



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***SCREENING OF BACTERIAL ISOLATES AS POTENTIAL BIOCONTROL  
AGENTS AGAINST BOTRYTIS CINEREA IN CAUSING GRAY MOLD  
DISEASE OF TOMATO (SOLANUM LYCOPERSICUM L.)***

**ARAFAT HASHIM ALI**

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**By**

**ARAFAT HASHIM ALI**

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

**August 2018**

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to my family. A special feeling of gratefulness goes to my beloved husband, parents and to my faithful siblings. I also dedicate this work and indeed, give special thanks to my principal supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Khairulmazmi Ahmad



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

**SCREENING OF BACTERIAL ISOLATES AS POTENTIAL BIOCONTROL AGENTS AGAINST *BOTRYTIS CINEREA* IN CAUSING GRAY MOLD DISEASE OF TOMATO (*SOLANUM LYCOPERSICUM* L)**

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**August 2018**

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**Faculty : Agriculture**

Gray mold disease, caused by the fungus *Botrytis cinerea*, is the most significant disease affecting tomato cultivation causing serious yield losses. In order to reduce the usage of synthetic pesticides in farm, an alternative control disease method is necessary for sustainable disease control. Biocontrol agents have been known to produce effective antimicrobial compounds to control phytopathogens. So that, this study was carried out (i) to isolate and screening bacteria against *B. cinerea*, (ii) to identify the most potential bacteria, determine the antimicrobial compounds produced by selected bacteria isolates and evaluate the efficacy of selected bacteria isolates against *B. cinerea in vivo*. A total of 43 bacterial isolates were obtained from tomato fruit. All the isolates were tested against *B. cinerea* by dual culture test on PDA and 12 isolates showed growth inhibition against *B. cinerea*. The best five isolates with more than 65% inhibition of radial growth (PIRG) were selected for the subsequent experiments. Findings in dual culture assay revealed that BM11 and BC4 were the most effective isolates, which have the PIRG of 82.5% and 71.8%, respectively. BM11 and BC4 isolates were then subjected to molecular identification using 16S rDNA gene region. The results revealed that BM11 and BC4 isolates were *Pseudomonas protegens* and *Brevibacterium casei*, respectively. Bioactive of volatile compounds from ethyl acetate crude extract were identified using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GCMS). Ten major bioactive compounds were successfully identified from both bacteria isolates and that possibly were responsible for the antifungal activity in this study. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) showed that there were significant differences ( $P \leq 0.05$ ) against *B. cinerea* at different concentrations tested. *In vivo* study showed that the efficacy of the ethyl acetate crude extract of *P. protegens* and *B. casei* against *B. cinerea* by suppressing disease lesion on treated tomato fruit at 0.86 cm and

1.03 cm, respectively at 30 days after inoculation as compared to positive control (5.47 cm) at the same assessment period. These findings suggested that the extract manage to suppress fungal disease development effectively. Based on overall findings suggested that *P. protegens* and *B. casei* were the most promising biological control agent in controlling gray mold disease in tomato fruit.



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

**SARINGAN ISOLAT BAKTERIA SEBAGAI AGEN KAWALAN BIOLOGI  
YANG BERPOTENSI TERHADAP *BOTRYTIS CINEREA* YANG  
MENYEBABKAN PENYAKIT KULAT KELABU PADA BUAH TOMATO  
(*SOLANUM LYCOPERSICUM* L.)**

Oleh

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**Pengerusi : Prof. Madya. Khairulmazmi Ahmad, PhD**  
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Penyakit kulat kelabu disebabkan oleh *Botrytis cinerea* ada penyakit yang merbahaya yang menjejaskan penanaman tomato dengan menyebabkan kerugian yang serius. Bagi mengurangkan penggunaan racun sintetik di ladang, kawalan penyakit alternatif sangat diperlukan untuk menjamin kawalan penyakit secara lestari. Agen kawalan biologi diketahui menghasilkan sebatian antimikrobial yang berkesan untuk mengawal patogen tumbuhan. Dengan itu, kajian ini dilakukan (i) untuk mengasingkan dan memilih bakteria baik menentang *B. cinerea*, (ii) untuk mengenalpasti bakteria yang paling berpotensi, menentukan sebatian antimikrobial dihasilkan oleh bakteria baik yang terpilih dan menilai keberkesanan bakteria yang dipilih menentang *B. cinerea* secara *in-vivo*. Sebanyak 43 pencilan bakteria diperolehi daripada buah tomato. Kesemua pencilan diuji menentang *B. cinerea* di dalam ujian kultur dual di atas PDA dan sebanyak 12 pencilan merencatkan pertumbuhan *B. cinerea*. Lima pencilan terbaik dengan lebih daripada 65% radial rencatan pertumbuhan (PIRG) dipilih untuk eksperimen seterusnya. Di dalam ujian kultur dual mendedahkan, pencilan BM11 dan BC4 adalah pencilan sangat berkesan, yang mana PIRG masing-masing adalah 82.5% dan 71.8%. Pencilan BM11 dan BC4 dikenal pasti melalui kaedah pengenalan molekul menggunakan daerah gen 16S rDNA. Hasilnya mendedahkan bahawa pencilan BM11 dan BC4 masing-masing adalah *Pseudomonas protegens* dan *Brevibacterium casei*. Sebatian aktif teruap daripada ekstrak mentah ethyl acetate telah dikenalpasti menggunakan gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GCMS). Sebanyak 10 sebatian utama telah berjaya dikenalpasti daripada kedua-dua pencilan bakteria tersebut dan berkemungkinan bertanggungjawab kepada aktiviti antikulat dalam kajian ini. Kepekatan rencatan minimum (MIC) menunjukkan bahawa terdapat perbezaan ketara ( $P \leq 0.05$ ) terhadap *B. cinerea* pada kepekatan berbeza yang telah diuji. Kajian *in-vivo* menunjukkan bahawa keberkesanan ekstrak mentah ethyl acetate daripada *P. protegens* and *B. casei* dengan menindas lesi penyakit pada buah tomato terawatt pada 0.86 cm

1.03 cm, masing-masing pada hari ke-30 berbanding berbanding dengan kawalan positif (5.47cm) pada hari penilaian yang sama. Hasil temuan ini mencadangkan bahawa ekstrak tersebut telah berhasil menindas pembentukan penyakit kulat secara berkesan. Berdasar keseluruhan temuan mencadangkan bahawa *P. protegens* dan *B. casei* adalah agen kawalan biologi yang berpotensi untuk mengawal penyakit kulat kelabu pada buah tomato.





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This thesis submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia has been accepted as fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
°C	Degree Celsius
BCA	Biological Control Agents
Cm	Centimeter
CRD	Completely Randomized Design
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetra actic acid
GC-MS	Gas Chromatography- Mass Spectrophotometer
g	Gram
h	Hour
LSD	Least significant differences
µl	Microliter
NA	Nutrient Agar
NB	Nutrient Broth
MIC	Minimum Inhibitory Concentration
mm	Millimeter
PDA	Potato dextrose agar
PIRG	percentage inhibition of radial growth
PCR	polymerase chain reaction

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.), along with pepper, potato, and eggplant, belong to the Solanaceae family and is considered the second most widely grown vegetable crop in the world after potato. The US National Agriculture Statistics Services reported that the value of fresh market tomatoes in 2005 was over US\$1.6 billion (Sanders, 2004). Fruit quality is a combination of sensory factors such as taste, and acidity sugar, and visual stimuli like color, shape, and size (Clark 2006). Furthermore, the consumers' perception of quality is also heavily influenced by information and the products' appearance like transgenic, biological, and sun-ripe. Ripening is of interest to tomato breeders since ripening affects several quality traits, such as soluble solids content, flavor, and color. Another factor that is especially important for fresh-market tomatoes is their shelf-life. During ripening, several processes occur that negatively affect the storage of the fruit for example pathogens infection.

Plant diseases are a serious threat to food security production and global food. Diseased plants, vegetables, flowers, or a fruit, which are in less appealing and low quality to the consumer, is defined as a qualitative loss. With increased in disease incidences, the quantity of plants or healthy product is decreased. This is defined as the quantitative loss which leads to commercial losses as there are fewer yields to sell (Agarios, 2005). After harvest, vegetables and fruits suffer important losses from fungal infections (Sugar, 2002). Postharvest losses of fruit and vegetable are high, ranging from 1% to 40% reliant on the types (Spadaro, and Gullino, 2004). Fungal diseases are main concerns in commercial production of crops, vegetables, and fruits in the world. *Botrytis cinerea* is considered as one of the most serious postharvest diseases on numerous fruit including tomato. Disease infection can occur in the field during harvest or earlier, but the increase of the disease usually happens for the duration of the postharvest stage (Diaz, *et al.*, 2002).

Plant diseases need to be controlled to maintain the abundance and quality of food, fiber and feed produced by planters around the world. Diverse approaches can be used to control and prevent plant diseases. Beyond horticultural practices and good agronomic, farmers often depend greatly on chemical pesticides and fertilizers. In the past years, these inputs to agriculture have contributed significantly to enhancement in crop quality and productivity. However, pollution of the environment caused by misuse and excessive use of pesticides, as well as fear mongering by some oppositions of agrochemicals makers, has led to large changes in human attitudes towards the use of pesticides in agriculture (Ouda, 2014). Furthermore, the health awareness of the people coupled with the expansion of resistance to pathogens due to continued use of the agrochemicals has also contributed to the restricted use of pesticides in plants protection.

Biological control using bio-agents is an excellent alternative to chemicals and has been proven successful for controlling plant diseases in many countries. Biological control approaches have been studied as a practical and harmless alternative to compare to damaging chemicals as they have been confirmed to be effective, cheap and easily accessible. Various fungi from the genus *Gliocladium*, *Trichoderma*, *Aspergillus*, and *Paecilomyces*, and bacteria from the genus *Pseudomonas*, *Bacillus*, *Erwinia*, *Serratia*, *Paenibacillus* and *Rhizobium* are good examples. The beneficial effects of biological control agent's bacteria have been attributed to the production of metabolites, antifungals, and antibiotics.

The present study was carried out to determine the antifungal potentials of bacterial bioactive compound against infections of tomato by *B. cinerea*.

The objectives of the present study were:

- a) to isolate ,screen , identify and determine the antimicrobial compounds produced by selected bacteria isolates.
- b) to evaluate of selected bacteria isolates potential as a biological control agent against *B. cinerea in-vivo*.

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