



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***IDENTIFICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF FUNGAL  
CONTAMINATION ON SPENT MUSHROOM SUBSTRATE***

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**BY**

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**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE**

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A project report submitted to Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in fulfilment 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 PAGE

This project report entitled “Identification and Characterization of Fungal Contamination on Spend Mushroom Substrate” is prepared by Nur Natasha binti Antong Ibrahim and submitted to the Faculty of Agriculture in fulfilment 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

Fungal contamination on spent mushroom substrate is the main problems faced by the mushroom growers in Malaysia. Among many pest and diseases in oyster mushroom cultivation, the most serious crop losses due to fungal contamination by *Trichoderma sp.*, *Aspergillus spp.*, *Penicillium sp.* and *Fusarium sp.* that lead to green mould infection or other mould contamination. Many researchers have undergone the experiment in order to detect the fungal species that attack on mushroom substrates. The objectives of this experiment are (1) to isolate pure culture of fungal isolation causing fungal contamination on spent mushroom substrate (2) to identify fungal pathogens to species level based on morphology characteristics and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) protocol using ITS1 and ITS4 (3) to construct internal transcribed spacer (ITS) phylogeny of fungal species using Maximum Likelihood method. Fungal strains were isolated from diseased mushroom bags from mushroom houseUniversiti Putra Malaysia. The pure fungi isolated from spent mushroom substrate were identified by in vitro morphological and molecular characteristics. Based on morphological characteristics, *Aspergillus oryzae* had caused fungal contamination on the mushroom substrate by the formation of ampulliformphialide and green coloured conidia also supported by the result of DNA sequencing and amplification using ITS1 and ITS4. Data obtained also had been analyzed to identify phylogeny of fungal species using Maximum Likelihood method.

**Keywords:** *Trichoderma*, *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium*, *Fusarium*, fungal contamination, oyster mushroom

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

Mushroom is one of the agricultural plants that are grown by the farmers as source of income in Malaysia. The most commercial mushrooms planted by the growers are oyster mushroom and button mushroom. In Malaysia, most growers planted in the mushroom bags as a media. Mushroom bags contains sawdust, rice bran, agricultural lime and water. Rice bran contains amino acid, phosphorus, omega 3, and vitamins (B3, B6, B12 and B22) that suitable are for mushroom growth. In Malaysia, consumption of mushroom is the major increasing. Pulau Pinang has been identified mushroom cultivation in Malaysia.

Recently, mushroom growers faced major problems that attack mushroom industry. Fungi or contaminants are organisms that attack mushroom cultivation and they affects the growth and development of mushroom crops. Contaminants are also known as competitor weeds primarily consist of mould, bacteria, viruses and insects (Wiafe-Kwagyan, 2015). Among these fungi, harmful fungi that encountered mushroom substrate include *Coprinus logopus*, *Aspergillus* spp., *Mucor* species, *Pencillium* spp., *Sclerotium* spp. and *Trichoderma* spp. that inhibit spawn run (Maurya et al., 2014). However information on diseases and competitor moulds occurring in or on oyster mushrooms is scarce compared to that on button mushrooms. Variations of the fungi that attack on mushroom substrates vary depending on the variety of substrates used, the method of the substrate being prepare and the conditions of container used for cultivation (Sharma et al., 2007). Arevato et.al (1996) stated that most contaminants during spawn are caused by the

*Penicillium* spp., *Aspergillus ochraceus*, *Aspergillus flavus*, *Streptomycin* spp. and *Trichoderma viride*.

The characteristics of the fungus which attacked can be determined through morphological and molecular characteristic mechanisms. According to Kebeish and El-Sayed (2012), *Aspergillus oryzae* can be identified by the green-yellow colonies, conidial head radiate with uniseriate to biseriate prominent during maturity, conidia globuse and the conidial surfaces that are slightly ornamented and echinulate under high magnification of microscope. Molecular approaches to identify *Aspergillus* spp. can be done using 18S rRNA gene, mitochondrial DNA, the intergenic spacer region and internal transcribed spacer (ITS) region. It is also stated that using ITS region give advantages over other molecular approaches by the increase sensitivity due to the existence of approximately 100 copies per genome (Henry et al., 2000).

The objectives of this study are to isolate pure culture of fungus that cause contamination on spent mushroom substrate, identify fungal pathogens to species level based on morphological characteristics and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) using ITS1 and ITS4 and to construct internal transcribed spacer (ITS) phylogeny of fungal species using Maximum Likelihood method.

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