



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***IN VITRO AND IN VIVO EFFECTS OF PALM KERNEL CAKE
OLIGOSACCHARIDES ON *Salmonella enterica* SEROVAR ENTERITIDIS
INFECTION***

FOO RUI QING

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By

FOO RUI QING

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra
Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of
Philosophy**

March 2021

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DEDICATIONS

This thesis is dedicated to my parents whose love, encouragement, belief, patience and unending support made this endeavour possible.



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

IN VITRO AND IN VIVO EFFECTS OF PALM KERNEL CAKE OLIGOSACCHARIDES ON *Salmonella enterica* SEROVAR ENTERITIDIS INFECTION

By

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March 2021

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Non-digestible oligosaccharides (NDOs) have been reported to possess prebiotic and immunomodulatory properties. With the European Union (EU) wide ban on the use of antibiotic growth promoters (AGP) in the livestock industry, the search for AGP alternatives to maintain livestock productivity is highly sought after. Previous studies have shown that NDOs from palm kernel cake (PKC), a by-product of the palm oil industry were able to confer a protective effect against *Salmonella* colonization in young chickens. Being young vertebrates with an immature immune system, they would have to rely on the strength of their innate immune responses to prevent *Salmonella* infection. Therefore the objective of this study was to investigate the ability of NDOs from PKC to affect the innate immune response in a *Salmonella enterica* serovar (ser.) Enteritidis (*S. Enteritidis*) infection model utilizing *in vitro* and *in vivo* approaches. The *in vitro* approach consisted of an anti-adherence assay using Caco-2 cells, a *Salmonella* killing assay using U-937 macrophages and a lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) assay to monitor cellular damage. The *in vivo* approach utilized zebrafish larvae to observe the effects of NDOs from PKC on lipopolysaccharide (LPS) induced nitric oxide (NO) levels, *S. Enteritidis* colonization patterns and its effect on zebrafish's gene expression. The results of the *in vitro* study revealed that the NDOs fraction from PKC with a lower degree of polymerization (DP), termed 'Small' ($DP \leq 6$), was better than the NDOs fraction from PKC with a larger DP, termed 'Big' ($DP > 6$), at significantly ($p \leq 0.05$) reducing *S. Enteritidis* adherence to Caco-2 epithelial cells. Both Small and Big fractions were comparable to one another at increasing the rate of *Salmonella* killing in U-937 macrophages. In terms of reducing cellular damage, both the Small and Big were capable of significantly reducing cellular damage in Caco-2 cells although the Small fraction showed a stronger correlation between decreasing *S. Enteritidis* numbers and cellular damage in U-937 macrophages than the Big fraction. When compared to commercial NDOs fructooligosaccharide (FOS) and mannanoligosaccharide (MOS), both the Small and Big fraction were found to be comparable, if not better

than MOS and FOS at reducing *S. Enteritidis* adherence, increasing *S. Enteritidis* elimination and reducing cellular damage *in vitro*. As the Small fraction was better than Big, it was chosen for subsequent *in vivo* studies and renamed 'OligoPKC'. The results of the *in vivo* study showed that OligoPKC was comparable to the commercial NDOs at reducing LPS induced NO levels in zebrafishes but showed a significant increase in *S. Enteritidis* colonization within the gastrointestinal tract at 24 hours postinfection when compared to the infected control. This might stem from a weaker upregulation of *myeloperoxidase (MPX)* expression when compared to other infected groups. In conclusion, NDOs from PKC were able to affect the innate immune response in a *S. Enteritidis* infection model *in vitro* and *in vivo* but care should be taken when selecting the appropriate animal infection model and interpreting its results.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**KESAN *IN VITRO* DAN *IN VIVO* HAMPAS ISIRUNG KELAPA SAWIT
TERHADAP JANGKITAN *Salmonella enterica* SEROVAR ENTERITIDIS**

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Oligosakarida yang tidak dicerna (NDOs) dilaporkan mempunyai sifat prebiotik dan imunomodulator. Dengan larangan meluas Kesatuan Eropah (EU) terhadap penggunaan penggalak pertumbuhan antibiotik (AGP) dalam industri ternakan, pencarian alternatif AGP untuk mengekalkan produktiviti ternakan perlu dicari. Hampas isirung kelapa sawit (PKC) ialah produk sampingan industri kelapa sawit. Kajian terdahulu menunjukkan bahawa NDOs daripada PKC boleh memberikan kesan perlindungan kepada anak ayam daripada jangkitan *Salmonella*. Sebagai vertebrata muda dengan sistem imun yang belum matang, anak-anak ayam ini sememangnya bergantung kepada kekuatan tindak balas imun semula jadi mereka untuk mencegah jangkitan *Salmonella*. Oleh itu objektif kajian ini adalah untuk mengkaji kemampuan NDOs daripada PKC untuk mempengaruhi tindak balas imun semula jadi dalam model jangkitan *Salmonella enterica* serovar (ser.) Enteritidis (*S. Enteritidis*) melalui kaedah *in vitro* dan *in vivo*. Kajian *in vitro* terdiri daripada ujian untuk mengurangkan pelekatan *S. Enteritidis* ke atas sel epitelium usus Caco-2, ujian pembasmian patogen *Salmonella* menggunakan sel makrofaj U-937 dan ujian laktat dehidrogenase (LDH) untuk memantau tahap kerosakan sel. Kajian *in vivo* larva zebrafish digunakan untuk memerhatikan kesan NDO daripada PKC pada tahap nitrik oksida (NO) yang dicetuskan oleh lipopolisakarida (LPS), corak pengkolonian *S. Enteritidis* dan kesannya terhadap ekspresi gen zebrafish. Hasil kajian *in vitro* menunjukkan bahawa NDOs daripada PKC dengan tahap pempolimeran (DP) yang lebih rendah, yang dipanggil 'Kecil' ($DP \leq 6$), lebih baik daripada NDOs daripada PKC dengan DP yang lebih besar, dipanggil 'Besar' ($DP > 6$), dari segi mengurangkan pelekatan *S. Enteritidis* pada sel epitelium Caco-2 dengan signifikan ($p \leq 0.05$). Kedua-dua pecahan Kecil dan Besar dapat dibandingkan antara satu sama lain dalam meningkatkan kadar pembasmian *Salmonella* dalam sel makrofaj U-937. Dari segi mengurangkan kerosakan sel, kedua-dua pecahan Kecil dan Besar mampu mengurangkan kerosakan sel secara signifikan pada sel Caco-2 walaupun pecahan Kecil menunjukkan korelasi yang lebih kuat antara penurunan bilangan *S. Enteritidis* dan kerosakan sel pada

makrofag U-937 daripada pecahan Besar . Jika dibandingkan dengan NDOs komersial fruktooligosakarida (FOS) dan mannanoligosakarida (MOS), kedua-dua pecahan Kecil dan Besar didapati setanding, jika tidak lebih baik daripada MOS dan FOS untuk mengurangkan pelekatan *S. Enteritidis*, meningkatkan kadar pembasmian *S. Enteritidis* dan mengurangkan kerosakan sel secara *in vitro*. Oleh sebab pecahan Kecil lebih baik daripada Besar, ia dipilih untuk kajian *in vivo* selanjutnya dan dinamakan semula sebagai "OligoPKC". Hasil kajian *in vivo* menunjukkan bahawa OligoPKC setanding dengan NDO komersial dalam mengurangkan kadar NO yang disebabkan oleh LPS pada zebrafish tetapi menunjukkan peningkatan yang signifikan dalam kolonisasi *S. Enteritidis* dalam saluran gastrousus pada 24 jam selepas jangkitan apabila dibandingkan dengan jangkitan kumpulan kawalan. Ini mungkin berpunca daripada regulasi ekspresi mieloperoksidase (MPX) yang lebih lemah jika dibandingkan dengan kumpulan lain yang dijangkiti. Sebagai kesimpulan, NDOs daripada PKC dapat mempengaruhi tindak balas imun semula jadi dalam model jangkitan *S. Enteritidis in vitro* dan *in vivo* tetapi perlu berhati-hati ketika memilih model jangkitan haiwan yang sesuai dan menafsirkan keputusannya.

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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of the Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

18S	18S ribosomal RNA
ADG	average daily gain
AGP	antibiotic growth promoter
ANOVA	one-way analysis of variance
ATCC	American Type Culture Collection
BGA	brilliant green agar
Big	palm kernel cake oligosaccharides with a degree of polymerization larger than six
CFU	colony-forming unit
CTCF	corrected total cell fluorescence
DAF	diaminofluorescein
DAF-FM DA	4-amino-5-methylamino-2',7'-difluorofluorescein diacetate
DMSO	dimethyl sulfoxide
DP	degree of polymerization
dpf	days postfertilization
<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>
EFB	empty fruit bunches
Elfa	elongation factor 1-alpha
ESI	electrospray ionization
EU	European Union
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FOS	fructooligosaccharide
FOS-cont	zebrafish larvae pretreated with 250 µg/mL of FOS 24 hours before being given a combination of FOS and S. Enteritidis
GALT	gut-associated lymphoid tissue
GFP	green fluorescent protein
GI	gastrointestinal
GOS	galactooligosaccharides
GRAS	Generally Recognized as Safe

hpf	hours postfertilization
HPLC	high performance liquid chromatography
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IFN- γ	interferon- γ
IgA	immunoglobulin A
IL-11b	interleukin-11
IL-1 β	interleukin-1 β
IL-6	interleukin-6
IL-8	interleukin-8
iNTS	invasive non-typhoidal <i>Salmonella</i>
LC-QTOF/MS	liquid chromatography quadrupole time-of-flight mass spectrometry
LDH	lactate dehydrogenase
LPS	lipopolysaccharide
MALT	mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue
ME	metabolizable energy
MEM	minimum essential medium
MLN	mesenteric lymph nodes
MOS	mannan oligosaccharide
MPOB	Malaysian Palm Oil Board's
MPX	myeloperoxidase
Mpx	myeloperoxidase
NDOs	non-digestible oligosaccharides
NETs	neutrophil extracellular traps
NO	nitric oxide
NTS	non-typhoidal <i>Salmonella</i>
OligoPKC	palm kernel cake oligosaccharides with a degree of polymerization equal to or less than six
OligoPKC-cont	zebrafish larvae pretreated with 250 μ g/mL of OligoPKC for 24 hours before being given a combination of OligoPKC and <i>S. Enteritidis</i>
PBS	phosphate buffered saline
PCR	polymerase chain reaction

PKC	palm kernel cake
PMA	phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate
POME	palm oil mill effluent
PPF	palm pressed fiber
Pre-FOS	zebrafish larvae pretreated with 250 µg/mL of FOS for 24 hours before <i>S. Enteritidis</i> infection
Pre-OligoPKC	zebrafish larvae pretreated with 250 µg/mL of OligoPKC for 24 hours before <i>S. Enteritidis</i> infection
PTU	1-phenyl2-thiourea
qRT-PCR	quantitative real-time PCR
rcf	relative centrifugal force
RI	reflective index
RID	refractive index detector
RNA	ribonucleic acid
ROS	reactive oxygen species
RPMI	Roswell Park Memorial Institute
<i>S. Enteritidis</i>	<i>Salmonella enterica</i> serovar (ser.) Enteritidis
<i>S. Typhimurium</i>	<i>Salmonella enterica</i> serovar (ser.) Typhimurium
SCFA	short-chain fatty acids
SECtrl	zebrafish larvae inoculated with <i>S. Enteritidis</i> but no NDOs treatment
SEM	standard error of the mean
Small	palm kernel cake oligosaccharides with a degree of polymerization equal to or less than six
TAE	Tris acetate EDTA
TLR2	Toll-Like Receptor 2
TLR4	Toll-like receptor 4
TNF-α	tumour necrosis factor-α
VRI	Veterinary Research Institute

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Animal studies have shown that non-digestible oligosaccharides (NDOs) from palm kernel cake (PKC) were capable of increasing the number of beneficial gut microbiota as well as improving serum immunoglobulin concentrations (Jahromi, Shokryazdan, Idrus, Ebrahimi, Bashokouh, et al., 2017; Rezaei et al., 2019; Rezaei et al., 2015). The production of immunoglobulins constitutes part of the adaptive immune response and functions by binding to their specific antigen, in this case pathogens, and marking it for destruction by phagocytic cells (Alberts et al., 2002). However, in very young vertebrates, the adaptive immune system has yet to be fully developed and this causes them to rely heavily on their maternal antibodies and the innate immune response for protection against pathogens (Hamal, Burgess, Pevzner, & Erf, 2006; H. Wang, Ji, Shao, & Zhang, 2012). Even so, the protective effect of maternal antibodies decreases over time and this leaves the young vertebrates vulnerable to pathogenic infections (Niewiesk, 2014). Hence this study aimed to investigate the effects of NDOs from PKC on the innate immune system against *Salmonella enterica* serovar (ser.) Enteritidis (S. Enteritidis) using a combination of *in vitro* and *in vivo* experiments.

PKC is a by-product of the palm oil industry. The inclusion of PKC in ruminant feed has been successful with reports stating that up to 80% of ruminant feed could be supplemented with PKC but PKC's inclusion in poultry feed was limited due to its high fiber content (Hishamuddin, 2001; Saenphoom, Liang, Ho, Loh, & Rosfarizan, 2013; Zahari & Alimon, 2004). However, recent research has shown that PKC may be a rich source of NDOs with potential prebiotic and immunomodulating activities (Jahromi et al., 2016; Jahromi, Shokryazdan, Idrus, Ebrahimi, Bashokouh, et al., 2017).

The regulation of immunity is important as the main function of the immune system is to keep pathogens from harming the balance and functions of the biological environment; i.e., the body (Alberts et al., 2002). The immune system in vertebrates can be divided into the innate and adaptive immune response. The adaptive immune response involves the recognition of specific antigens while the innate has an 'all-purpose' approach to pathogen recognition and elimination and is the focus of this study (Murphy, 2011; Raven & Johnson, 2002). Currently, there are findings indicating that NDOs are able to enhance the innate immune system. For example, both fructooligosaccharide (FOS)-inulin and β -1,4 mannobiose appear to enhance the *Salmonella* killing activity of macrophages (Babu, Sommers, Harrison, & Balan, 2012; Ibuki, Kovacs-Nolan, Fukui, Kanatani, & Mine, 2011).

However different types and sizes of oligosaccharides produce different outcomes. For example, Ito *et al.* (2011) report that fructans with lower degree of polymerization (DP) were better able to increase cecal IgA concentrations, while Badia, Lizardo, Martínez, and Brufau (2013) reports that β -galactomannan

and mannanoligosaccharide (MOS) but not D-mannose were capable of reducing *Salmonella* induced proinflammatory interleukin-6 (IL-6) and interleukin (CXCL8). Characterization of NDOs from PKC have shown that mannose makes up 45.1% to 57.3% of its monosaccharides (Bello et al., 2018; Jahromi et al., 2016). Current research shows that the immunomodulatory activity of mannose has been linked to the interactions with surface receptors of the innate immune system (Gruden-Movsesijan & Milosavljevic, 2006; Hsu et al., 2009; Kovacs-Nolan, Kanatani, Nakamura, Ibuki, & Mine, 2013). Apart from interacting with the surface receptors of the innate immune system, mannose is also capable of acting as a receptor analog to Type 1 fimbrial FimH adhesins found on pathogens such as *S. Enteritidis* (Grzymajło, Kuźmińska-Bajor, Jaworski, Dobryczycki, & Ugorski, 2010). The interaction between mannose and Type 1 fimbrial FimH adhesins causes the fimbrial proteins to agglutinate and thus preventing *S. Enteritidis* adhesion to the cells of the gastrointestinal tract (Old, 1972).

S. Enteritidis was chosen for this study because it is one of the most often isolated serovar in the poultry industry with poultry meat and its products being a staple of the Malaysian diet (Bahri, Ariffin, & Mohtar, 2019; Foley et al., 2011). The number of chickens reared in Malaysia in 2018 is estimated to be 311,978,594 and it is the largest sector of Malaysia's livestock industry ("Selected Agricultural Indicators, Malaysia, 2019," 2019). The sampling of raw chicken meat from wet markets and hypermarkets in Selangor found that *S. Enteritidis* was present in 6.7% of the meat sampled (Thung et al., 2016). In order to suppress the growth and spread of pathogens in areas of high livestock density, the application of antibiotic growth promoter (AGP) was incorporated into animal feed and it is estimated that for every kilogram of chicken meat produced 148 mg of AGP were used (H.-M. Chen, Wang, Su, & Chiu, 2013; Hughes & Heritage, 2004; Van Boeckel et al., 2015). However, this led to the emergence of antibiotic resistant pathogens and with the banning of AGP by the European Union (EU), alternatives such as prebiotics and probiotics are gaining popularity as supplements in animal nutrition (Markowiak & Śliżewska, 2018; Millet & Maertens, 2011).

Prebiotics are often NDOs such as FOS and galactooligosaccharides (GOS) that have been proven to not only resist host digestion but are also able to selectively influence the composition and activity of microbes found within the gut to the benefit of the host (Roberfroid et al., 2010). The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) states that the consumption of FOS up to 20 g/day is safe for the general population while for infants under one year of age, the addition of 4.2 g/day of FOS into infant food is permissible ("Determination of the generally recognized as safe (GRAS) status of fructooligosaccharides as food ingredient ", 2016). Studies have reported that the supplementation of prebiotics during the transitional phase from liquid food to solids in infants and toddlers led to better gut microbiota, fewer gastrointestinal infections and better gut barrier integrity (McKeen et al., 2019; Veerman, 2007). In *Salmonella* challenged chicks, the supplementation of NDOs showed a decreased in *Salmonella enterica* serovar (ser.) Typhimurium (*S. Typhimurium*) colonization (Rezaei et al., 2019).

In vertebrates, the gut mucosal immune system is considered the largest immune organ of the body and it is affected by a wide range of variables such as the composition of the individual's gut microbiota, the subject's age, genetics, diet, nutritional status and lifestyle (Binns, 2013; Shi, Li, Duan, & Niu, 2017). In order to minimize these variables, an *in vitro* *S. Enteritidis* infection model utilizing Caco-2 epithelial cells and U-937 macrophages will be used in this study. Epithelial and macrophage cells were chosen for the *in vitro* study because the epithelial lining of the gastrointestinal tract functions as the first line of defense against pathogens by providing a physical barrier to minimize contact between the intestinal microbiota and the host's biological environment (Hammer, Morris, Earley, & Choudhry, 2015). Macrophages on the other hand were chosen because as part of the innate immune response, macrophages are broadly specific and express several surface receptors that are able to respond to carbohydrates (Murphy, 2011; Raven & Johnson, 2002). Apart from that, *in vitro* studies have also shown that NDOs are capable of reducing *Salmonella* adhesion to Caco-2 cells and improve the *Salmonella* killing activity of macrophages (Coppa et al., 2006; Ibuki et al., 2011).

While *in vitro* studies allows for better reproducibility and control of variables, it lacks the complexity and interactions of different cells in the physiological environment (Chanput, Peters, & Wichers, 2015). In this study, zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) larvae were used as an *in vivo* *S. Enteritidis* infection model. Zebrafish was chosen as an animal model to study the innate immune system because the adaptive immune system of zebrafishes are not fully developed until they have reached two to four weeks of age and these fishes are often used as animal models to study the innate immune system of vertebrates (Meijer & Spaank, 2011; Renshaw & Trede, 2012). In addition, zebrafish larvae up to five days postfertilization (dpf) are optically transparent and this transparency may be extended with the use of 1-phenyl-2-thiourea (PTU) during embryogenesis (Chávez, Aedo, Fierro, Allende, & Egaña, 2016; Karlsson, von Hofsten, & Olsson, 2001). The optical transparency of zebrafish larvae provides an advantage over other animal models as it enables us to carry out non-invasive imaging studies (Harvie & Huttenlocher, 2015); such as the observation of anti-inflammatory effects of NDOs *in vivo* using nitric oxide (NO) as a marker (Lepiller et al., 2007) as well as the monitoring of the colonization patterns (Varas et al., 2017) of *S. Enteritidis* within the zebrafishes' gastrointestinal tract with and without NDOs treatment.

Other advantages which prompted the use of the zebrafish infection model over other existing animal models has been attributed to its increasing use as a model for human diseases (C. Xu & Zon, 2010). This is because zebrafishes have been reported to possess at least 70% of the genes found in humans (Howe et al., 2013) and share similarity with the organ system of humans (Goldsmith & Jobin, 2012). Coupled with its high reproduction rate, ease of handling and low cost (Goldsmith & Jobin, 2012; F. R. Khan & Alhewairini, 2018), this allows for the high-throughput screening of various therapeutics (Mathias, Saxena, & Mumm, 2012); in this case the utilization of NDOs in a *S. Enteritidis* infection model.

1.1 Problem statement and justification

The use of AGP in the livestock industry has been linked to the emergence of antibiotic resistant pathogens (Millet & Maertens, 2011) and with the EU wide ban on the use of AGP in 2006, research into alternatives to the use of AGP has gained traction (Maron, Smith, & Nachman, 2013; Millet & Maertens, 2011). PKC is a by-product of the palm oil industry with limited applicability as a feed ingredient in the poultry industry due to its high fiber content (Saenphoom et al., 2013). Previous studies have shown that oligosaccharides from PKC possess prebiotic potential and its inclusion in the diet of young chickens appear to confer a protective effect against *Salmonella* colonization (Rezaei et al., 2019). However, there are several pathways through which NDOs from PKC may exert their prebiotic properties (Hoyles & Vulevic, 2008; Shoaf-Sweeney & Hutkins, 2008). As the immune response in young vertebrates is often immature (Simon, Hollander, & McMichael, 2015), this study focuses on the immunomodulatory effects; that is, the ability of a tested compound to modify the immune response (Gea-Banacloche, 2006) of NDOs from PKC on the innate immune system using a combination of *in vitro* and *in vivo* approaches.

1.2 Hypothesis

It is hypothesized that NDOs from PKC reduces *S. Enteritidis* adherence to the epithelial cells of the gastrointestinal tract, improve the rate of pathogen clearance in macrophages, reduce cellular damage and inflammation, and alter the expression of genes in order to alleviate the symptoms of salmonellosis.

1.3 Objectives

The main objective of this study was to evaluate the immunomodulatory effects of NDOs from PKC on the innate immune system in a *S. Enteritidis* infection model utilizing *in vitro* and *in vivo* approaches. To achieve this end, the following specific objectives were set.

The specific objectives were:

- i) to extract and prepare low molecular weight non-digestible oligosaccharide from PKC and to evaluate its ability to reduce *S. Enteritidis* adherence to Caco-2 cells; to increase the rate of *S. Enteritidis* clearance in U-937 macrophages and; to reduce cellular damage caused by *S. Enteritidis*.

- ii) to examine whether the PKC oligosaccharides can reduce lipopolysaccharide (LPS) induced inflammation through the use of NO as a marker in zebrafish larvae.
- iii) to determine the effects of PKC oligosaccharides on the colonization patterns of *S. Enteritidis* within the zebrafish larvae's gastrointestinal tract and its effects on the zebrafish larvae's gene expression.



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BIODATA OF STUDENT

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Foo Rui Qing has technical skills in microbiology, animal and plant cell culture, natural product analysis and antioxidant analysis.

In her free time, she enjoys reading, writing and drawing. Foo Rui Qing believes in an interdisciplinary approach to knowledge accrument and enjoys listening to talks and lectures from many different fields in order to apply and integrate the knowledge gained into problem solving and research.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

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