



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL PROBIONTS FROM MARINE
SHELLFISH FOR BLACK TIGER SHRIMP *Penaeus monodon*
(FABRICIUS,1978) LARVICULTURE AGAINST VIBRIOSIS***

NUR JASMIN MOHD YAMINUDIN

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By

NUR JASMIN MOHD YAMINUDIN

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

March 2017

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DEDICATION

To my beloved father and mother

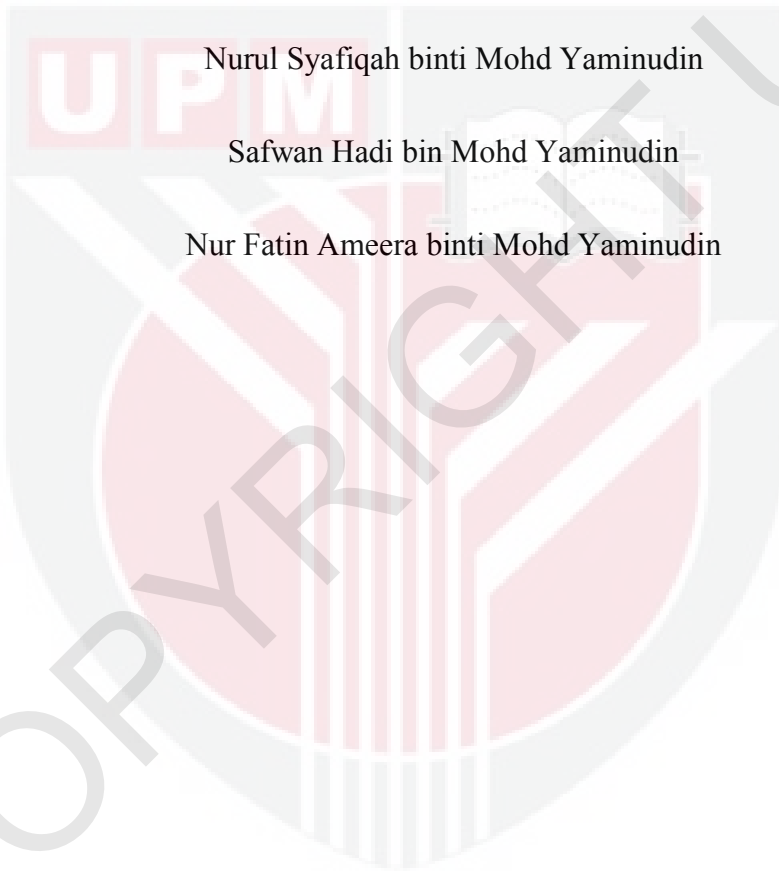
En. Mohd Yaminudin bin Yahaya and Pn. Rozimah bt Md. Hashim

Family members:

Nurul Syafiqah binti Mohd Yaminudin

Safwan Hadi bin Mohd Yaminudin

Nur Fatin Ameera binti Mohd Yaminudin



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

EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL PROBIANTS FROM MARINE SHELLFISH FOR BLACK TIGER SHRIMP *Penaeus monodon* (FABRICIUS, 1978) LARVICULTURE AGAINST VIBRIOSIS

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March 2017

Chair: Murni Marlina Abd Karim, PhD
Faculty: Agriculture

Penaeid shrimp farming is one of the major contributors in annual world shrimp production. However, vibriosis has been one of the main diseases problems which often cause high mortality and decrease of production. Probiotics are now a leading new alternative in preventing vibriosis in *Penaeus monodon* culture. This study was carried out to discover new potential probiotics strain isolated from shellfish (shrimp and oyster) for tiger shrimp, *Penaeus monodon* larviculture culture. Total of 144 isolates of bacteria were successfully isolated from the intestine, hind gut and stomach of *P. monodon* and 136 isolates from shell, gills and digestive gland of oyster *Crassostrea iredalei*. In *in vitro* screening tests using series of plate assays, co-culture assay and pathogenicity test on TCBS agar, one isolate from shrimp and oysters each, showed potential as probiotics.

Two potential probionts were identified as *Bacillus megaterium* (I24, from shrimp) and *Exiguobacterium acetylicum* (S66, from oyster) using 16S rRNA. *Bacillus* I24 able to excrete lipases, proteases and amylase meanwhile *Exiguobacterium* S66 was positive in excreting amylase and lipases only. Both potential probionts were able to produce biofilm, slightly reduced haemolysis and did not showed anti-quorum sensing properties.

A preliminary *in vivo* assay for the two potential probionts were carried out on *Artemia salina* challenged with *Vibrio harveyi* and *Vibrio alginolyticus*. Results demonstrated a significant survival of *Artemia* after treated with probiont *Bacillus* I24 at 10^8 CFU mL⁻¹ and challenged with *V. harveyi* (73.33±0.88%) and *V. alginolyticus* (98.33±0.33%) compared to the control *Artemia* with pathogen only (*V. harveyi* 23.33±0.23%, *V. alginolyticus* 36.67±0.33%). Moreover, *Artemia* treated with *Exiguobacterium* S66, at concentration 10^8 CFU mL⁻¹ also showed high

survival ($95\pm0.58\%$) after challenged with *V. harveyi* (*V. harveyi* only $23.33\pm0.33\%$). There was a significant reduction of vibrios in *Artemia* treated with *Bacillus* I24 and *Exiguobacterium* S66 at 10^8 CFU mL⁻¹ compared to the control group.

Similar results were observed in *in vivo* test by using *P. monodon* postlarvae (PL) as a host. Postlarvae treated with *Bacillus* I24 at 10^6 CFU mL⁻¹ had significant high survival after challenged with the pathogens *V. harveyi* ($88.33\pm1.45\%$) and *V. alginolyticus* ($78.33\pm1.33\%$) at 10^6 CFU mL⁻¹. Meanwhile, PL treated with *Exiguobacterium* S66 at concentration 10^6 CFU mL⁻¹ showed significant high survivals ($93.33\pm0.88\%$) after challenged with *V. harveyi*. Vibrios counts were significantly lower in PL and culture water treated with *Bacillus* I24 and *Exiguobacterium* S66 at the end of challenged assay. Specific growth rate in terms of weight and length were shown to be higher in larvae treated with both potential probiotics compared to control groups with vibrios only. Results indicate PL treated with potential probiotics had faster growth rate.

This research suggests that *Bacillus* I24 and *Exiguobacterium* S66 have potential to be commercialized as probiotics for aquaculture industry specifically for shrimp culture.

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

**PENILAIAN CALON PROBIOTIK YANG DIPENCIL DARIPADA KERANG
KERANGAN UNTUK TERNAKAN UDANG HARIMAU *Penaeus monodon*
(FABRICIUS, 1978) TERHADAP VIBRIOSIS**

Oleh

NUR JASMIN MOHD YAMINUDIN

Mac 2017

Pengerusi: Murni Marlina Abd Karim, PhD
Fakulti: Pertanian

Ternakan udang *Penaeid* adalah salah satu penyumbang utama dalam pengeluaran tahunan udang dunia. Walau bagaimanapun, vibriosis telah menjadi salah satu masalah penyakit utama yang sering menyebabkan kematian yang tinggi dan mengurangkan hasil pengeluaran. Probiotik kini merupakan alternatif baru dalam mencegah vibriosis di dalam kultur *Penaeus monodon*. Kajian ini telah dijalankan untuk mencari potensi probiotik baru yang dipencil daripada kerang (udang dan tiram) untuk kultur larva udang harimau. Sebanyak 144 bakteria telah berjaya dipencil daripada usus, usus belakang dan perut *P. monodon* dan 136 pencilan dari permukaan kerang, insang dan saluran pencernaan tiram. Di dalam beberapa ujian saringan *in vitro* serta ujian kepatogenan menggunakan agar TCBS, satu bakteria daripada udang dan satu daripada tiram menunjukkan potensi sebagai probiotik.

Kedua bakteria tersebut telah dikenal pasti menggunakan 16S rRNA sebagai *Bacillus megaterium* (I24, dari udang) dan *Exiguobacterium acetylicum* (S66, dari tiram). *Bacillus* I24 mampu menghasilkan enzim lipases, protease dan amilase Sementara *Exiguobacterium* S66 positif dalam menghasilkan amilase dan lipase sahaja. Kedua bakteria probiotik ini dapat menghasilkan biofilm, dapat mengurangkan sedikit hemolisis tetapi tidak mempunyai ciri-ciri *anti-quorum sensing*

Ujian *in vivo* oleh kedua bakteria probiotik telah dijalankan ke atas *Artemia salina* dan mencabar dengan *Vibrio harveyi* dan *Vibrio alginolyticus*. Keputusan menunjukkan kemandirian *Artemia* yang tinggi selepas dirawat dengan probiotik *Bacillus* I24 10^8 CFU mL⁻¹ dan dicabar dengan *V. harveyi* ($73.33 \pm 0.88\%$) dan *V. alginolyticus* ($98.33 \pm 0.33\%$) berbanding dengan *Artemia* dengan patogen sahaja (*V. harveyi* $23.33 \pm 0.33\%$, *V. alginolyticus* $36.67 \pm 0.33\%$). Sementara itu *Artemia*

yang dirawat dengan *Exiguobacterium* S66, pada kepekatan 10^8 CFU mL⁻¹ juga menunjukkan tahap kemandirian yang tinggi ($95 \pm 0.58\%$) selepas dicabar dengan *V. harveyi* (23.33 ± 0.33). Terdapat juga pengurangan ketara bilangan bakteria vibrios dalam *Artemia* yang dirawat dengan *Bacillus* I24 dan *Exiguobacterium* S66 10^8 CFU mL⁻¹ berbanding dengan kumpulan kawalan.

Keputusan yang sama diperhatikan di dalam ujian *in vivo* dengan menggunakan larva *P. monodon* sebagai perumah. Larva yang dirawat dengan *Bacillus* I24 10^6 CFU mL⁻¹ menunjukkan kadar hidup yang paling tinggi selepas dicabar dengan patogen *V. harveyi* ($88.33 \pm 1.45\%$) dan *V. alginolyticus* ($78.33 \pm 1.33\%$) pada kepekatan 10^6 CFU mL⁻¹. Larva yang dirawat dengan *Exiguobacterium* S66 pada kepekatan 10^6 CFU mL⁻¹ menunjukkan tahap kemandirian yang paling tinggi ($93.33 \pm 0.88\%$) apabila dicabar dengan *V. harveyi*. Bilangan vibrios adalah lebih rendah dalam larva dan air yang dirawat dengan *Bacillus* I24 dan *Exiguobacterium* S66. Kadar pertumbuhan yang khusus dari segi berat badan dan panjang menjadi lebih tinggi dalam larva yang dirawat dengan *Bacillus* I24 dan *Exiguobacterium* S66.

Keputusan menunjukkan *Bacillus* I24 dan *Exiguobacterium* S66 berpotensi untuk menjadi probiotik di dalam industri akuakultur dan dikomersialkan khusus untuk kultur udang.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 29 March 2017 to conduct the final examination of Nur Jasmin binti Mohd Yaminudin on her thesis entitled "Evaluation of Potential Probiotics from Marine Shellfish for Black Tiger Shrimp *Penaeus monodon* (Fabricius, 1978) Larviculture Against Vibriosis" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 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 Master of Science.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

VH	<i>Vibrio harveyi</i>
VAL	<i>Vibrio alginolyticus</i>
PL	Postlarvae
NaCl	Sodium Chloride
TCBS	Thiosulfate citrate bile salt sucrose
TSB	Tryptic soy broth
TSA	Tryptic soy agar
SSW	Sterile seawater
CFU	Colony forming unit
CFU mL ⁻¹	Colony forming unit per mililiter
rpm	Revolution per minute
μl	microliter
hr	hour
Kb	Kilobase
bp	basepair
16S rRNA	16 subunit ribosomal ribonucleic acid
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
sp. or spp.	Species (for singular or plural term)
SGR	Specific growth rate
H ₂ O	Dihydrogen monoxide
QS	Quorum sensing
AHL	N-Acylhomoserine lactone
FCR	Feed Conversion Ratio
TAN	Total Ammonia Nitrate
NH ₃	Ammonia
NH ₄	Ammonium

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

World global population is expected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050 (FAO 2012). Aquaculture is one of the fastest growing food producing sectors that contributes to the majority of human food. According to FAO (2015), global aquaculture production in year 2014 was recorded at 73.8 million tonnes where the majority of the productions came from Asian region which contributes 65 million tonnes from the total production.

Shrimp aquaculture is among the major contributor in international markets. Annual world shrimp production is approximately 6 million metric tonnes. The production is expected to expand due to the decreases in natural resources and high demand from the consumers. In 2014, black tiger shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*) is among the major species that received high demand from the consumers (FAO, 2015).

Due to the increases in demands, farmers are obligated to have high production of shrimps which results in high densities culture. However, this practice often leads to disease outbreaks (Rahman *et al.*, 2009). Marine infectious diseases have caused major losses in aquaculture (Lafferty *et al.*, 2015). *Vibrio* spp. is one of the significant bacterial pathogen that affects marine species cultures (Flegel, 2012). This species is a gram negative bacterium, ubiquitous in marine and estuarine ecosystem as well as aquaculture farm and cause vibriosis. Among significant pathogenic *Vibrio* spp. are *Vibrio harveyi*, *Vibrio alginolyticus*, *Vibrio vulnificus*, *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* and *Vibrio anguillarum*.

Infectious bacterial diseases in aquaculture are of major concern to the industry and are typically controlled by killing of the pathogen either by doing treatment with antibiotics or chemotherapeutics; or vaccination. Although the prevention of disease by vaccination is increasing, disease control using antibiotics remains the method of choice in many areas. Antimicrobial drugs have been one of the solutions chosen for treatment. Despite its obvious benefit in treating animals infected by bacterial diseases, antimicrobial drugs have been serve as prophylactic (preventive) or for growth enhancement (Van den Bogaard and Stobberingh, 2000). However, the uses of these drugs have risen up the emergence of antibiotic resistance bacteria (Schwarz *et al.*, 2001) which make these bacteria immune to the antibiotic given. There are certain antibiotic resistant bacteria that could pass on the resistance genes to human pathogens which could be a health risking problem to human (Van den Bogaard and Stobberingh, 2000).

Environmentally friendly methods for controlling microbial pathogenesis in aquaculture with the use of probiotic bacteria have gained considerable research interest and becoming increasingly preferred as viable, alternative management practices for disease prevention. In 1965, Lilly and Stillwell stated the original probiotic concept which is protozoans producing substances that stimulated other protozoans. This concept is then improvised by Fuller (1989) when he stated probiotic is a live microbial feed supplement which beneficially affects the host animal by improving its intestinal balance.

The probiotic organisms must not be pathogenic to the host and, furthermore, it is considered advantageous if the probiont is indigenous to the environment in which it will be used. It should also be accepted by the host through ingestion and potential colonization and replication within the host digestive system. The probiont must also work *in vitro* as well as *in vivo* and lastly, it must be free from virulence resistance genes or antibiotic resistance genes (Verschuere *et al.*, 2000).

Bacteria that have been successfully proven to be used as probiotic such as *Bacillus* spp. (Moriarty, 1998; Rengpipat *et al.*, 1998) and *Thalassobacter utilis* (Maeda and Liao, 1992). These bacteria strain were isolated from shrimp culture water (Tanasomwang *et al.*, 1998) and from the intestine of different penaeid species (Rengpipat *et al.*, 2000). Gomez-Gil *et al.* (1998) stated that there is wide diversity of bacteria species in the hepatopancreas of healthy *Penaeus vannamei*. Thus, it is interesting to isolate probiotics from the wide diversity bacteria in either culture water or from the host and examine its possibility as potential probiotics for commercial use.

1.2 Problem statement

Black tiger shrimp *Penaeus monodon* was one of the leading species for the previous five years in Malaysia which value USD 160,186. However, productions have been lowered since due to diseases (FAO, 2015). Vibriosis has caused high mortalities and major economic losses to some countries (Estes *et al.*, 2004). This is proven when one of *Vibrio* spp; *V. harveyi* had caused luminescent vibriosis, which contributed to mass mortality in shrimp culture especially *Penaeus monodon* (Lavilla - Pitogo *et al.*, 1990). Wang *et al.* (2015) reported on the luminescent disease outbreaks in *Litopenaeus vannamei* farm in Zhangpu County, Southern China.

In Taiwan, *V. alginolyticus* has been the main causative agent for mass mortality of *L. vannamei* (Liu *et al.*, 2004). Whereas in Malaysia, Ransangan (2012) reported an outbreaks of vibriosis in seabass *Lates calcarifer* which occur in year 2008 in open cage in Sabah.

Vibriosis is highly infectious to the early stages of shrimp culture and the administration of probiotics appears to be a very promising research area for

nutrition, biocontrol and disease prevention in aquaculture (Balcazar *et al.*, 2006). The role of probiotics bacteria in farming of shrimp was attempted but such studies in hatchery are not much reported especially in black tiger shrimp, *P. monodon* (Soundarapandian and Rabu, 2010). Hence, it is interesting to develop potential probiotic bacteria isolated from the shellfish species (black tiger shrimp, *P. monodon* and slipper cup oyster, *Crassostrea iredalei*) for improvement of shrimp health.

1.3 Significant of the study

Today, probiotics have been widely applied in aquatic farms as a method to control diseases. This environment-friendly approaches is known to be able to produce enzymes which aids in digestion process, provides nutrients, improve water quality and immune system (Qi *et al.*, 2009). Probiotics can be introduced to the host and culture water by various ways and one of them is through feed. This can help to establish balance communities full of indigenous microbes in gastrointestinal tract (Rengpipat, 2005).

Probiotics are considered as the new therapeutic agents and several farmers have already started to use probiotics in their farm to replace chemicals and antibiotics (Tuan *et al.*, 2013). Probiotics have variety of mechanisms to protect host from diseases. Hence, it is important to determine the characteristics of the probiont which will lead to the knowledge on its mechanisms. Furthermore, new local probiotic is needed for black tiger shrimp larviculture to combat vibriosis as foreign probiotics strain have difficulty in adjusting to local environment and usually ended up being pathogenic (Wang *et al.*, 2000).

1.4 Objectives of study

It is essential to find local strain of probiotics that are able to be used in *P. monodon* culture in order to yield high production of healthy shrimp. Hence, the objectives of this research were:

1. To isolate, screen and identify beneficial bacteria as biocontrol agent (probiotics) from adult *Penaeus monodon* and *Crassostrea iredalei* against pathogenic *Vibrio* spp. (*Vibrio harveyi* and *Vibrio alginolyticus*).
2. To determine the characteristics of selected potential probionts in producing biofilms, expression of extracellular enzymes, reducing haemolysis and anti-quorum sensing properties.
3. To evaluate the protection effects of selected potential probionts on *Artemia salina* and *Penaeus monodon* postlarvae culture in *in vivo* challenge assay.

1.5. Hypothesis of study

The hypothesis of the study:

Null hypothesis: Isolated bacteria unable to inhibit the growth of pathogen in *in vitro* assay, did not portray any probiotics characteristics and incapable in protecting *Artemia salina* nauplii and *P. monodon* PL from *V. harveyi* and *V. alginolyticus* infections.

Alternative hypothesis: Isolated bacteria able to inhibit the growth of *V. harveyi* and *V. alginolyticus* in *in vitro* assay, showed positive characteristics as probiotics and able to confer protection to *Artemia salina* nauplii and *P. monodon* PL against *V. harveyi* and *V. alginolyticus* infection.

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