



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***EFFECT OF TYPE OF LIGHT SOURCE ON THE GROWTH
PERFORMANCE OF ARABIDOPSIS THALIANA (COL-0) IN UPM
TRANSGENIC GREENHOUSE***

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ARABIDOPSIS THALIANA (COL-0) IN UPM TRANSGENIC GREENHOUSE

BY
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A project report submitted to Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in
fulfillment of the requirement of PRT 4999 (Final Year Project) for the award of the
degree of Bachelor of Agricultural Science

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CERTIFICATION

This project report entitled “The Effect of Type of Light Source on the Growth Performance of *Arabidopsis Thaliana* (Col-0) in UPM Transgenic Greenhouse” is prepared by Mohd Shahrul Nizwanshah Bin Karim and submitted to the Faculty of Agriculture in fulfillment of the requirement of PRT 4999 (Final Year Project) for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Agricultural Science.

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ABSTRACT

Arabidopsis thaliana is a small flowering plant that is widely used as a model organism in plant biology especially in agricultural technology. *Arabidopsis* is a member of the mustard (Brassicaceae) family, which offers important advantages for basic research in genetics and molecular biology. It is important to identify the best source of light to be applied when growing *Arabidopsis* in the greenhouse based on their growth performance and for further uses in *Arabidopsis* research and seed production. The objectives of this experiment were to achieve one complete life cycle of *Arabidopsis thaliana* by using one media and to study the effect of source of light on the growth performance of *A. thaliana* (Col-0) in UPM Transgenic Greenhouse. The sources of light used in this study were Fluorescent light and LED light. The plants were successfully grown in the greenhouse and produced hundreds of healthy seeds. However it took about 5 months which is longer than typical period (~2 months) to complete 1 life cycle. Through this study, it was found that there were significant effect of light source and significant difference between the 2 treatments that had been applied to the growth performance of *A. thaliana* in UPM Transgenic Greenhouse in term of leaf area and chlorophyll content. Treatment 2, which is the LED light is recommended to be used as the source of light in greenhouse for better growth of *A. thaliana*. The plant grown under the exposure of LED light showed the highest growth rate and highest value of chlorophyll content.

ABSTRAK

Arabidopsis thaliana merupakan sejenis tumbuhan berbunga kecil yang digunakan secara meluas sebagai model tumbuhan dalam biologi tumbuhan terutamanya di dalam bidang teknologi pertanian. *Arabidopsis thaliana* adalah tergolong daripada keluarga brassikasea yang mempunyai kesesuaian ciri-ciri untuk digunakan dalam penyelidikan genetik dan biology molekul. Oleh itu, adalah penting untuk menentukan sumber cahaya yang terbaik dalam menanam pokok *Arabidopsis* di dalam rumah hijau berdasarkan kadar tumbesaran dan untuk kegunaan lanjut dalam penyelidikan *Arabidopsis* dan pengeluaran biji benih. Objektif experiment ini adalah untuk mencapai satu kitaran hidup *Arabidopsis thaliana* yang lengkap dengan menggunakan satu medium tanaman dan untuk mempelajari kesan jenis dan sumber cahaya kepada kadar tumbesaran *Arabidopsis thaliana* di Rumah Hijau Transgenik, UPM. Sumber cahaya yang digunakan dalam kajian ini adalah lampu fluorescent dan lampu LED. Pokok tersebut Berjaya ditanam di dalam rumah hijau dan menghasilkan ratusan biji benih yang sihat. Walaubagaimanapun, ia mengambil masa selama 5 bulan untuk melengkapkan satu kitaran hidup berbanding kitaran biasa iaitu 2 bulan. Melalui experiment ini didapati ada signifikasi perbezaan kesan sumber cahaya dan signifikasi di antara dua rawatan yang telah diaplikasi kepada tumbesaran pokok *Arabidopsis thaliana* di Rumah Hijau Transgenik, UPM berdasarkan kandungan klorofil dan luas daun. Dimana, rawatan ke-2, iaitu lampu LED amatlah disyorkan untuk digunakan sebagai sumber pencahayaan di dalam rumah hijau untuk tumbesaran *Arabidopsis thaliana* yang lebih baik. Pokok yang didedahkan kepada lampu LED menunjukkan kadar tumbesaran dan kandungan klorofil yang tinggi Berbanding pokok yang didedahkan kepada lampu Fluorescent.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Light is a form of electromagnetic radiation that is visible to the human eye. The radiation that we perceive as sunlight, or the visible spectrum, is a small fraction of the total electromagnetic spectrum that includes gamma rays, x-rays, and radio waves. For photosynthesis, plants respond strongest to blue and red light, and to red and infra-red light wavelengths for photoperiod growth responses and germination control. The intensity, duration, direction, and spectral quality of light radiation that plants receive has an effect on photosynthesis, flowering, climate response (temperature and water loss), and photo morphogenesis (Argus control, 2010).

Therefore, source of light in the greenhouse is one of the critical factors that plays a major role in green plants metabolism, growth and development in which the plants respond in various ways to the intensity and duration of light. There are many sources of light in the greenhouse which are incandescent, high intensity discharge (HID) fluorescent, high intensity fluorescent and light emitting diode (LED) lights that give different light qualities (Mortensen, 1987).

Arabidopsis thaliana is a small flowering plant native to Europe and Asia with a relatively short life cycle that has been a popular model organism in plant biology and genetics especially in Agricultural biotechnology due to its relatively small genome.

Arabidopsis plants have proved to be an excellent model organism due to some advantageous characteristic as follows: short generation time, production of many seeds and the small size that enable researchers to grow them in a restricted space in the laboratories. These features have made *A. thaliana* an ideal model plant in studies for understanding the genetic, cellular and molecular biology of flowering plants (Menkeet *al.*, 1998).

Successful germination and plant growth requires appropriate soil moisture, nutrient levels, light intensity, humidity, and temperature. *Arabidopsis* growth has four major stages which are germination, rosette production, bolting and senescence (TAIR). In the germination stage, the radical emerges from the coat and begins to grow. Next in the rosette production, the plant begin to produce large leaves just above the surface of the soil and in the bolting stage, the plant produces a large stem. On this stem, the plants produced flowers and the siliques (seed pods) which is then followed by the last stage which is the senescence stage.

The ideal temperature range for growth is 16-25 °C and there are many different varieties, or ecotypes of *Arabidopsis*. There are three standards of *Arabidopsis* ecotypes used by the researcher i.e. N933 (Col-4), NW20 (Ler) and N1601 (WS). The N933 or known as Columbian ecotypes which has been sequenced in the public *Arabidopsis* Genome Initiative, is the widely used ecotypes, because it has very robust growth, average growth characteristics and considered to be wild type (Cotter, 2005).

Plant growth can be defined as an irreversible change with time and can be affected by the environment factors such as light sources and its intensity (Hunt, 2003). Single altered

environment condition may affect several traits and resulting in morphological changes and/or altered timing of development (Boyes *et al.*, 2001).

Morphological changes can be identified and recorded through an extensive phenotypic analysis process to describe the growth and the development of a plant in response to the effect of different light sources. It was reported that Hoffman *et al.*, 2001 used the BASF, Bayer, Ciba-Geigy, Hoechst (BBCH) scale as a basis to be used in the phenotypic analysis of *A. thaliana*.

As a model organism, *A. thaliana* is grown for research use and seed production. For that purposes, *Arabidopsis* must be as robust and vigorous as possible and must be grown under precise condition to ensure the experimental result can be repeated by others. Robust plant and high quality seeds are the result of good production practices which include good growing condition (Parvees *et al.*, 2010).

Therefore, it is important to identify the best source of light when growing *Arabidopsis* in the greenhouse based on their growth performance as an indicator for further uses in *Arabidopsis* research and seed production in future.

The objectives of this experiment were to achieve one complete life cycle of *Arabidopsis thaliana* by using one media and to study the effect of two different light sources used in the greenhouse on the growth performance of *A. thaliana* (Col-0) in UPM Transgenic Greenhouse. The two different light sources used in this study were Phillips Fluorescence Light and Phillips LED light.

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