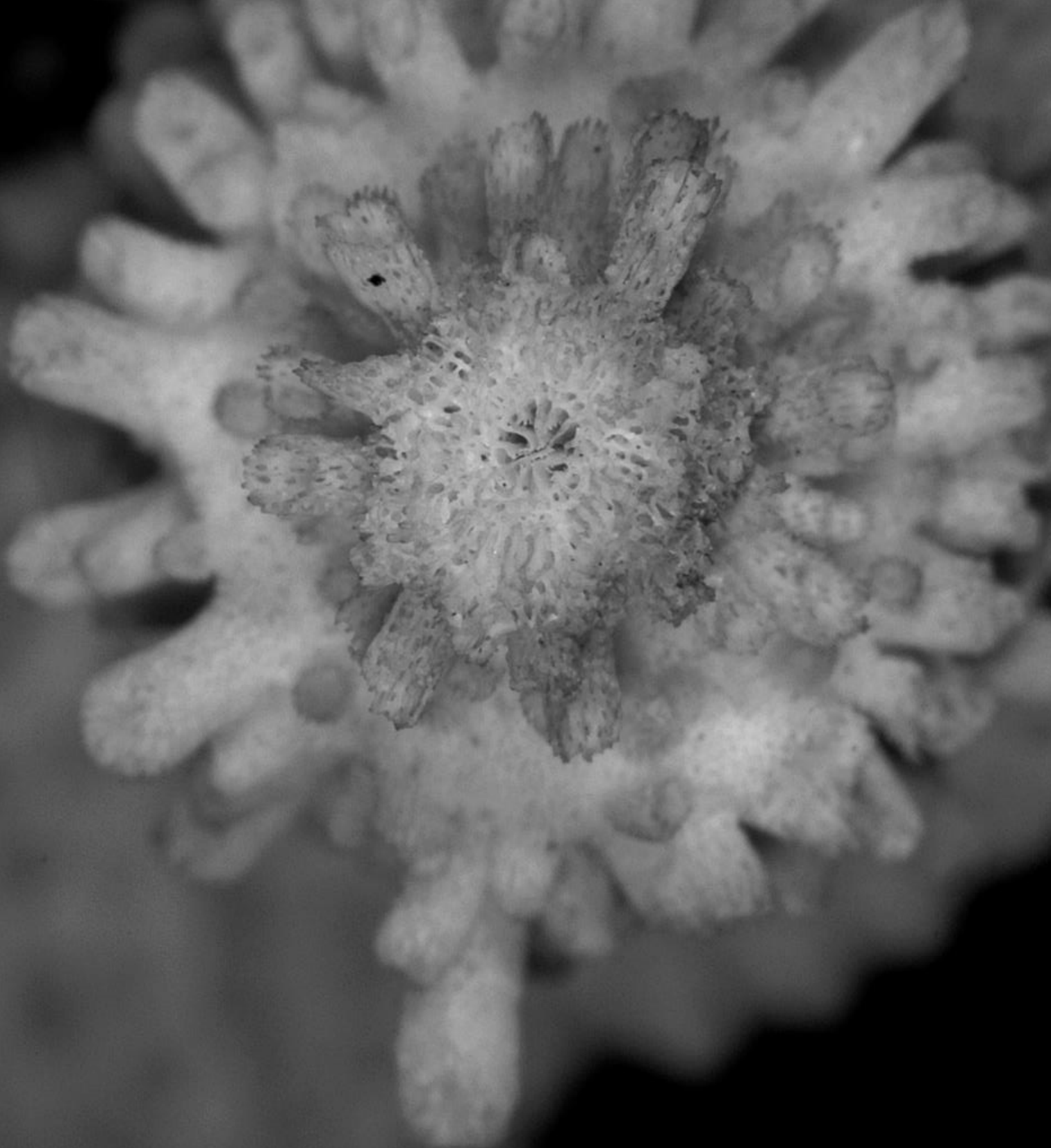


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# BIODIVERSITAS

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Saharjo BH, Nurhayati AD. 2006. Domination and composition structure change at hemic peat natural regeneration following burning; a case study in Pelalawan, Riau Province. *Biodiversitas* 7: 154-158.

### Book:

Rai MK, Carpinella C. 2006. Naturally Occurring Bioactive Compounds. Elsevier, Amsterdam.

### Chapter in book:

Webb CO, Cannon CH, Davies SJ. 2008. Ecological organization, biogeography, and the phylogenetic structure of rainforest tree communities. In: Carson W, Schnitzer S (eds) *Tropical Forest Community Ecology*. Wiley-Blackwell, New York.

### Abstract:

Assaad AM. 2007. Seed production and dispersal of *Rhazya stricta*. 50<sup>th</sup> annual symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science, Swansea, UK, 23-27 July 2007.

### Proceeding:

Alikodra HS. 2000. Biodiversity for development of local autonomous government. In: Setyawan AD, Sutarno (eds.) *Toward Mount Lawu National Park; Proceeding of National Seminary and Workshop on Biodiversity Conservation to Protect and Save Germplasm in Java Island*. Universitas Sebelas Maret, Surakarta, 17-20 July 2000. [Indonesian]

### Thesis, Dissertation:

Sugiyarto. 2004. Soil Macro-invertebrates Diversity and Inter-Cropping Plants Productivity in Agroforestry System based on Sengon. [Dissertation]. Universitas Brawijaya, Malang. [Indonesian]

### Information from internet:

Balagadde FK, Song H, Ozaki J, Collins CH, Barnet M, Arnold FH, Quake SR, You L. 2008. A synthetic *Escherichia coli* predator-prey ecosystem. *Mol Syst Biol* 4: 187. [www.molecularsystemsbiology.com](http://www.molecularsystemsbiology.com)

# BIODIVERSITAS

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Volume 21 - Number 5 - May 2020

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<b>Anatomical examination of the petiole of eupolypods I (Polypodiales)</b> JEANETTE MARA P. TAN, MARIA CELESTE BANATICLA-HILARIO, PASTOR MALABRIGO, MARJORIE DELOS ANGELES, INOCENCIO E. BUOT, JR.	1767-1777
<b>The growth of three varieties of black pepper (<i>Piper nigrum</i>) under different light intensities related to indigenous hormones role</b> ISSUKINDARSYAH, ENDANG SULISTYANINGSIH, DIDIK INDRADEWA, EKA TARWACA SUSILA PUTRA	1778-1785
<b>Short Communication: The composition of undergrowth vegetation in the Gendol River bank, Sleman District, Yogyakarta, Indonesia</b> ATUS SYAHBUDIN, ALNUS MEINATA, RIDLA ARIFRIANA, WIYONO	1786-1792
<b>Diversity of soil organic carbon and water characteristics under different vegetation types in northern Bengkulu, Indonesia</b> BANDI HERMAWAN, HERY SUHARTOYO, BAMBANG SULISTYO, BAMBANG GONGGO MURCITRO, WELLY HERMAN	1793-1799
<b>Distribution of <i>Gyrinops versteegii</i> in varying vegetation structures, soil properties, and microclimates in western part of Flores Island, Indonesia</b> TITUT YULISTYARINI, ABBAN PUTRI FIQA, SUGENG BUDIHARTA, RIDESTI RINDYASTUTI	1800-1808
<b>Short Communication: Isolation and characterization of the endophytic bacteria, and their potential as maize diseases control</b> ENDANG MUGIASTUTI, SUPRAYOGI, NUR PRIHATININGSIH, LOEKAS SOESANTO	1809-1815
<b>Coral transplantation on a multilevel substrate of Artificial Patch Reefs: effect of fixing methods on the growth rate of two <i>Acropora</i> species</b> MUNASIK, AGUS SABDONO, AZELIA N ASSYFA, DIAH PERMATA WIJAYANTI, SUGIYANTO, IRWANI, RUDHI PRIBADI	1816-1822
<b>Morphological variation of two common sea grapes (<i>Caulerpa lentillifera</i> and <i>Caulerpa racemosa</i>) from selected regions in the Philippines</b> JEREMIAH L. ESTRADA, NONNATUS S. BAUTISTA, MARIBEL L. DIONISIO-SESE	1823-1832
<b>Effects of supplementation with phosphorus, calcium and manganese during oil palm frond fermentation by <i>Phanerochaete chrysosporium</i> on ligninase enzyme activity</b> RONI PAZLA, NOVIRMAN JAMARUN, FAUZIA AGUSTIN, MARDIATI ZAIN, ARIEF, NESYA OKTIA CAHYANI	1833-1838
<b>Toxicity of entomopathogenic fungal culture filtrate of lowland and highland soil of South Sumatra (Indonesia) against <i>Spodoptera litura</i> larvae</b> MIMMA GUSTIANINGTYAS, SITI HERLINDA, SUWANDI, SUPARMAN, HARMAN HAMIDSON, HASBI, ARUM SETIAWAN, MARIESKA VERAWATY, ELFITA, ARSI	1839-1849
<b>Ethnobotany and conservation of indigenous edible fruit plants in South Aceh, Indonesia</b> ADI BEJO SUWARDI, ZIDNI ILMAN NAVIA, TISNA HARMAWAN, SYAMSUARDI, ERIZAL MUKHTAR	1850-1860
<b>Ethnobotanical knowledge and conservation practices of indigenous people of Mbeliling Forest Area, Indonesia</b> MARLINDA MULU, ZEPHISIUS R.E. NTELOK, PETRUS SII, HILDEGARDIS MULU	1861-1873

<b>Short Communication: Community of phytoplankton in peatland canal, Riau, and wet dune slacks of Parangtritis, Yogyakarta, Indonesia</b> ANNISA MAWARNI, FIRDA N.N. AZIZAH, HENI W. SARTIKA, SUWARNO HADISUSANTO, DWINDA M. PUTRI, AKBAR REZA	1874-1879
<b>Assessment on the growth performance of planted <i>Dryobalanops beccarii</i> at reforestation sites after implementation of selective girdling</b> MOHD EFFENDI WASLI, DOUGLAS BUNGAN AMBUN, MEEKIONG KALU, MOGERET SIDI, HAFSAH NAHRAWI, HASHIMAH ELIAS	1880-1889
<b>Better providers of habitat for Javan slow loris (<i>Nycticebus javanicus</i> E. Geoffroy 1812): A species distribution modeling approach in Central Java, Indonesia</b> MAHFUT SODIK, SATYAWAN PUDYATMOKO, PUJO SEMEDI HARGO YUWONO, MUHAMMAD TAFRICHAN, MUHAMMAD ALI IMRON	1890-1900
<b>Identification of growth genes diversity of swamp buffalo using RFLP in Kabaena Island, Bombana District, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia</b> LA ODE NAFIU, MUZUNI, MUHAMMAD AMRULLAH PAGALA, WIDHI KURNIAWAN, SYAM RAHADI	1901-1907
<b>Short Communication: Genetic diversity of lemon (<i>Citrus</i> spp.) from Ternate Island (Indonesia) based on morphological and molecular characters</b> ABDULRASYID TOLANGARA, ALOYSIUS DURAN COREBIMA, ABDU MAS'UD, SUNDARI	1908-1913
<b>Short Communication: The type and sound diversity of <i>Kukuak Balenggek</i> chicken (<i>Gallus gallus domesticus</i>) reared in West Sumatra, Indonesia</b> FIRDA ARLINA, RUSFIDRA, DICKY ANDRIANO, CECE SUMATRI,	1914-1919
<b>The potency of endophytic bacteria isolated from <i>Ficus septica</i> as phytoremediation promoting agent of Cr (VI) contaminated soil</b> NITA SHILFIANI ROHMAH, SUHARJONO, YOGA DWI JATMIKO, DIAN SISWANTO, IRFAN MUSTAFA	1920-1927
<b>Assessment of plants as lead and cadmium accumulators for phytoremediation of contaminated rice field</b> NURIL HIDAYATI, DWI SETYO RINI	1928-1934
<b>Effectiveness of biological control of <i>Trichoderma harzianum</i> on soybean leaf rust disease and the production in West Papua Lowland, Indonesia</b> EKO AGUS MARTANTO, ADELIN E. TANATI, SAMEN BAAN, HERMAN R. TATA, AGUSTINUS MURDJOKO	1935-1939
<b>Fauna diversity, production potential and total economic value of mangrove ecosystems in Mentawir Village, East Kalimantan, Indonesia</b> ROCHADI KRISTININGRUM, ABUBAKAR M. LAHJIE, MASJAYA, SYAHRIR YUSUF, YOSEP RUSLIM, AMIR MA'RUF	1940-1953
<b>Fungal isolates from marine sponge <i>Chelonaplysilla</i> sp: Diversity, antimicrobial and cytotoxic activities</b> DIAN HANDAYANI, MUH. ADE ARTASASTA, NILDA SAFIRNA, DIANA FITRI AYUNI, TRINA EKAWATI TALLEI, TRIANA HERTIANI	1954-1960
<b>Helminth fauna of <i>Microtus cf. arvalis</i> (Rodentia, Cricetidae) in Russia and adjacent countries</b> NADEZHDA Y. KIRILLOVA, ALEXANDER A. KIRILLOV, ALEXANDER B. RUCHIN, MAXIM V. TRUKHACHEV	1961-1979
<b>Assessment of the health status of the Sidi R'Ghies forest, Oum El Bouaghi, north-east Algerian</b> MALIKA RACHED-KANOUNI, ALIA ZERROUKI, MAROUA LAHMAR, AMINA BELDJAZIA, KARIMA KARA, LABED ABABSA	1980-1988

<b>Floristic analysis of semi-arid mountain ecosystems of the Griqualand West centre of plant endemism, Northern Cape, South Africa</b> NANETTE VAN STADEN, STEFAN JOHN SIEBERT, DIRK PETRUS CILLIERS, DIAN WILSENACH, ARNOLD WALTER FRISBY	1989-2002
<b>Spontaneous plant recolonization on reclaimed post-coal mining sites in East Kalimantan, Indonesia: Native versus alien and succession progress</b> LIA HAPSARI, TRIMANTO, SUGENG BUDIHARTA	2003-2018
<b>Growth prediction for rubber tree and intercropped forest trees to facilitate environmental services valuation in South Thailand</b> NARUN NATTHAROM, SAOWALAK ROONGTAWANREONGSRI, SARA BUMRUNGSRI	2019-2034
<b>Dispersion of <i>Tongkat Langit</i> Banana in Buru and Seram, Maluku Province, Indonesia, based on topographic and climate factors</b> HALVINA GRASELA SAIYA, ADRIANA HIARIEJ, ANNEKE PESIK, ELIZABETH KAYA, MEITTY LOUISE HEHANUSSA, FERAD PUTURUHU	2035-2046
<b>Genetic variability of Indonesian <i>Oryctes rhinoceros nudivir</i> (OrNV) as the genus of <i>Alphanudivirus</i></b> SAT RAHAYUWATI, YAYI MUNARA KUSUMAH, SUDHARTO PRAWIROSUKARTO, DADANG, TEGUH SANTOSO	2047-2055
<b>Population ecology size and habitat preference of the ghost orchid <i>Didymoplexis pallens</i> in Bogor Botanic Gardens, Indonesia</b> RIZMOON NURUL ZULKARNAEN, R. VITRI GARVITA, HARY WAWANGNINGRUM, KARTIKA NING TYAS	2056-2061
<b>Antioxidant activity screening of seven Indonesian herbal extract</b> JOHAN SUKWEENADHI, OEKE YUNITA, FINNA SETIAWAN, KARTINI, MAYA THERESA SIAGIAN, ANGGREYNI PRATIWI DANDURU, CHRISTINA AVANTI	2062-2067
<b>Short Communication: First record of <i>Hirschmanniella mucronata</i> (Nematoda: Pratylenchidae) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia</b> SIWI INDARTI, ALAN SOFFAN, MUHAMMAD MAULANA FARDANI ANDRASMARA	2068-2073
<b>Short Communication: Polymorphism at third exon of the Myostatin gene and its association with growth and carcass traits in Batur sheep</b> HASSAN ISHAG HASSAN HAREN, DATTADEWI PURWANTINI, MAS YEDI SUMARYADI, PRAYITNO	2074-2078
<b>Abundance of ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) and the functional groups in two different habitats</b> ANANTO TRIYOGO, BUDIADI, SM WIDYASTUTI, SENA ADI SUBRATA, SUWITO SETYO BUDI	2079-2087
<b>Nesting behavior of reintroduced Bornean Orangutan in Bukit Batikap Conservation Forest, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia</b> IKE NURJUITA NAYASILANA, SRI SUCI UTAMI ATMOKO, AHMAT SUYOKO, SUWARNO HADISUSANTO	2088-2096
<b>Genetic diversity of blue swimming crab (<i>Portunus pelagicus</i> Linn 1758) from Indonesian waters (Sunda and Sahul Shelf, Wallacea region): Phylogenetic approach</b> ANDI ALIAH HIDAYANI, YUSHINTA FUJAYA, DODY DH. TRIJUNO, NITA RUKMINASARI, ALIMUDDIN ALIMUDDIN	2097-2102
<b>Isolation and identification of cellulolytic bacteria at fibric, hemic and sapric peat in Teluk Bakung Peatland, Kubu Raya District, Indonesia</b> SITI KHOTIMAH, SUHARJONO, TRI ARDYATI, YULIA NURANI	2103-2112
<b>Short Communication: Preliminary phylogenetic analysis of bacteria producing laccase isolated from Gunung Pancar, Bogor, Indonesia</b> WIN WIN MAR, ALI ROHMAN, NUR H MUWAFIQI, GALIH AYHUSTA LARAS, DYAH AGUSTINA, ONE ASMARANI, NI NYOMAN TRI PUSPANINGSIH	2113-2118

<b>Short Communication: Biological control of <i>Fusarium</i> wilt on banana plants using biofertilizers</b> ARIEF WIDYANTORO, HADIWIYONO, SUBAGIYA	2119-2123
<b>The impact of bioinsecticide overdoses of <i>Beauveria bassiana</i> on species diversity and abundance of not targeted arthropods in South Sumatra (Indonesia) freshwater swamp paddy</b> KHOIRUL IKHSANUDIN HANIF, SITI HERLINDA, CHANDRA IRSAN, YULIA PUJIASTUTI, GHANNI PRABAWATI, HASBI, TILI KARENINA	2124-2136
<b>Autecology of <i>Drosera burmanni</i> in the Wolobobo Botanic Gardens, Ngada District, Flores Island, Indonesia</b> JOKO RIDHO WITONO, DIDI USMADI, WIHERMANTO, DANANG WAHYU PURNOMO, DINA SAFARINANUGRAHA, YANUAR PAKIDING, NELWAN NETOSES	2137-2145
<b>An inventory of useful threatened plant species in Vhembe Biosphere Reserve, Limpopo Province, South Africa</b> LUAMBO JEFFREY RAMARUMO, ALFRED MAROYI	2146-2158
<b>The genetic relationships and Indo-Pacific connectivity of whale sharks (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>) with particular reference to mitochondrial COI gene sequences from Cendrawasih Bay, Papua, Indonesia</b> ABDUL HAMID A. TOHA, MUHAMMAD DAILAMI, SAIFUL ANWAR, JUSWONO B. SETIAWAN, YUSUP JENTEW, IDA LAPADI, SANNY SUTANTO, RATIH ARYASARI, AMBARIYANTO, FERAWATI RUNTUBOI, HAWIS MADDUPPA	2159-2171
<b>Nesting behavior of Bornean immature Orangutan (<i>Pongo pygmaeus wurmbii</i>) in Nyaru Menteng Arboretum School, Palangka Raya, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia</b> FOUAD FAUZI, SUEMARNO, AMINUDIN AFANDHI, AMIN SETYO LEKSONO	2172-2179
<b>The effect of drying treatment to metabolite profile and cytotoxic potential of <i>Rhizophora apiculata</i> leaves</b> MADA TRIANDALA SIBERO, ANGGUN PUSPITARINI SISWANTO, RUDHI PRIBADI, AGUS SABDONO, OCKY KARNA RADJASA, AGUS TRIANTO, EVAN HANSEL FREDERICK, ALDI PRATAMA WIJAYA, DWI HARYANTI, DESY WULAN TRININGSIH, SASTRA JENDRA HAYUNINGRAT, YASUHIRO IGARASHI	2180-2187
<b>Germination and salinity tolerance of seeds of sixteen Fabaceae species in Thailand for reclamation of salt-affected lands</b> YONGKRIAT KU-OR, NISA LEKSUNGNOEN, DAMRONGVUDHI ONWIMON, PEERAPAT DOOMNIL	2188-2200
<b>Short Communication: Antioxidant and antibacterial properties of tree fern <i>Cyathea contaminans</i></b> AHMAD FAIZAL, INTAN TAUFIK, ANISAH FIRDA RACHMANI, ALDA WYDIA PRIHARTINI AZAR	2201-2205
<b>The identification of plant reliefs in the Lalitavistara story of Borobudur temple, Central Java, Indonesia</b> DESTARIO METUSALA, FAUZIAH, DEWI AYU LESTARI, JANIS DAMAIYANI, SHOFIYATUL MAS'UDAH, HARI SETYAWAN	2206-2215
<b>Microbiological and physicochemical characteristics of <i>bakasang laor</i>, a traditional fermented fishery product from Maluku, Indonesia</b> FERYMON MAHULETTE, TRI SANTI KURNIA	2216-2223
<b>Distribution survey of Kloss's Gibbons (<i>Hylobates klossii</i>) in Mentawai Islands, Indonesia</b> ARIF SETIAWAN, CHRISTIAN SIMANJUNTAK, ISMAEL SAUMANUK, DAMIANUS TATEBURUK, YOAN DINATA, DARMAWAN LISWANTO, ANJAR RAFIASTANTO	2224-2232
<b>Feeding selectivity of <i>Holothuria atra</i> in different microhabitat in Panjang Island, Jepara (Java, Indonesia)</b> RETNO HARTATI, MUHAMMAD ZAINURI, AMBARIYANTO AMBARIYANTO, WIDIANINGSIH WIDIANINGSIH	2233-2239



<b>Short Communication: Application of bacteriocin from <i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i> SRCM 1 004 34 strain isolated from okara as a natural preservative in beef sausage</b> SALAM N. ARITONANG, ELLY ROZA, AFRIANI SANDRA	2240-2243
<b>Orchid exploration in Tanjung Peropa Wildlife Reserves for Kendari Botanic Gardens collection, Indonesia</b> SRI HARTINI, POPI APRILIANI	2244-2250
<b>Diversity of capsaicin content, quantitative, and yield components in chili (<i>Capsicum annuum</i>) genotypes and their F1 hybrid</b> ZULFIKAR DAMARALAM SAHID, MUHAMAD SYUKUR, AWANG MAHARIJAYA	2251-2257
<b>Potential mitochondrial diversity role in the productivity of three lines of Japanese quails</b> TAMADHUR H. HUSSEIN, MOHAMMED BAQUR S. AL-SHUHAIB, TAHREER M. AL-THUWAINI	2258-2265
<b>Environment carrying capacity and willingness to pay for bird-watching ecotourism in Kerandangan Natural Park, Lombok, Indonesia</b> I WAYAN SUANA, HILMAN AHYADI, GITO HADIPRAYITNO, SALEH AMIN, LALU ACHMAD TAN TILAR WANGSAJATI SUKMARING KALIH, FRANCISCUS XAVERIUS SUDARYANTO	2266-2274
<b>The combination of mare's milk and grape polyphenol extract for treatment of dysbiosis induced by dextran sulfate sodium</b> SAMAT KOZHAKHMETOV, DMITRIY BABENKO, MADIYAR NURGAZIYEV, ALTYNAY TUYAKOVA, AYAULYM NURGOZHINA, NURISLAM MUHANBETGANOV, LAURA CHULENBAYEVA, SHYNGGYS SERGAZY, ALEXANDR GULYAYEV, TIMUR SALIEV, ALMAGUL KUSHUGULOVA	2275-2280
<b>Synthesis of lactic acid from sugar palm trunk waste (<i>Arenga pinnata</i>): Preliminary hydrolysis and fermentation studies</b> WHINY HARDIYATI ERLIANA, TRI WIDJAJA, ALI ALTWAY, LILY PUDJIASTUTI	2281-2288
<b>Effectiveness of anemia herbal formula containing <i>Curcuma zanthorrhiza</i>, <i>Elephantopus scaber</i> and <i>Amaranthus tricolor</i> in iron deficiency anemia patients</b> ULFA FITRIANI, ZURAIDA ZULKARNAIN, FAJAR NOVIANTO, ENGGAR WIJAYANTI, AGUS TRIYONO	2289-2296
<b>Biodecolorization of methyl orange by mixed cultures of brown-rot fungus <i>Daedalea dickinsii</i> and bacterium <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i></b> ADI SETYO PURNOMO, MITHA OCDYANI MAWADDAH	2297-2302
<b>Autecology of <i>Melastoma malabathricum</i>, an invasive species in the Way Kambas National Park, Indonesia</b> JANI MASTER, IBNUL QAYIM, DEDE SETIADI, NYOTO SANTOSO	2303-2309
<b>Diversity, abundance, activity period, and factors affecting the appearance of wildlife around the corridors between Khao Yai-Thap Lan National Parks, Thailand by camera trapping</b> RONGLARP SUKMASUANG, KHWANRUTAI CHARASPET, TARAPORN PANGANTA, MANANYA PLA-ARD, NORASET KHIOESREE, JIDAPA THONGBANTHUM	2310-2321
<b>Tiger grass (<i>Thysanolaena maxima</i>) cultivation in CALSANAG watershed in Romblon, Philippines: dilemmas and prospects for sustainable natural resources management</b> LEILA D. LANDICHO, MARIA THERESA NEMESIS P. OCAMPO, ROWENA ESPERANZA D. CABAUG, ROMNICK S. BALITON, EDGARDO ANDALECIO, RAYMUND INOCENCIO, MARCELINA SERVANEZ, RUSSEL SON A. COSICO, MARYANNE G. ABADILLOS, ARNOLD KARL A. CASTILLO	2322-2330
<b>Isolation and characterization of <i>Botryococcus braunii</i> from a freshwater environment in Tenggarong, Kutai Kartanegara, Indonesia</b> RUDY AGUNG NUGROHO, DIRGARINI JULIA NURLIANTI SUBAGYONO, ENOS TANGKE ARUNG	2331-2336

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## Short Communication: Polymorphism at third exon of the Myostatin gene and its association with growth and carcass traits in Batur sheep

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**Abstract.** Haren HIH, Purwantini D, Sumaryadi MY, Prayitno. 2020. Short Communication: Polymorphism at third exon of the Myostatin gene and its association with growth and carcass traits in Batur sheep. *Biodiversitas* 21: 2074-2078. The present study aimed to investigate the association between myostatin (MSTN) genotype and two traits, growth and carcass, in Batur sheep. Blood samples representing thirty head were collected and genomic DNA was extracted. A specific primer designed to amplify the MSTN gene, samples sequenced then, used the BioEdit program to identify any mutation. Calculation of genotypes, gene and allele frequencies, heterozygosities, and Chi-square test was performed. Only two alleles observed (G and C) resulted in three genotypes. 11 polymorphic sites were observed, transversion at c.\*121G>C, and one individual G>A which disrupted reading frame of whole MSTN sequenced, genotypic and allelic frequencies were 0.552 GG, 0.379 GC, and 0.069 CC, where the allele frequency was 0.741 G and 0.259 C. Lambs that carrying genotype GC had slightly more pre-slaughter weight, hot carcass weight, cold carcass weight, carcass length, and total yield (lion, shoulder, leg yield, and thigh) compared to those carrying genotype GG. There was no significant effect of the MSTN genotype on carcass traits ( $p=0.05$ ). Polymorphic site c.\*121 G>C is present in Batur sheep for the first time about the association with the MSTN gene however, it has not effects weaning weight, 6-month weight, and studied carcass traits.

**Keywords:** Batur sheep, carcass traits, growth traits, MSTN gene, third exon

### INTRODUCTION

Myostatin which is also known as a growth and differentiation factor 8 (GDF8), acts as a negative regulator of skeletal muscle growth. Variation in the Myostatin gene (MSTN) has been associated with muscling in mammalian including mice (McPherron et al. 1997), cattle (Grobet et al. 1997; Dunner et al. 2003), humans (Schuelke et al. 2004), dogs (Mosher et al. 2007), and sheep (Kijas et al. 2007; Boman and Våge 2009; Johnson et al. 2009; Hickford et al. 2010; Han et al. 2013). The polymorphism of this gene has been determined in various breeds of sheep (Zhou et al. 2008) and goat (Han et al. 2015). The ovine MSTN gene is 4991bp in size and is present on chromosome no. 2 (Boman et al. 2009). Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs) within the coding region of the Myostatin gene are associated with double muscling (Hadjipavlou et al. 2008). Moreover; the Myostatin sequence analysis of double-muscle European breed revealed 7 DNA sequence polymorphisms and concluded that five of them were responsible for modulating the functions of protein (Joulia-Ekaza and Cabello 2007). Different methods for determining carcass and body composition of domestic animals have been extensively studied because of their nutritional and economic

importance (De Paula et al. 2013). However, some methods are limited to use in laboratory conditions, and others due to their expensive cost (Scholz et al. 2015). Carcass quality traits are important for predicting the final amount of saleable meat per animal. These traits are correlated with live weight, affecting sheep farmers' income. Live measures (weights at different stages; ultrasound images of muscle transversal area and fat thickness) and post-mortem traits (carcass weight, length, and conformation; Knight et al. 2014; Ciappesoni et al. 2014) help to assess muscularity, fattening, and other carcass properties, and are usually included in genetic evaluation systems. Only three polymorphisms have been observed in the coding region of the ovine MSTN gene so far. One nonsynonymous single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) in the 34<sup>th</sup> codon was identified in the New Zealand Romney sheep (Zhou et al. 2008). Moreover, a deletion of one base pair in the position of the 960<sup>th</sup> nucleotide (c.960delG) was found in Norwegian White sheep (Boman et al. 2009), whereas insertion of one base pair in the position of the 120<sup>th</sup> nucleotide was identified in the Norwegian Spælsau (Boman and Våge 2009). These two nucleotide variations, located in the coding region of the MSTN gene, resulted in nonfunctional protein formation (Boman et al. 2010). The present study was aimed to investigate the association

between MSTN genotype, and growth traits, and carcass traits in Batur lambs.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Animals and Experimental Design

Batur sheep are the predominant breed in the upland areas of Banjarnegara - Indonesia - where they are well adapted to the local cold and humid environment. This breed developed by crossing between local breeds (Fat and Thin Tailed Sheep) and imported breed (Merino) (Prayitno 2010). Thirty heads of Batur sheep used for this experiment, the number of lambs born for every birth of each ewe was recorded and the suckling program of the lambs lasted for three months (90<sup>th</sup> day). Batur lambs were reared at the Batur area under an intensive feeding system until six months of age. All lambs were fed by concentrated feed consist of mixed feedstuff gave 3% of their body weight. Bodyweight measured monthly after weaning to six months of age. Male lambs were slaughtered by the Islamic method at weights (ranged from 25 to 45 kg). Then, the carcasses were split off into two identical longitudinal halves and sectioned into five regions (neck, shoulder, ribs, loin, and leg). Hot carcass weights were measured directly at slaughter, HCW is the weight in kilograms of the carcass components minus the pelt, head, and gut. Then, carcasses chilled under -4°C for 24 hours in the big refrigerator room by hanging them up. Cold carcass weight measured 24 hours after slaughtering, other carcass data including loin yield, leg yield, total yield, and shoulder yield. The total yield is the sum of the leg, loin and shoulder yield for any given carcass.

### DNA Extraction

Blood samples (3 ml) were collected from the jugular vein of each head of experimental lambs and put it into the vacutainer tubes contained EDTA (10 mL EDTA spray dried). For DNA extraction 200 µl of whole blood samples were used and performed according to the manufacturer protocol (Genetika science). To amplify the exon 3 region of MSTN gene a specific primer designed using the Primer3 software from the NCBI website in (Table 1).

The concentration and purity of isolated DNA were measured using Nano-Drop 8000 Spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA) by Absorbance method. About 1.5 µl isolated DNA for measuring the concentration and purity in each spectrophotometer well. The absorbance reading recorded at A260/A280 nm. Then, the DNA concentration (ng/µl) and DNA purity A260/280 were calculated.

### Polymerase Chain Reaction Conditions

Each 25 µl PCR reaction contained 25 ng of genomic DNA, 12.5 µl 2x Reaction mix of each primer, and 1.0 units of Taq DNA polymerase as shown in table 2, The cycling protocol was 5 minutes at 95°C as an initial denaturation, 35 cycles of denaturing at 94°C for 45 seconds, annealing at 73.9 for 45 seconds, extending at 72°C for 40 s, with final extension for 10 minutes.

### Coding region of MSTN sequencing

All samples were sent to Malaysia for sequencing and the BioEdit program was used to identify a nucleotide substitution or mutation, and sequenced results compared with MSTN gene reference (accession number DQ530260) coding regions. The chromosome chr2 of the MSTN region used to identify a candidate gene by the Ensembl database (www.ensembl.org). A candidate gene was chosen based on their known function or potential involvement with growth and muscularity.

### Data analysis

Genotypes, and allele frequencies, heterozygosity rates were counted and Chi-square test was performed. The mathematical model for gene and allele frequency (Nei and Kumar 2000) as:

$$\text{Genotype frequency} = X_i = \frac{G_i}{N} \times 100\%$$

$$\text{Allele frequency} = X_i = \frac{2n_{ii} + 2n_{ij}}{2N}$$

Where:

$X_i$  = Genotype or allele frequency,

$i^{\text{th}}$  = homozygous alleles,

$j^{\text{th}}$  = heterozygous alleles,

$G_i$  = number samples of  $i$  genotype

$N$  = total samples.

Statistical analysis using ANOVA procedure (software SPSS program version 17.0) was utilized to determine the correlation between MSTN genotype and body weight and weaning weight.

**Table 1.** Primer forward and reverse for MSTN Amplification

Amplified fragment	Size (bp)	Primer name	Primer sequence	T <sub>m</sub> (°C)
MSTN	487	Forward	5'-TGCGGTAGGAGA GTGTTTGG-3'	61.2
		Reverse	5'-AAAATTGTTGAGG GGAAGACC-3'	59.3

**Table 2.** PCR reaction mixture for amplification of MSTN gene of sheep

Reaction components	Quantity (µL)
Kapa mix	12.5
Forward primer	1.0
Reverse primer	1.0
DNA template	1.0
dH <sub>2</sub> O	9.5
Total	25

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### MSTN Genotyping

A 487 bp fragment for the 3<sup>rd</sup> exon of MSTN locus in Batur sheep was proliferated by manual PCR technique. The analysis revealed a total of seventeen polymorphic sites in the MSTN coding region (Figure 1). There were only two observed alleles (G and C) resulting in three genotypes, the animals with both alleles were considered as GC genotype, whereas those possessed only G or C alleles assigned as GG or CC genotypes. Eleven polymorphic sites were observed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> exon region, transversions at locus c.\*121 G>C, one individual G>A which disrupted the reading frame in whole MSTN sequenced, and one individual polymorphic sites seen a del-T at c.\*129, c.\*139 and c.\*158 positions as in the figure. In an investigated population, this locus was in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium with  $X^2$  test of 0.0034 and probability of ( $p=0.95$ ). This confirmed that factors leading to disequilibrium, especially selection and migration, may affect the genetic structure of the population. The studied population showed a low degree of genotypic variability for the MSTN gene. This may be explained by the conservation and no breeding plans have been applied, because there are many rams that have been used randomly as sires in a breeding system which is a result of the inbreeding effect. As previously reported by the authors (Haren et al. 2019) the high similarity of the MSTN gene in Batur sheep observed because of their coding region are similar, a genetic variation found at the 3<sup>rd</sup> exon region may not influence mRNA splicing and therefore affect the amino acid sequences produced from a process of the transcription.

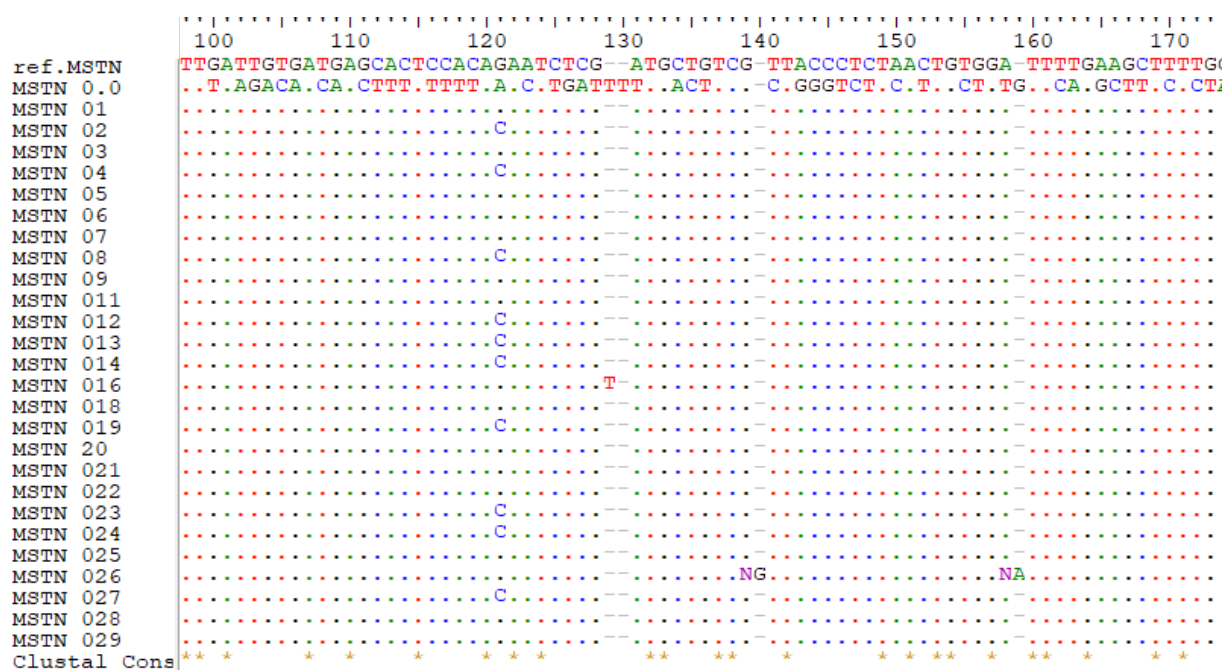
Moreover, a breed-specific influence of the locus under study.

### Effect of MSTN genotype on growth traits

Table 3 indicates that genotypic and allele frequencies in the 3<sup>rd</sup> exon of Myostatin genotype were 0.552 (GG), 0.379 (GC), and 0.069 (CC), where the allele frequency was 0.74 G and 0.26 C, however; weaning weight of Batur lambs were 19.99 GG, 21.3 GC, and 19.7 CC and 6-month weight 30.49 (GG), 31.87 (GC), and 29.9 (CC), respectively. Lambs with heterozygous (GC) genotype were heavier than homozygous (GG) and recessive (CC) genotype by 1.6 and 2 kg at weaning and 6-months weight, respectively. However, there was no significant difference at weaning weight ( $p=0.99$ ), 6-month body weights ( $p=0.98$ ) at a locus (c.\*121G>C) of the MSTN gene in Batur sheep. Similar findings for the non-significant effect of genetic variants in exon 3 of the MSTN gene with growth traits were reported in Zel sheep (Dehnavi et al. 2012).

### Effect of MSTN genotype on carcass traits

The carcass traits and their proportion yield are present in Table 4, lambs that carry the GC genotype have slightly more pre-slaughter weight, hot carcass weight, cold carcass weight, carcass length and total yield (loin, shoulder, leg yield, and rump) comparing to those carry's the GG genotype. The results showed there was no significant effect of the MSTN genotype on carcass traits ( $P > 0.05$ ). It might be due to the increase in muscle mass.



**Figure 1.** Chromatogram of BioEdit program used to identify if any nucleotide substitution in the 3<sup>rd</sup> exon of MSTN gene, all sequence plotted to a standard as a dot, compared to the reference sequence (NCBI) there are 17 different variants on the matched sequence

positions, 11 variants appeared at c.\*121, del-T at c.\*129, one individual at c.\*139, and one individual at c.\*158 positions, however, one individual sequence disrupted reading frame in MSTN

**Table 3.** Genotypic, allelic frequencies and heterozygosity of exon 3 of locus c.\*121G>C and its association with weaning and body weight in Batur sheep

Genotype	(16) GG	(11) GC	(2) CC	G	C	X <sup>2</sup>	p-value
Genotypic frequency	0.552	0.379	0.069	0.74	0.26		-
Expected frequency	0.549	0.384	0.067			0.0034	0.95
Weaning	19.99±1.3	21.3±1.5	19.7±4.5				0.99
6-month weight	30.49±1.6	31.9±1.9	29.9±1.8				0.98

**Table 4.** Means, standard deviation (S.D), minimum and maximum weights (kg) for carcass traits

	Genotype GG				Genotype GC				p-value
	Mean	S. D	Min	Max	Mean	S. D	Min	Max	
PSW (kg)	32.7	2.8	30.7	34.7	34.3	2.85	31	36.3	0.59
HCW (kg)	13.4	0.0	13.4	13.4	14.6	1.55	13.1	16.2	0.38
CCW (kg)	13.3	0.07	13.2	13.3	14.4	1.50	13	16	0.37
Carcass length (cm)	75	0.0	75.0	75.0	78.0	3.46	74	80	0.33
Total yield (kg)	8.05	0.07	8.00	8.10	8.10	1.49	6.4	9.2	0.97
Lean yield (kg)	7.4	0.85	6.80	8.00	8.87	0.95	7.8	9.6	0.18
Bone yield (kg)	3.6	0.28	3.40	3.80	3.87	1.03	3.0	5.0	0.58
Fat yield (kg)	2.1	0.14	2.00	2.20	2.07	0.61	1.4	2.6	0.95
Dressing %	41	0.04	39	44	43	0.03	40	46	0.64
Boneless %	56	0.07	51	61	61	0.025	60	64	0.26

Note: HCW = hot carcass weights, CCW = cold carcass weight, PSW = Pre-slaughter weight

## Discussion

The inability to find any association of weaning and body weight with the polymorphic status of the MSTN gene in the present study might be due to the breed-specific effect of the locus under study. This study in line with (Sahu et al. 2017) which mentioned that, a non-significant effect of this mutation that observed on birth, weaning (three months) and six months weight in Indian Mecheri and Madras Red sheep. (Sumantri et al. 2008) reported that genetic diversity based on molecular marker MSTN c.del960G locus in Indonesia local sheep are very low. This is indicated by the value of one genotype frequency and allele which has a value of 1, which marks the fixation process. The absence of deletion in 1-bp deletion at MSTN c.del960G can be caused by a tropical adaptation process which suggested that the animal which can survive in this environment is having small performance. In this case, presence of the c.960delG mutation in both alleles means that no functional Myostatin protein is expected to be produced (Boman et al. 2009).

If Myostatin did not express, so the negative growth regulation will fail and the number of muscle fibers increases (hyperplasia). (Boman et al. 2010) reported the homozygous c.960delG (AA) animals had lower daily gain and weaning weight, but higher carcass weight. While the genotypes (del-G)-AG and (del-G)-GG resulted in significant ( $p < 0.001$ ) effects, towards more meat and less fatty animals. However, mutations in the third exon affect conformation and fat class in NWS lambs, yielding a carcass with less fat and increased muscle mass these findings are not far to our study concerning fat, muscles, and carcass yield.

In conclusion, the present study investigated the allelic and genotypic effects of the MSTN gene on growth and carcass traits, polymorphism is present in Batur sheep for the first-time regarding assessment of the association with the 3<sup>rd</sup> exon of the MSTN gene. Moreover, non-significant genotypic effects of the MSTN gene have detected concerning weaning weight, 6-month weight, and studied carcass traits. Moreover, these results may not be useful for developing future selection programs unless further investigation of the MSTN gene and it is interaction performed with other genes that involve in muscle growth and carcass traits through analyzing association studies at large scale.

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