified products range approximately from 250bp to 1000bp in size	6.10
6.5	Single primer PCR profiles. Lanes M, Marker, 100bp DNA ladder plus, isolates T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6 and T7 from 2003 outbreak	6.11
6.6	Single primer PCR profiles. Lanes M, Marker, 100bp DNA ladder	6.12