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Title: Molecular Characterization of Dengue Viruses Isolated from Dengue Patients in Central Java, Indonesia

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Abstract: Dengue is hyper-endemic in Indonesia. Purwokerto city in Central Java province is routinely ravaged by the disease. Despite the endemicity of dengue in this city, there is still no data on the virological aspects of dengue in the city. We conducted a molecular surveillance study of the circulating dengue viruses (DENV) in Purwokerto city to gain information on the virus origin, serotype and genotype distribution, and phylogenetic characteristics of DENV. A cross-sectional dengue molecular surveillance study was conducted in Purwokerto. Sera were collected from dengue-suspected patients attending three hospitals in the city. Diagnosis was performed using dengue NS1 antigen and IgG/IgM antibodies detection. DENV serotyping was performed using Simplexa Dengue real-time RT-PCR. Sequencing was conducted to obtain full-length DENV Envelope (E) gene sequences, which were then used in phylogenetic and genotypic analyses. Patients' clinical and demographic data were collected and analyzed. A total of 105 dengue-suspected patients' sera were collected, in which 80 (76%) were positive for IgM and/or IgG, and 57 (54.2%) were confirmed as dengue by NS1 antigen and/or DENV RNA detection using RT-PCR. Serotyping was successful for 47 isolates. All four serotypes circulated in the area with DENV-3 as the predominant serotype. Phylogenetic analyses grouped the isolates into Genotype I for DENV-1, Cosmopolitan genotype for DENV-2, and Genotype I and II for DENV-3 and -4, respectively. The analyses also revealed the close relatedness of Purwokerto isolates to other DENV strains from Indonesia and neighboring countries. In summary, we reveal the molecular and virological characteristics of DENV in Purwokerto, Banyumas regency, Central Java. The genotype and phylogenetic analyses indicate the endemicity of the circulating DENV in the city. Our serotype and genotype data provide references for future dengue molecular epidemiology studies and disease management in the region.

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Response to Reviewer

REVIEW OF MANUSCRIPT NUMBER: JIPH-D-17-00289

TITLE: MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF DENGUE VIRUSES ISOLATED FROM DENGUE PATIENTS IN CENTRAL JAVA, INDONESIA

Reviewer #1:

#### INTRODUCTION

In this study, the authors conducted a prospective cross-sectional molecular surveillance study in Purwokerto to gain information on DENV molecular characteristics, in particular the serotype distribution and genotype diversity of DENV circulating in the city.

#### CRITIQUE

##### **Introduction**

The authors should include some literature on prevailing and past dengue serotype and genotype distributions in the surrounding regions to describe its past importance, while also substantiating the importance of determining its molecular epidemiology in this study.

##### *Response:*

*Thank you for the suggestion. The published data on dengue virus (DENV) serotypes and genotypes distribution in Indonesia, in particular Central Java is limited. In this study, one of our aims was to add data on dengue virus diversity in the region. To complement the historical data on DENV in the region, we have added a reference to our previous data from Semarang, a city in Central Java, approximately 188 km from Purwokerto, where we described DENV serotypes and genotypes distribution of circulating virus in 2012 (Fahri, et al. PLoS NTD 2013) in the Introduction (page 4).*

##### **Materials and Methods**

1. The authors did not clearly define the sampling criteria for the study.

##### *Response:*

*We have re-written our sampling criteria in the Materials and Methods section to better defining the approach that we used. We also added information regarding the use of WHO-SEARO 2011 guideline to determine the clinical manifestations as follows:*

*“Dengue-suspected patients were recruited from inpatient wards of three hospitals in the city, namely RSUD Prof. Dr. Margono Soekardjo central hospital, RSUD Sinar Kasih, and RSUD St. Elisabeth during period of June through August 2015. Inclusion criteria included patients with fever > 38°C during the first five days of fever, accompanied with at least one clinical signs of*

*dengue such as rash, arthralgia, malaise, retro-orbital pain, signs of DHF or DSS. We excluded fever patients with a clear symptoms of upper respiratory tract infections and/or obviously diagnosed as non-dengue and unwilling to participate in this study. The hematology data were obtained from the routine blood tests performed by the hospitals. All dengue positive cases were categorized clinically either as DF, DHF, DSS, or expanded dengue syndrome according to WHO-SEARO [16].” (page 4)*

2. Was the study sample from hospital inpatients or outpatients?

*Response:*

*The study samples were from hospital inpatients. We have updated this information accordingly in the first paragraph of Material and Methods (page 4).*

3. Were the cases from Banyumas regency?

*Response:*

*The cases were from Purwokerto city which is the capital of Banyumas regency in Central Java province.*

4. The clinical definition of dengue used was not the standard WHO dengue case definition, what was the case definition used?

*Response:*

*We used the WHO-SEARO 2011 guideline to determine the dengue clinical definition. Using this guideline, we classified the clinical manifestations into dengue fever (DF), dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF), DHF with shock syndrome (DSS,) and expanded dengue syndrome. We have stated this information in the Materials and Methods section (ref 16).*

5. The authors did not detail the methodology on obtaining the hematology data.

*Response:*

*Thank you for raising this up. The hematology data were obtained from the routine blood tests performed by the hospitals. We have added the information accordingly in the Materials and Methods section (page 4).*

6. The Statistical tests and their inferences were not detailed in the study.

*Response:*

*Thank you for your input. We have corrected the method for statistical analysis in the Materials and Methods section, as follows:*

*“Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS Statistics software, version 17.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL) and R statistical software (<http://www.r-project.org>). Pearson chi-squared test was used to correlate the clinical manifestations and DENV serotypes. One-way ANOVA test was*

*used to compare groups of hematology data and DENV serotypes. A probability value of  $p < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.” (page 7)*

7. Data Analysis - Statistical Stability using 95% CI should be employed in this study for hypothesis testing and interval estimation.

*Response:*

*In the statistical analysis, we employed Pearson chi-squared test to correlate the clinical manifestations and DENV serotypes. One-way ANOVA test was used to compare groups of hematology data and DENV serotypes. We used probability value of  $p < 0.05$  for significance (page 7).*

## **Results**

1. The definition of dengue suspected patients? Were they the patients with clinical suspicion of dengue?

*Response:*

*The dengue-suspected patients were patients with clinical suspicion of dengue. In order to avoid confusion, we revised the manuscript only to use “dengue-suspected patients” term (Materials and Methods section, page 4).*

2. Were there a total 105 dengue suspected patients in the study, or 105 serum samples taken from a larger sample of suspected patients.

*Response:*

*A total of 105 serum samples were all dengue-suspected patients’ samples collected in this study.*

3. The seropositivity of dengue in this sample was 80%, the authors could elaborate more on this finding by comparing to previous findings in the same or surrounding regions.

*Response:*

*Thank you for your important highlight. In our previous study, the seropositivity (as of IgM positivity) of samples from different cities/region in Indonesia ranged from 38.5% to 93.1%, with the overall percentage for Indonesia was 73.7% (Aryati, et al. BMC Infect Dis 2013). The city of Semarang in Central Java recorded seropositivity of 93.1%. The seropositivity of 76% in Purwokerto city is still within the range and comparable to the seropositivity of Indonesia. We have included this in the Discussion section (page 9-10).*

4. The algorithm of laboratory testing and lab confirmation was not clearly defined.

*Response:*

*The sample testing algorithm was as follows: dengue-suspected samples were enrolled using the inclusion criteria and tested for dengue IgM and IgG antibodies and NS1 antigen. Hematology profiles were taken from routine laboratory examination in the hospitals. The NS1-positive samples were considered as dengue-confirmed samples and tested for the presence of DENV RNA and the corresponding DENV serotype using real-time RT-PCR, simultaneously. The degree of clinical manifestation was determined using WHO-SEARO guideline. Representative samples were subjected to Envelope gene sequencing approach to study the genotype of DENV.*

5. Was the Panbio Dengue Duo Elisa (Alere) for primary or secondary dengue done on all samples or those positive by the SD BIOLINE Dengue Duo rapid test.

*Response:*

*We performed tests using Panbio Dengue Duo IgM/IgG ELISA (Alere) to samples that resulted positive using SD BIOLINE Dengue Duo rapid test. This approach was performed to determine the infection status (primary vs secondary infection) of the serologically positive samples. The Panbio Dengue Duo IgM/IgG ELISA can be used to quantitatively determine the infection status.*

6. The criteria used for diagnosis of DHF and DF. The study showed 60% were DHF, which is a very high observation compared to the literature, would be interesting for the authors to include more discussion on this finding.

*Response:*

*The higher percentage of DHF manifestation in Purwokerto patients is understandable because in this study, patient recruitments were performed in referral hospitals where severe patients are usually hospitalized (compared to primary health centers where mostly mild patients treated). The higher percentage of DHF was also observed in Semarang in 2012 (Fahri, et al PLoS NTD 2013).*

7. Analysis and findings on the positivity rates between NS1 with RT-PCR should also be detailed.

*Response:*

*Thank you for your suggestion. For the confirmation of dengue positive samples, we use NS1 and/or RT-PCR test. We found that most of the positive dengue cases were confirmed by RT-PCR (82%) while only 40% of this positive RT-PCR found to be NS1 positive. However, 18% of dengue positive cases were only positive by NS1. We have added detailed explanation in Result section (page 7).*

## **Discussion**

1. Due to the small sample size there were no significant findings for the demographic and clinical data. The study was not able to make any meaningful correlations between the

serotype and other variables collected, however much was discussed without any conclusions.

*Response:*

*Thank you for your comments. In this study we focused more on virological aspects of the DENV isolated in Purwokerto city, i.e. the serotypes and genotypes distribution and their phylogenetic characteristics. We agree that the small sample size was not ideal to generate conclusive results on epidemiology data. We have raised this issue in the Discussion section (page 10) as follows:*

*“We are aware that the limited sample size obtained in this study may affect the reliability of the data analysis, therefore, no confident conclusion can be drawn for the association of DENV serotypes with demography, clinical, and hematological data.”*

2. The authors suggested that there was different serotype predominance in different cities in Indonesia, however not at the same time, as it must be noted that the other study samples were of different time points. The authors should elaborate further how this conclusion was obtained as this is an important observation.

*Response:*

*Thank you for the suggestions. The differing DENV serotype predominance in several cities in Indonesia is actually occurred in the past as well as in the current situation. We have added new references that described the serotype distribution in other cities in Indonesia 2009, 2012 in Jakarta and, Surabaya; and recently in 2015 (same year as in Purwokerto), i.e. in Jambi and Bali in the Discussion section (page 11). From the serotype distribution data, we observed the spatio-temporal dynamics of DENV distribution in cities in Indonesia.*

3. The dengue serotype lineages was adequately described, however a deeper discussion of the genetic diversity of the Purwokerto strains with surrounding regions would be required as this was the overall focus and strength of the manuscript.

*Response:*

*Thank you for highlighting this. We have discussed the genetic diversity of Purwokerto virus isolates in the Discussion section.*

## **References**

Referencing style to be formatted accordingly, for example:

[1] Bhatt S, Gething PW, Brady OJ, Messina JP, Farlow AW, Moyes CL, Drake JM, Brownstein JS, Hoen AG, Sankoh O, Myers MF. The global distribution and burden of dengue. *Nature*. 2013 Apr 25;496(7446):504-7.

[2] Martina BE, Koraka P, Osterhaus AD. Dengue virus pathogenesis: an integrated view. Clinical microbiology reviews. 2009 Oct 1;22(4):564-81.

*Response:*

*Thank you. The references were automatically formatted using Zotero referencing software employing reference style designed for Journal of Infection and Public Health (<https://www.zotero.org/styles/?q=journal%20of%20infection%20and%20public%20health>).*

*The reference style was automatically generated by the software according to the suggested style provided by JIPH/Zotero.*

### **Tables and Figures**

Table 1, suggest title "Distribution of demographic and clinical parameters for DENV serotypes, Purwokerto, Indonesia, 2015"

*Response:*

*Thank you for your suggestion. We have revised the title accordingly (page 17).*

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# Molecular Characterization of Dengue Viruses Isolated from Dengue Patients in Central Java, Indonesia

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Abstract word count: 293

Word count: 3337

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## ABSTRACT

### *Background*

Dengue is hyper-endemic in Indonesia. Purwokerto city in Central Java province is routinely ravaged by the disease. Despite the endemicity of dengue in this city, there is still no data on the virological aspects of dengue in the city. We conducted a molecular surveillance study of the circulating dengue viruses (DENV) in Purwokerto city to gain information on the virus origin, serotype and genotype distribution, and phylogenetic characteristics of DENV.

### *Methods*

A cross-sectional dengue molecular surveillance study was conducted in Purwokerto. Sera were collected from dengue-suspected patients attending three hospitals in the city. Diagnosis was performed using dengue NS1 antigen and IgG/IgM antibodies detection. DENV serotyping was performed using Simplexa Dengue real-time RT-PCR. Sequencing was conducted to obtain full-length DENV Envelope (E) gene sequences, which were then used in phylogenetic and genotypic analyses. Patients' clinical and demographic data were collected and analyzed.

### *Results*

A total of 105 dengue-suspected patients' sera were collected, in which 80 (76%) were positive for IgM and/or IgG, and 57 (54.2%) were confirmed as dengue by NS1 antigen and/or DENV RNA detection using RT-PCR. Serotyping was successful for 47 isolates. All four serotypes circulated in the area with DENV-3 as the predominant serotype. Phylogenetic analyses grouped the isolates into Genotype I for DENV-1, Cosmopolitan genotype for DENV-2, and Genotype I and II for DENV-3 and -4, respectively. The analyses also revealed the close relatedness of Purwokerto isolates to other DENV strains from Indonesia and neighboring countries.

### *Conclusion*

1 In summary, we reveal the molecular and virological characteristics of DENV in Purwokerto,  
2 Banyumas regency, Central Java. The genotype and phylogenetic analyses indicate the  
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4 endemicity of the circulating DENV in the city. Our serotype and genotype data provide  
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6 references for future dengue molecular epidemiology studies and disease management in the  
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8 region.  
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12 *Keywords:* Dengue; serotype; genotype; Purwokerto; Indonesia  
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## 16 **1. Introduction**

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19 Dengue is considered as the most prevalent arthropod-borne viral disease in the world with  
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21 significant burden to people in tropical and subtropical regions [1]. The clinical  
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23 manifestations of the disease range from the mild dengue fever (DF) to the more severe cases  
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25 of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) and dengue shock syndrome (DSS) [2]. The disease is  
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27 caused by dengue virus (DENV), a positive-sense single stranded RNA virus member of  
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29 Flaviviridae family [3]. The 10.7 kb RNA genome encodes three structural (C, prM/M, E)  
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31 and seven non-structural (NS1, NS2A, NS2B, NS3, NS4A, NS4B, NS5) proteins [3,4]. The  
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33 diverse characteristics of the virus is depicted by the presence of four serotypes (DENV-1, -2,  
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35 -3, and -4), in which each serotype can be further divided into phylogenetically distinct  
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37 clusters termed genotypes [5,6]. These genotypes vary in their geographical distributions,  
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39 epidemic potential, fitness, and virulence [6,7].  
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47 Indonesia has been experiencing epidemic cycles of dengue since its first introduction  
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49 in the country in 1968 in Jakarta and Surabaya [8]. The country suffered the highest  
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51 economic burden of dengue in Southeast Asia region [9]. The frequent dengue cases is often  
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53 followed by increasing numbers of infections and severity which affected all 34 provinces in  
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55 the country [8,10]. As most countries in Southeast Asia except Singapore and Malaysia,  
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57 dengue surveillance in Indonesia remains largely passive [11]. Therefore, local surveillance is  
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1 important to gain comprehensive information on dengue epidemiology which can be used to  
2 improve control strategies and management of the disease.  
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5 Banyumas regency in Central Java, Indonesia is affected by dengue in an annual basis  
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7 [12]. Purwokerto, the capital city of Banyumas has experienced frequent dengue outbreaks  
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9 with higher risks of dengue infection compared to other towns in surrounding area in  
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11 Banyumas regency [13]. Apart of information on the socio-economic, epidemiology, and  
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13 vector data, to the best of our knowledge, there is still no report on the virological aspects of  
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15 dengue in this city where no data on circulating serotypes and diversity of the genotypes are  
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17 available. Previously, we have reported dengue molecular and virological characteristics in  
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19 Semarang in 2012, a city in Central Java which resided approximately 188 km from  
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21 Purwokerto [14]. In this study, we conducted a prospective cross-sectional molecular  
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23 surveillance study in Purwokerto to gain information on DENV molecular characteristics, in  
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25 particular the serotype distribution and genotype diversity of DENV circulating in the city.  
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## 32 33 34 **2. Materials and methods**

### 35 36 *2.1. Study design, study site and patient recruitment*

37  
38 We conducted a cross-sectional dengue molecular surveillance study in Purwokerto city,  
39  
40 Banyumas regency, Central Java, Indonesia. This city is located at the southern part of  
41  
42 Central Java, at the altitude of 75 m above sea level with 7°26' south latitude and 109°14'  
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44 east longitude. Dengue-suspected patients were recruited from inpatient wards of three  
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46 hospitals in the city, namely RSUD Prof. Dr. Margono Soekardjo central hospital, RSU Sinar  
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48 Kasih, and RSU St. Elisabeth during period of June through August 2015. Inclusion criteria  
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50 included patients with fever > 38°C during the first five days of fever, accompanied with at  
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52 least one clinical signs of dengue such as rash, arthralgia, malaise, retro-orbital pain, signs of  
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54 DHF or DSS. We excluded fever patients with a clear symptoms of upper respiratory tract  
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1 infections and/or obviously diagnosed as non-dengue and unwilling to participate in this  
2 study. The hematology data were obtained from the routine blood tests performed by the  
3 hospitals. All dengue positive cases were categorized clinically either as DF, DHF, DSS, or  
4 expanded dengue syndrome according to WHO-SEARO [15].  
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Peripheral venous blood was collected in serum separator tubes and taken to the laboratory for serum separation. Serum was kept frozen at -80°C until analysis. Ethical approval for the involvement of human participants was granted by the Research Ethics Commission of the Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Jenderal Soedirman, approval No. 065/KEPK/IV/2015.

## 2.2. *Dengue diagnosis, nucleic acid extraction and serotyping*

The SD BIOLINE Dengue Duo rapid test (Dengue NS1 Ag + IgG/IgM) (Standard Diagnostics, Alere, Korea) was used to detect the presence of NS1 antigen and IgG/IgM antibodies to DENV. Further serological diagnosis was performed using Panbio Dengue Duo ELISA (Alere), in which the IgG/IgM scores were used to determine the primary versus secondary infection, performed according to the kit's instructions. The DENV RNA was extracted using MagNA Pure Total Nucleic Acid extraction kit (Roche, Mannheim, Germany) and performed using automated MagNA Pure LC 2.0 extraction system (Roche), according to protocol described by the manufacturer. The resulting RNA was then assayed using Simplexa Dengue real-time RT-PCR (DiaSorin, Saluggia, Italy) assay which simultaneously detect the presence of DENV and its serotype [16]. Strict controls were applied on RNA extraction and RT-PCR procedures to prevent cross-contamination.

## 2.3. *DENV E gene sequencing*

The sequencing of DENV E genes were performed at Eijkman Institute's sequencing facility, using RNA directly extracted from patients' sera. Superscript III Reverse Transcriptase

1 (Invitrogen-Thermo Scientific, Carlsbad, CA, USA) was used to reverse-transcribed the  
2 DENV RNA into cDNA which was then PCR-amplified using *Pfu* Turbo DNA Polymerase  
3 (Stratagene-Agilent Technologies, La Jolla, CA, USA). PCR-amplified DNA was purified  
4 from 0.8% gel using QIAquick gel extraction kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). The purified  
5 amplicon was used in cycle sequencing reactions using eight overlapping primers for each  
6 serotype from both strands and BigDyeDideoxy Terminator sequencing kits v.3.1 (Applied  
7 Biosystems-Thermo Scientific), as described elsewhere [17]. Purified DNA was subjected to  
8 capillary sequencing performed on 3130xl Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems). Sequence  
9 reads were assembled using SeqScape v.2.5 software (Applied Biosystems) with manual  
10 inspection performed where ambiguities observed.

#### 26 *2.4. Phylogenetic analysis*

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29 Phylogenetic analysis was conducted by aligning full-length E gene sequences of Purwokerto  
30 isolates with other publicly available DENV sequences worldwide retrieved from GenBank  
31 as of March, 2016. All nonrelated sequences were removed and finally 60 taxa which are the  
32 most closely related to Purwokerto isolates were selected per serotype to clarify the tree view.  
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34 These sequences were subjected to robust phylogenetic analyses. Dataset for each serotype  
35 was prepared using BEAUti v.1.8.3 graphical interface with the tip of each isolate calibrated  
36 using the year of isolation. Bayesian Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) method was  
37 implemented for phylogenetic reconstruction and molecular clock analyses as implemented in  
38 BEAST v.1.8.3 using General Time Reversible (GTR) model with four Gamma parameters  
39 ( $G_4$ ) and invariant (I) sites, relaxed uncorrelated lognormal molecular clock and Bayesian  
40 skyline prior, with 100 million generations and sampled for every 1000<sup>th</sup> iteration and 10%  
41 burn-in employed. The initial estimated evolutionary rate was set at  $7.6 \times 10^{-4}$  substitutions  
42 per site per year, as previously described [18]. MCMC trace was analyzed using Tracer  
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1 v.1.5.0 to monitor adequate Effective Sampling Size (ESS) for all parameters. TreeAnnotator  
2 v.1.8.3 was used to create Maximum clade credibility (MCC) tree which visualized in  
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4 FigTree v.1.4.0.  
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7 The classification of genotypes in each serotype was based on classifications by Goncalvez et  
8 al. [19], Twiddy et al. [20], Lanciotti et al. [21], and Lanciotti et al. [22], for DENV-1, -2, -3  
9 and -4, respectively.  
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### 14 15 16 17 *2.5. Statistical analysis*

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19 Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS Statistics software, version 17.0 (SPSS Inc.,  
20 Chicago, IL) and R statistical software (<http://www.r-project.org>). Pearson chi-squared test  
21 was used to correlate the clinical manifestations and DENV serotypes. One-way ANOVA test  
22 was used to compare groups of hematology data and DENV serotypes. A probability value of  
23  $p < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.  
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## 32 33 34 **3. Results**

### 35 36 *3.1. Patients characteristics, clinical manifestation, and DENV serotypes*

37 A total of 105 serum samples from dengue-suspected patients were collected during the  
38 study. The age of the patients ranging from 3 to 65 years (mean  $\pm$  SD = 29.5  $\pm$  15.6 years).  
39 Among them, 80 (76%) were positive for IgM and/or IgG, and 57 (54.2%) were confirmed to  
40 have dengue infection by NS1 antigen and/or DENV RNA detection using RT-PCR (82%  
41 positivity by RT-PCR and/or NS1 and 18% positivity by NS1 only). These confirmed cases  
42 occurred almost evenly among all age groups with most cases affected adults aged between  
43 21 and 30 years (Figure 1A). Forty-seven out of 57 confirmed cases were positive for DENV  
44 by real-time RT-PCR. Among these 47 patients, 24 (51%) were male and 23 (49%) were  
45 female. We observed more secondary infections (57%) compared to primary infections  
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1 (Table 1). Serotyping revealed the presence of all four DENV serotypes. The DENV-3 was  
2 the predominant serotype (26 or 55%), followed by DENV-1 (11 or 23%) and equal number  
3 of DENV-2 and -4 cases (5 or 11% each) (Figure 1B).  
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7 From 47 dengue-confirmed patients with known infecting serotypes, 28 (60%) were  
8 DHF and 19 (40%) were DF. We did not find DSS and expanded dengue syndrome in this  
9 study. Most of the patients (32 or 68%) experienced thrombocytopenia (platelet count  
10 <100,000/ $\mu$ L), while severe thrombocytopenia (<50,000/ $\mu$ L) was observed in 15 patients  
11 (32%). The characteristics of the patients together with proportion of the infecting serotypes,  
12 diagnosis, infection status, severity, and hematological data are shown in Table 1.  
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### 24 3.2. *DENV genotypes and phylogenetic relationships*

25 Full-length E gene sequences of 16 isolates, comprising all four serotypes, were successfully  
26 obtained. The E gene sequences have been deposited into GenBank repository and granted  
27 accession number of KY709181-KY709196. Three out of 11 DENV-1 isolates were  
28 genotyped according to Goncalvez classification [19] and identified as Genotype I (Figure 2).  
29 Two of them were grouped together in a lineage which include Indonesian strains imported to  
30 Taiwan and Okinawa-Japan in 2014 [23,24] (Figure 2). The other DENV-1 Purwokerto  
31 isolate was closely related to strain isolated in Tokyo-Japan in 2014. These isolates were  
32 grouped together in a lineage consisting of strains from Indonesia city of Surabaya isolated in  
33 2010 (Figure 2).  
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48 Among five DENV-2 isolates detected in this study, four were genotyped. All of these  
49 isolates belonged to Cosmopolitan genotype according to Twiddy classification [20] (Figure  
50 3). Although grouped into single Cosmopolitan genotype and collected within the same study  
51 time, these 4 isolates were further differentiated into three distinct lineages. One isolate was  
52 closely related with strains from Bali isolated in 2011-2012 and grouped together with strains  
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1 from Indonesian city of Makassar isolated in 2007-2008 [25] and Singapore isolated in 2004  
2 (Figure 3, lineage 1). Two isolates formed a monophyletic lineage consisting of mostly  
3 strains from Indonesian Sumatra in 2010 [26] and Jakarta in 2009 (unpublished), Singapore,  
4 Brunei and China (Figure 3, lineage 2). The remaining isolate was grouped with other  
5 Indonesia strains from Sukabumi isolated in 2012 [27] and Jakarta in 2004 [28] and 2013  
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14 For DENV-3, seven out of 26 isolates were successfully sequenced and identified as  
15 Genotype I (Figure 4) according to Lanciotti classification [21]. Similar with DENV-2, these  
16 isolates were also clustered into three different lineages. Two isolates were grouped together  
17 and closely related to Indonesia strain from Surabaya in 2013 [30]. Three isolates were  
18 grouped together in a lineage consisting of strains from Jakarta, Bali and other city in  
19 Indonesia isolated from travelers returning to Western Australia [31]. The remaining two  
20 isolates were grouped together and closely related to strain from Semarang, Central Java [14]  
21 and strains from another cities in Indonesia [26], as well as those from Malaysia [32] and  
22 China in 2010.  
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36 We genotyped two out of five DENV-4 isolates as Genotype II according to Lanciotti  
37 classification [22]. These isolates were grouped together with strains from Indonesia,  
38 Southeast Asia, and Micronesia (Figure 5). One of them was closely related to the strain from  
39 Bali in 2010 [31], other city in Indonesia in 2009, and imported cases in Taiwan in 2009 [32].  
40 The other isolate was grouped together with strain from Indonesia in 2010 [26].  
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#### 51 **4. Discussion**

52 Similar with many other urban areas in Indonesia, Purwokerto is endemic for dengue and  
53 ravaged by the disease annually. While dengue is endemic, to the best of our knowledge, no  
54 dengue virological data in Purwokerto have been reported. Therefore, our study provides the  
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1 first information on the serological profile, serotype distribution, virus genetic diversity and  
2 the origins of the DENV circulating in the area.  
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5 In our study population, most (76%) of patients were positive for dengue IgM/IgG  
6 antibodies while 54.2% of them were positive for NS1 antigen and/or RT-PCR detection.  
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8 Moreover, about 60% of patients were secondary infection. In our previous study, we  
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10 observed the seropositivity of samples from different cities/region in Indonesia ranged from  
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12 38.5% to 93.1%, with the overall percentage for Indonesia was 73.7% [33]. The  
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14 seropositivity of 76% in Purwokerto city is still within the observed range and comparable to  
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16 the seropositivity of Indonesia. Altogether, these reflect the considerable burden of dengue in  
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18 the community. As urbanized area, Purwokerto has a greater risk of dengue infections  
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20 compared to its surrounding area in Banyumas regency [13]. Urbanization becomes a  
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22 prevalent factor for dengue infections as the city has become economically more developed  
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24 since the establishment of universities in the city which increase the number of urban  
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26 population, especially students, in the city.  
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34 In term of disease manifestation, we revealed the occurrence of both DF and DHF.  
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36 We observed majority of dengue cases (60%) were DHF. This was similar to study in  
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38 Semarang in 2012 in which 74% of the cases were DHF [14] The relationship of infecting  
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40 serotype with clinical manifestation has been reported [34, 35]. We did not find possible  
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42 relationship of infecting serotype with demography, hematology, and clinical manifestation  
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44 (Table 1). We also did not find correlation of infecting serotype with thrombocytopenia as  
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46 previously reported in Singapore [36]. Association between DENV-1 and DENV-3 with  
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48 primary infection which has been reported in Thailand [35], however, this was not observed  
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50 in Purwokerto. The possible relationship of clinical manifestation with demography and  
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52 hematology were also analyzed (data not shown). Again, no significant correlation was found  
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54 among them. We are aware that the limited sample size obtained in this study may affect the  
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1 reliability of the data analysis, therefore, no confident conclusion can be drawn for the  
2 association of DENV serotypes with demography, clinical, and hematological data.  
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5 Our study was more focused on the virological aspects of DENV. To assess the  
6 dynamic of DENV in Purwokerto, we compared our data with data from nearby city of  
7 Semarang (located about 188 km from Purwokerto), because no historical virological data of  
8 dengue in Purwokerto are available. We observed distinct serotype predominance between  
9 the two cities. The majority of the DENV isolated in Semarang was DENV-1 [14] while the  
10 most predominant serotype in Purwokerto was DENV-3. The history of DENV-3  
11 predominance was recorded in several cities in Indonesia including Jakarta [28], Palembang  
12 [37], and Bali in 2015 [38]. In another nearby city of Bandung (about 244 km from  
13 Purwokerto), DENV-4 was the most frequent serotype detected, followed by DENV-3 as the  
14 second most detected [39]. In other cities in Indonesia, different serotype predominance was  
15 also observed such as in Jakarta in 2010 [40], Surabaya in 2012 [41], and Jambi in 2015 [17].  
16 Altogether, these findings reveal the differing DENV serotype predominance in different  
17 cities and thus demonstrate the spatial and temporal dynamics of DENV distribution in  
18 Indonesia.  
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21 Phylogenetic analysis was performed to determine the genotypes of DENV and the  
22 origin and relationships with other DENV strains from other regions in Indonesia and  
23 neighboring countries. Although Purwokerto DENV-1 viruses were grouped into single  
24 genotype, i.e. Genotype I, apparently, they were separated into two lineages, suggesting the  
25 genetic diversity of these strains. We did not find Genotype IV of DENV-1 which was  
26 previously found in other cities in Indonesia, such as in Sukabumi [27], Makassar [25], and  
27 Surabaya [41]. This finding enhances the notion of possible lineage replacement in DENV-1  
28 in Indonesia from Genotype IV to Genotype I as this genotype was recorded to replace the  
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older Genotype IV in recent studies in Jambi in 2015 [17], Sukabumi in 2013 [27], Semarang in 2012 [14], Makassar (2007-2010) [25], and Surabaya in 2009 [42].

The DENV-2 isolates from Purwokerto were identified as Cosmopolitan genotype. These isolates were grouped together with other Indonesia strains and those from Southeast Asia and China. Cosmopolitan genotype has been spread worldwide as it has been found in Southeast Asia, India, Middle East, Africa and Australia [20]. To date, this genotype is the common genotype circulating in Indonesia and has been found in Palembang [37], Jakarta [28], Surabaya [41,42], Semarang [14], Makassar [25], Sukabumi [27], Jambi [17], and Bali [38]. Based on the presence of various DENV-2 lineages in Purwokerto, it is plausible that the strains had undergone a local evolution, resulting in more genetically divergent strains as depicted by the presence of three separate lineages. One important finding about DENV-2 isolates in Purwokerto is the presence of isolate that is closely related with DENV-2 strains originated from Bali (Figure 3, lineage 1) that were associated with the large outbreak in 2011-2012 [31]. The fact that this lineage is also present in Purwokerto may need to be continuously monitored for its potential to cause outbreak in the region as has been reported in Bali.

The DENV-3 isolates were classified as Genotype I. This genotype was the common genotype in Southeast Asia region [21]. Similar to DENV-2, the DENV-3 isolates also show a considerable genetic diversity as depicted by the presence of three distinct lineages. The Purwokerto DENV-3 isolates were closely related to other Indonesia strains especially those from Semarang [14], Jakarta [28], and Surabaya [42]. We did not observed the close-relatedness with DENV strains from outside Indonesia (except the imported cases in China), which suggest that these predominant viruses were of local origin and not imported from other countries.

1 For DENV-4 isolates, phylogenetic analysis revealed that the two isolates were  
2 grouped into Genotype II and formed two separate lineages. This genotype was frequently  
3 found in Southeast Asia and America [22]. The Purwokerto's DENV-4 isolates were closely  
4 related to virus sampled in Indonesia in 2009 to 2010, and the imported virus strain collected  
5 in Taiwan presumed to be originated from Indonesia in 2010 [32]. These phylogenetic data  
6 suggest the endemic nature of DENV-4 in Purwokerto.  
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14 In conclusion, we provide the first molecular and virological characteristics of DENV  
15 in Purwokerto, Banyumas regency, Central Java, Indonesia. Although the serotype  
16 predominance of DENV in Purwokerto was different from the nearby cities, the genotypes of  
17 the isolates were apparently similar to those commonly found in other cities in Indonesia. The  
18 phylogenetic and genotypic analyses suggested that an endemic cycle of transmission has  
19 been established in Purwokerto with all four DENV serotypes circulating. DENV isolates  
20 imported from other countries was not detected. High number of travel and urbanization  
21 might be the contributing factors to the distribution of serotype and genotypes. Purwokerto is  
22 one of the transit route connecting cities in Java Island, especially for land transport.  
23 Continuous DENV molecular and virological surveillance efforts will be useful to further  
24 understand the dynamic of dengue disease in this region and contributes to the disease  
25 prevention and management program.  
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#### 46 **Conflict of interest statement**

47 We declare that we have no conflict of interest.  
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Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education of the Republic of Indonesia to

ESK and RTS, respectively.

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Table 1. Distribution of demographic and clinical parameters for RT-PCR confirmed dengue patients in Purwokerto, Indonesia, 2015.

Parameters	N	DENV-1 (N=11)	DENV-2 (N=5)	DENV-3 (N=26)	DENV-4 (N=5)	<i>p</i> value <sup>a</sup>
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	24	5	2	15	2	0.781 <sup>a</sup>
Female	23	6	3	11	3	
<b>Infection type</b>						
Primary	20	4	3	12	1	0.578 <sup>a</sup>
Secondary	27	7	2	14	4	
<b>NS1 antigen detection*</b>						
Positive	19	4	3	12	2	0.864 <sup>a</sup>
Negative	26	7	2	14	3	
<b>Severity</b>						
DF	19	5	3	11	0	0.227 <sup>a</sup>
DHF	28	6	2	15	5	
<b>Hematology data<sup>b</sup></b>						
Thrombocyte (/μL)	NA	88,182±68,111	123,200±73,916	75,209±48,474	77,400±48,624	0.376 <sup>c</sup>
Hemoglobin (g/dL)	NA	12.99±1.76	14.24±2.07	13.84±1.67	12.44±1.38	0.197 <sup>c</sup>

\*Two samples have no information of NS1 antigen detection

<sup>a</sup>Pearson Chi-squared test

<sup>b</sup>Mean±STDEV

<sup>c</sup>One Way ANOVA Test

**FIGURE LEGENDS:**

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5 Figure 1. The distribution of dengue cases in Purwokerto in 2015 determined by the age of  
6 dengue-confirmed patients (A) and the percentage of circulating DENV serotypes (B).  
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12 Figure 2. Phylogeny of the most closely related DENV-1 genotypes generated by Bayesian  
13 inference method as implemented in BEAST using GTR+G+I evolution model calculated  
14 using E gene sequences. The red labels indicated the isolates from Purwokerto and the blue  
15 labels indicated other strains from Indonesia. Arabic numbers in red denote the lineages.  
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24 Figure 3. Phylogeny of the most closely related DENV-2 Cosmopolitan genotype generated  
25 by Bayesian inference method as implemented in BEAST using GTR+G+I evolution model  
26 calculated using E gene sequences. The red labels indicated the isolates from Purwokerto and  
27 the blue labels indicated other strains from Indonesia. Arabic numbers in red denote the  
28 lineages.  
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38 Figure 4. Phylogeny of the most closely related DENV-3 genotypes generated by Bayesian  
39 inference method as implemented in BEAST using GTR+G+I evolution model calculated  
40 using E gene sequences. The red labels indicated the isolates from Purwokerto and the blue  
41 labels indicated other strains from Indonesia. Arabic numbers in red denote the lineages.  
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51 Figure 5. Phylogeny of the most closely related DENV-4 genotypes generated by Bayesian  
52 inference method as implemented in BEAST using GTR+G+I evolution model calculated  
53 using E gene sequences. The red labels indicated the isolates from Purwokerto and the blue  
54 labels indicated other strains from Indonesia. Arabic numbers in red denote the lineages.  
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3 **Molecular Characterization of Dengue Viruses Isolated from Dengue**  
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5 **Patients in Central Java, Indonesia**  
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3 **ABSTRACT**

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5 Background

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7 Dengue is hyper-endemic in Indonesia. Purwokerto city in Central Java province is routinely  
8 ravaged by the disease. Despite the endemicity of dengue in this city, there is still no data on  
9 the virological aspects of dengue in the city. We conducted a molecular surveillance study of  
10 the circulating dengue viruses (DENV) in Purwokerto city to gain information on the virus  
11 origin, serotype and genotype distribution, and phylogenetic characteristics of DENV.  
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17 Methods

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19 A cross-sectional dengue molecular surveillance study was conducted in Purwokerto. Sera  
20 were collected from dengue-suspected patients attending three hospitals in the city. Diagnosis  
21 was performed using dengue NS1 antigen and IgG/IgM antibodies detection. DENV  
22 serotyping was performed using Simplexa Dengue real-time RT-PCR. Sequencing was  
23 conducted to obtain full-length DENV Envelope (E) gene sequences, which were then used in  
24 phylogenetic and genotypic analyses. Patients' clinical and demographic data were collected  
25 and analyzed.  
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33 Results

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35 A total of 105 dengue-suspected patients' sera were collected, in which 80 (76%) were  
36 positive for IgM and/or IgG, and 57 (54.2%) were confirmed as dengue by NS1 antigen  
37 and/or DENV RNA detection using RT-PCR. Serotyping was successful for 47 isolates. All  
38 four serotypes circulated in the area with DENV-3 as the predominant serotype. Phylogenetic  
39 analyses grouped the isolates into Genotype I for DENV-1, Cosmopolitan genotype for  
40 DENV-2, and Genotype I and II for DENV-3 and -4, respectively. The analyses also revealed  
41 the close relatedness of Purwokerto isolates to other DENV strains from Indonesia and  
42 neighboring countries.  
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51 Conclusion

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3 In summary, we reveal the molecular and virological characteristics of DENV in Purwokerto,  
4 Banyumas regency, Central Java. The genotype and phylogenetic analyses indicate the  
5 endemicity of the circulating DENV in the city. Our serotype and genotype data provide  
6 references for future dengue molecular epidemiology studies and disease management in the  
7 region.  
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13 *Keywords:* Dengue; serotype; genotype; Purwokerto; Indonesia  
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## 16 17 **1. Introduction**

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19 Dengue is considered as the most prevalent arthropod-borne viral disease in the world with  
20 significant burden to people in tropical and subtropical regions [1][1]. The clinical  
21 manifestations of the disease range from the mild dengue fever (DF) to the more severe cases  
22 of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) and dengue shock syndrome (DSS) [2][2]. The disease is  
23 caused by dengue virus (DENV), a positive-sense single stranded RNA virus member of  
24 Flaviviridae family [3][3]. The 10.7 kb RNA genome encodes three structural (C, prM/M, E)  
25 and seven non-structural (NS1, NS2A, NS2B, NS3, NS4A, NS4B, NS5) proteins [3,4][3,4].  
26 The diverse characteristics of the virus is depicted by the presence of four serotypes (DENV-  
27 1, -2, -3, and -4), in which each serotype can be further divided into phylogenetically distinct  
28 clusters termed genotypes [5,6][5,6]. These genotypes vary in their geographical  
29 distributions, epidemic potential, fitness, and virulence [6,7][6,7].  
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Indonesia has been experiencing epidemic cycles of dengue since its first introduction  
in the country in 1968 in Jakarta and Surabaya [8][8]. The country suffered the highest  
economic burden of dengue in Southeast Asia region [9][9]. The frequent dengue cases is  
often followed by increasing numbers of infections and severity which affected all 34  
provinces in the country [8,10][8,10]. As most countries in Southeast Asia except Singapore  
and Malaysia, dengue surveillance in Indonesia remains largely passive [11][11]. Therefore,

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3 local surveillance is important to gain comprehensive information on dengue epidemiology  
4 which can be used to improve control strategies and management of the disease.  
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7 Banyumas regency in Central Java, Indonesia is affected by dengue in an annual basis

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9 ~~[12][12]. Purwokerto, the capital city of Banyumas has experienced frequent dengue~~  
10 outbreaks with higher risks of dengue infection compared to other towns in surrounding area  
11 in Banyumas regency ~~[13][13].~~ Apart of information on the socio-economic, epidemiology,  
12 and vector data, to the best of our knowledge, there is still no report on the virological aspects  
13 of dengue in this city ~~where n-~~No data on circulating serotypes and diversity of the  
14 genotypes are available. ~~Previously, we have reportedThe nearest area with the reported~~  
15 ~~dengue molecular and virological characteristics was in Semarang in 2012, a city in Central~~  
16 ~~Java which resided approximately 200188 km from Purwokerto [14]. In this city, all four~~  
17 ~~dengue were circulated with DENV 1 as predominant serotype . The genotype of the~~  
18 ~~circulating DENV in Semarang in 2012 were Genotype I and II for DENV 1, Cosmopolitan~~  
19 ~~genotype for DENV 2, and Genotype 1 for DENV 3.~~In this study, we conducted a  
20 prospective cross-sectional molecular surveillance study in Purwokerto to gain information  
21 on DENV molecular characteristics, in particular the serotype distribution and genotype  
22 diversity of DENV circulating in the city. .  
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## 37 38 39 **2. Materials and methods**

### 40 41 *2.1. Study design, study site and patient recruitment*

42 We conducted a cross-sectional dengue molecular surveillance study in Purwokerto city,  
43 Banyumas regency, Central Java, Indonesia. This city is located at the southern part of  
44 Central Java, at the altitude of 75 m above sea level with 7°26' south latitude and 109°14'  
45 east longitude. ~~Patients with clinical suspicion of dengue~~Dengue-suspected patients were  
46 recruited from ~~inpatients wards of~~ three hospitals in the city, namely RSUD Prof. Dr.  
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3 Margono Soekardjo central hospital, RSU Sinar Kasih, and RSU St. Elizabeth during period  
4 of June through August 2015. Inclusion criteria included patients with fever > 38°C during  
5 the first five days of fever, accompanied with at least one clinical signs of dengue such as  
6 rash, arthralgia, malaise, retro-orbital pain, signs of DHF or DSS. We excluded fever patients  
7 with a clear symptoms of upper respiratory tract infections and/or obviously diagnosed as  
8 non-dengue and unwilling to participate in this study. The hematology data were obtained  
9 from the routine blood tests performed by the hospitals. All dengue positive cases were  
10 categorized clinically either as DF, DHF, DSS, or expanded dengue syndrome according to  
11 WHO-SEARO [15][16].

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21 Peripheral venous blood was collected in serum separator tubes and taken to the laboratory  
22 for serum separation. Serum was kept frozen at -80°C until analysis. Ethical approval for the  
23 involvement of human participants was granted by the Research Ethics Commission of the  
24 Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Jenderal Soedirman, approval No. 065/KEPK/IV/2015.

## 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 *2.2. Dengue diagnosis, nucleic acid extraction and serotyping*

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33 The SD BIOLINE Dengue Duo rapid test (Dengue NS1 Ag + IgG/IgM) (Standard  
34 Diagnostics, Alere, Korea) was used to detect the presence of NS1 antigen and IgG/IgM  
35 antibodies to DENV. Further serological diagnosis was performed using Panbio Dengue Duo  
36 ELISA (Alere), in which the IgG/IgM scores were used to determine the primary versus  
37 secondary infection, performed according to the kit's instructions. The DENV RNA was  
38 extracted using MagNA Pure Total Nucleic Acid extraction kit (Roche, Mannheim,  
39 Germany) and performed using automated MagNA Pure LC 2.0 extraction system (Roche),  
40 according to protocol described by the manufacturer. The resulting RNA was then assayed  
41 using Simplexa Dengue real-time RT-PCR (DiaSorin, Saluggia, Italy) assay which  
42 simultaneously detect the presence of DENV and its serotype [16][15][14][14]. Strict controls

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3 were applied on RNA extraction and RT-PCR procedures to prevent cross-contamination. ~~All~~  
4 ~~dengue positive cases were categorized clinically either as DF, DHF, DSS, or expanded~~  
5 ~~dengue syndrome according to WHO SEARO [16][15][15].~~  
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### 10 11 2.3. DENV E gene sequencing

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13 The sequencing of DENV E genes were performed at Eijkman Institute's sequencing facility.  
14 using RNA directly extracted from patients' sera. Superscript III Reverse Transcriptase  
15 (Invitrogen-Thermo Scientific, Carlsbad, CA, USA) was used to reverse-transcribed the  
16 DENV RNA into cDNA which was then PCR-amplified using *Pfu* Turbo DNA Polymerase  
17 (Stratagene-Agilent Technologies, La Jolla, CA, USA). PCR-amplified DNA was purified  
18 from 0.8% gel using QIAquick gel extraction kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). The purified  
19 amplicon was used in cycle sequencing reactions using eight overlapping primers for each  
20 serotype from both strands and BigDyeDideoxy Terminator sequencing kits v.3.1 (Applied  
21 Biosystems-Thermo Scientific), as described elsewhere ~~[17][16][17][16][16]~~. Purified DNA  
22 was subjected to capillary sequencing performed on 3130xl Genetic Analyzer (Applied  
23 Biosystems). Sequence reads were assembled using SeqScape v.2.5 software (Applied  
24 Biosystems) with manual inspection performed where ambiguities observed.  
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### 39 2.4. Phylogenetic ~~a~~Analysis

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41 Phylogenetic analysis was conducted by aligning full-length E gene sequences of Purwokerto  
42 isolates with other publicly available DENV sequences worldwide retrieved from GenBank  
43 as of March, ~~2016~~2017. All nonrelated sequences were removed and finally 60 taxa which  
44 are the most closely related to Purwokerto isolates were selected per serotype to clarify the  
45 tree view. These sequences were subjected to robust phylogenetic analyses. Dataset for each  
46 serotype was prepared using BEAUti v.1.8.3 graphical interface with the tip of each isolate  
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3 calibrated using the year of isolation. Bayesian Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) method  
4 was implemented for phylogenetic reconstruction and molecular clock analyses as  
5 implemented in BEAST v.1.8.3 using General Time Reversible (GTR) model with four  
6 Gamma parameters ( $G_4$ ) and invariant (I) sites, relaxed uncorrelated lognormal molecular  
7 clock and Bayesian skyline prior, with 100 million generations and sampled for every 1000<sup>th</sup>  
8 iteration and 10% burn-in employed. The initial estimated evolutionary rate was set at 7.6 x  
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15 10<sup>-4</sup> substitutions per site per year, as previously described [18][17][18][17][17]. MCMC  
16 trace was analyzed using Tracer v.1.5.0 to monitor adequate Effective Sampling Size (ESS)  
17 for all parameters. TreeAnnotator v.1.8.3 was used to create Maximum clade credibility  
18 (MCC) tree which visualized in FigTree v.1.4.0.

23 The classification of genotypes in each serotype was based on classifications by Goncalvez et  
24 al. [19][18][19][18][18], Twiddy et al. [20][19][20][19][19], Lanciotti et al.  
25 [21][20][21][20][20], and Lanciotti et al. [22][21][22][21][21], for DENV-1, -2, -3 and -4,  
26 respectively.  
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### 33 *2.5. Statistical aAnalysis*

35 Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS Statistics software, version 17.0 (SPSS  
36 Inc., Chicago, IL); and R statistical software (<http://www.r-project.org>). Pearson chi-squared  
37 test was used to correlate the clinical manifestations and DENV serotypes. One-way ANOVA  
38 test was used to compare groups of hematology data and DENV serotypes. A probability  
39 value of  $p < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

45 ~~Statistical Analysis was performed using SPSS Statistics software, version... (SPSS Inc.,~~  
46 ~~Chicago, IL);~~

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### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Patients characteristics, clinical manifestation, and DENV serotypes

A total of 105 serum samples from dengue-suspected patients were collected during the study. The age of the patients ranging from 3 to 65 years (mean  $\pm$  SD = 29.5  $\pm$  15.6 years).

Among them, 80 (76%) were positive for IgM and/or IgG, and 57 (54.2%) were confirmed to have dengue infection by NS1 antigen and/or DENV RNA detection using RT-PCR (82% positivity e dengue cases by RT-PCR and/or NS1 and 138% was positivite by NS1 only).

These confirmed cases occurred almost evenly among all age groups with most cases affected adults aged between 21 and 30 years (Figure 1A). Forty-seven out of 57 confirmed cases were positive for DENV by real-time RT-PCR. Among these 47 patients, 24 (51%) were male and 23 (49%) were female. We observed more secondary infections (57%) compared to primary infections (Table 1). Serotyping revealed the presence of all four DENV serotypes. The DENV-3 was the predominant serotype (26 or 55%), followed by DENV-1 (11 or 23%) and equal number of DENV-2 and -4 cases (5 or 11% each) (Figure 1B).

From 47 dengue-confirmed patients with known infecting serotypes, 28 (60%) were DHF and 19 (40%) were DF. We did not find DSS and expanded dengue syndrome in this study. Most of the patients (32 or 68%) experienced thrombocytopenia (platelet count <100,000/ $\mu$ L), while severe thrombocytopenia (<50,000/ $\mu$ L) was observed in 15 patients (32%). The characteristics of the patients together with proportion of the infecting serotypes, diagnosis, infection status, severity, and hematological data are shown in Table 1.

#### 3.2. DENV genotypes and phylogenetic relationships

Full-length E gene sequences of 16 isolates, comprising all four serotypes, were successfully obtained. The E gene sequences have been deposited into GenBank repository and granted accession number of KY709181-KY709196. Three out of 11 DENV-1 isolates were

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3 genotyped according to Goncalvez classification ~~[19][18][19][18][18]~~ and identified as  
4 Genotype I (Figure 2). Two of them were grouped together in a lineage which include  
5 Indonesian strains imported to Taiwan and Okinawa-Japan in 2014  
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9 ~~[23,24][22,23][23,24][22,23][22,23]~~ (Figure 2). The other DENV-1 Purwokerto isolate was  
10 closely related to strain isolated in Tokyo-Japan in 2014. These isolates were grouped  
11 together in a lineage consisting of strains from Indonesia city of Surabaya isolated in 2010  
12 (Figure 2).  
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17 Among five DENV-2 isolates detected in this study, four were genotyped. All of these  
18 isolates belonged to Cosmopolitan genotype according to Twiddy classification  
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21 ~~[20][19][20][19][19]~~ (Figure 3). Although grouped into single Cosmopolitan genotype and  
22 collected within the same study time, these 4 isolates were further differentiated into three  
23 distinct lineages. One isolate was closely related with strains from Bali isolated in 2011-2012  
24 and grouped together with strains from Indonesian city of Makassar isolated in 2007-2008  
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27 ~~[25][24][25][24][24]~~ and Singapore isolated in 2004 (Figure 3, lineage 1). Two isolates  
28 formed a monophyletic lineage consisting of mostly strains from Indonesian Sumatra in 2010  
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31 ~~[26][25][26][25][25]~~ and Jakarta in 2009 (unpublished), Singapore, Brunei and China (Figure  
32 3, lineage 2). The remaining isolate was grouped with other Indonesia strains from Sukabumi  
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35 isolated in 2012 ~~[27][27][26][27][26][26]~~ and Jakarta in 2004 ~~[28][28][27][28][27][27]~~ and  
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37 2013 ~~[29][29][28][29][28][28]~~.  
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41 For DENV-3, seven out of 26 isolates were successfully sequenced and identified as  
42 Genotype I (Figure 4) according to Lanciotti classification ~~[21][20][21][20][20]~~. Similar with  
43 DENV-2, these isolates were also clustered into three different lineages. Two isolates were  
44 grouped together and closely related to Indonesia strain from Surabaya in 2013  
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47 ~~[30][30][29][30][29][29]~~. Three isolates were grouped together in a lineage consisting of  
48 strains from Jakarta, Bali and other city in Indonesia isolated from travelers returning to  
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3 Western Australia ~~[31][31][30][31][30][30]~~. The remaining two isolates were grouped  
4 together and closely related to strain from Semarang, Central Java ~~[14][31][31]~~ and strains  
5 form another cities in Indonesia ~~[26][25][26][25][25]~~, as well as those from Malaysia  
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7 ~~[32][32][31][32][32]~~ and China in 2010.  
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11 We genotyped two out of five DENV-4 isolates as Genotype II according to Lanciotti  
12 classification ~~[22][21][22][21][21]~~. These isolates were grouped together with strains from  
13 Indonesia, Southeast Asia, and Micronesia (Figure 5). One of them was closely related to the  
14 strain from Bali in 2010 ~~[31][31][30][31][30][30]~~, other city in Indonesia in 2009, and  
15 imported cases in Taiwan in 2009 ~~[32][32][31][32][32]~~. The other isolate was grouped  
16 together with strain from Indonesia in 2010 ~~[26][25][26][25][25]~~.  
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#### 23 24 25 4. Discussion

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27 Similar with many other urban areas in Indonesia, Purwokerto is endemic for dengue and  
28 ravaged by the disease annually. While dengue is endemic, to the best of our knowledge, no  
29 dengue virological data in Purwokerto have been reported. Therefore, our study provides the  
30 first information on the serological profile, serotype distribution, virus genetic diversity and  
31 the origins of the DENV circulating in the area.  
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37 In our study population, most (76%) of patients were positive for dengue IgM/IgG  
38 antibodies while 54.2% of them were positive for NS1 antigen and/or RT-PCR detection.

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39 Moreover, about 60% of patients were secondary infection. In our previous study, we  
40 observed the seropositivity (as of IgM positivity) of samples from different cities/region in  
41 Indonesia ranged from 38.5% to 93.1%, with the overall percentage for Indonesia was 73.7%  
42 [33][33][32]. The seropositivity of 76% in Purwokerto city is still within the observed range  
43 and comparable to the seropositivity of Indonesia. As there's mno historical data of dengue  
44 in Purwokerto, we compare our data with the data from the nearby city Semarang in 2012  
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3 ~~(located about 188 km from Purwokerto) [14][31][31]. We observed higher seropositivity in~~  
4 ~~Purwokerto compared to Semarang in 2012 reflecting the increase of dengue cases in this~~  
5 ~~area. In Semarang, 55% of the patients were positive for IgM/IgG and/or NS1 test and 47%~~  
6 ~~were confirmed dengue positive by RT-PCR.~~ Altogether, these reflect the considerable

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11 burden of dengue in the community. As urbanized area, Purwokerto has a greater risk of  
12 dengue infections compared to its surrounding area in Banyumas regency [13][13].

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14 Urbanization becomes a prevalent factor for dengue infections as the city has become  
15 economically more developed since the establishment of universities in the city which  
16 increase the number of urban population, especially students, in the city.

21 In term of disease manifestation, we revealed the occurrence of both DF and DHF.

22  
23 ~~We observed majority of dengue cases (60%) were DHF. This was similar to study in~~  
24 ~~Semarang in 2012 in which 74% of the cases were DHF [14][31][31].~~ The relationship of  
25 infecting serotype with clinical manifestation has been reported [34].

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29 ~~[35][33,34][33,34][33,34].~~ We did not find possible relationship of infecting serotype with  
30 demography, hematology, and clinical manifestation (Table 1). We also did not find  
31 correlation of infecting serotype with thrombocytopenia as previously reported in Singapore

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35 ~~[36][36][35][35][35].~~ Association between DENV-1 and DENV-3 with primary infection  
36 which has been reported in Thailand [35][35][34][34][34], however, this was not observed in

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39 Purwokerto. The possible relationship of clinical manifestation with demography and  
40 hematology were also analyzed (data not shown). Again, no significant correlation was found  
41 among them. We are aware that the limited sample size obtained in this study may affect the  
42 reliability of the data analysis, therefore, no confident conclusion can be drawn for the  
43 association of DENV serotypes with demography, clinical, and hematological data.

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49 Our study was more focused on the virological aspects of DENV. To assess the  
50 dynamic of DENV in Purwokerto, we compared our data with data from nearby city of

Semarang (located about 188 km from Purwokerto), because no historical virological data of dengue in Purwokerto are available. We observed distinct serotype predominance between the two cities. The majority of the DENV isolated in Semarang was DENV-1 [14][31][31] while the most predominant serotype in Purwokerto was DENV-3. The history of DENV-3 predominance was recorded in several cities in Indonesia including Jakarta

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~~[28][28][27][28][27][27]. and Palembang [37][37][36][36][36], and Bali in 2015~~

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~~[38][38][37].~~ In another nearby city of Bandung (about 244 km from Purwokerto), DENV-4 was the most frequent serotype detected, followed by DENV-3 as the second most detected

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~~[39][39][38][37][37]. In other cities in Indonesia, different serotype predominance was also observed such as in Jakarta in 2010 [40][26][39], Surabaya in 2012 [41][40], and Jambi in 2015 [17][16].~~ Altogether, these findings ~~reveal demonstrate~~ the differing DENV serotype

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~~predominance~~ in different cities ~~and thus demonstrate in Indonesia. However it is important to note that other studies compared were from different time points. Nevertheless, our data will add to the spatial and temporal dynamics of DENV distribution in Indonesia through time.~~

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Phylogenetic analysis was performed to determine the genotypes of DENV and the origin and relationships with other DENV strains from other regions in Indonesia and neighboring countries. Although Purwokerto DENV-1 viruses were grouped into single genotype, i.e. Genotype I, apparently, they were separated into two lineages, suggesting the genetic diversity of these strains. We did not find Genotype IV of DENV-1 which was

previously found in other cities in Indonesia, such as in Sukabumi ~~[27][27][26][27][26][26],~~

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~~and~~ Makassar ~~[25][24][25][24][24], and Surabaya [41][40].~~ This finding enhances the notion of possible lineage replacement in DENV-1 in Indonesia from Genotype IV to Genotype I as

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this genotype was recorded to replace the older Genotype IV in ~~more~~ recent studies in Jambi in 2015 ~~[17][16][17][16][16],~~ Sukabumi in 2013 ~~[27][27][26][27][26][26],~~ Semarang in 2012

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[14][31][31], Makassar (2007-2010) [25][24][25][24][24], and Surabaya in 2009

[42][41][38][38][38].

The DENV-2 isolates from Purwokerto were identified as Cosmopolitan genotype.

These isolates were grouped together with other Indonesia strains and those from Southeast

Asia and China. Cosmopolitan genotype has been spread worldwide as it has been found in

Southeast Asia, India, Middle East, Africa and Australia [20][19][20][19][19]. To date, this

genotype is the common genotype circulating in Indonesia and has been found in Palembang

[37][37][36][36][36], Jakarta [28][28][27][28][27][27], Surabaya

[41,42][40,41][41][38][38][38], Semarang [14][31][31], Makassar [25][24][25][24][24],

Sukabumi [27][27][26][27][26][26], Bali [37], and Jambi [17][16][17][16][16], and Bali

[38][38]. Based on the presence of various DENV-2 lineages in Purwokerto, it is plausible

that the strains had undergone a local evolution, resulting in more genetically divergent

strains as depicted by the presence of three separate lineages. One important finding about

DENV-2 isolates in Purwokerto is ~~that~~ the presence of isolate that is closely related with

DENV-2 strains originated from Bali (Figure 3, lineage 1) that were associated with the large

outbreak in 2011-2012 [31][31][30][31][30][30]. The fact that this lineage is also present in

Purwokerto may need to be continuously monitored for its potential to cause outbreak in the

region as has been reported in Bali.

The DENV-3 isolates were classified as Genotype I. This genotype was the common

genotype in Southeast Asia region [21][20][21][20][20]. Similar to DENV-2, the DENV-3

isolates also show a considerable genetic diversity as depicted by the presence of three

distinct lineages. The Purwokerto DENV-3 isolates were closely related to other Indonesia

strains especially those from Semarang [14][31][31], Jakarta [28][28][27][28][27][27], and

Surabaya [42][41][38][38][38]. We did not observed the close-relatedness with DENV strains

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3 from outside Indonesia (except the imported cases in China), which suggest that these  
4 predominant viruses were of local origin and not imported from other countries.  
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7 For DENV-4 isolates, phylogenetic analysis revealed that the two isolates were  
8 grouped into Genotype II and formed two separate lineages. This genotype was frequently  
9 found in Southeast Asia and America [22][21][22][21][21]. The Purwokerto's DENV-4  
10 isolates were closely related to virus sampled in Indonesia in 2009 to 2010, and the imported  
11 virus strain collected in Taiwan presumed to be originated from Indonesia in 2010  
12 [32][32][31][32][32]. These phylogenetic data suggest the endemic nature of DENV-4 in  
13 Purwokerto.  
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21 In conclusion, we provide the first molecular and virological characteristics of DENV  
22 in Purwokerto, Banyumas regency, Central Java, Indonesia. Although the serotype  
23 predominance of DENV in Purwokerto was different from the nearby cities, the genotypes of  
24 the isolates were apparently similar to those commonly found in other cities in Indonesia. The  
25 phylogenetic and genotypic analyses suggested that ~~endemic cycles of transmission has an~~  
26 endemic cycle of transmission has been established in Purwokerto with all four DENV  
27 serotypes circulating. DENV isolates imported from other countries was not detected. High  
28 number of travel and urbanization might be the contributing factors to the distribution of  
29 serotype and genotypes. Purwokerto is one of the transit route connecting cities in Java  
30 Island, especially for land transport. Continuous DENV molecular and virological  
31 surveillance efforts will be useful to further understand the dynamic of dengue disease in this  
32 region and contributes to the disease prevention and management program.  
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#### 46 **Conflict of interest statement**

47 We declare that we have no conflict of interest.  
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Table 1. Distribution of demographic and clinical parameters for RT-PCR confirmed dengue patients in Purwokerto, Indonesia, 2015  
Demography and clinical data of RT-PCR confirmed dengue patients in Purwokerto in 2015.

Parameters	N	DENV-1 (N=11)	DENV-2 (N=5)	DENV-3 (N=26)	DENV-4 (N=5)	<i>p</i> -value <sup>a</sup>
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	24	5	2	15	2	0.781 <sup>a</sup>
Female	23	6	3	11	3	
<b>Infection type</b>						
Primary	20	4	3	12	1	0.578 <sup>a</sup>
Secondary	27	7	2	14	4	
<b>NS1 antigen detection*</b>						
Positive	19	4	3	12	2	0.864 <sup>a</sup>
Negative	26	7	2	14	3	
<b>Severity</b>						
DF	19	5	3	11	0	0.227 <sup>a</sup>
DHF	28	6	2	15	5	
<b>Hematology data<sup>b</sup></b>						
Thrombocyte ( $\mu\text{L}$ )	NA	88,182±68,111	123,200±73,916	75,209±48,474	77,400±48,624	0.376 <sup>c</sup>
Hemoglobin (g/dL)	NA	12.99±1.76	14.24±2.07	13.84±1.67	12.44±1.38	0.197 <sup>c</sup>

\*Two samples have no information of NS1 antigen detection

<sup>a</sup>Pearson Chi-squared test

<sup>b</sup>Mean±STDEV

<sup>c</sup>One Way ANOVA Test

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**FIGURE LEGENDS:**

Figure 1. The distribution of dengue cases in Purwokerto in 2015 determined by the age of dengue-confirmed patients (A) and the percentage of circulating DENV serotypes (B).

Figure 2. Phylogeny of the most closely related DENV-1 genotypes generated by Bayesian inference method as implemented in BEAST using GTR+G+I evolution model calculated using E gene sequences. The red labels indicated the isolates from Purwokerto and the blue labels indicated other strains from Indonesia. Arabic numbers in red denote the lineages.

Figure 3. Phylogeny of the most closely related DENV-2 Cosmopolitan genotype generated by Bayesian inference method as implemented in BEAST using GTR+G+I evolution model calculated using E gene sequences. The red labels indicated the isolates from Purwokerto and the blue labels indicated other strains from Indonesia. Arabic numbers in red denote the lineages.

Figure 4. Phylogeny of the most closely related DENV-3 genotypes generated by Bayesian inference method as implemented in BEAST using GTR+G+I evolution model calculated using E gene sequences. The red labels indicated the isolates from Purwokerto and the blue labels indicated other strains from Indonesia. Arabic numbers in red denote the lineages.

Figure 5. Phylogeny of the most closely related DENV-4 genotypes generated by Bayesian inference method as implemented in BEAST using GTR+G+I evolution model calculated using E gene sequences. The red labels indicated the isolates from Purwokerto and the blue labels indicated other strains from Indonesia. Arabic numbers in red denote the lineages.

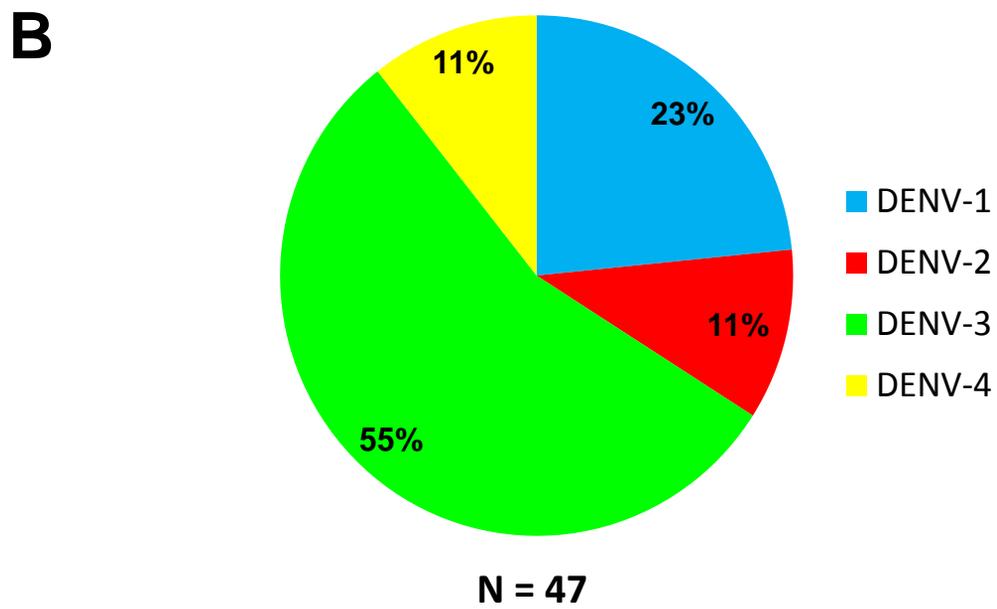
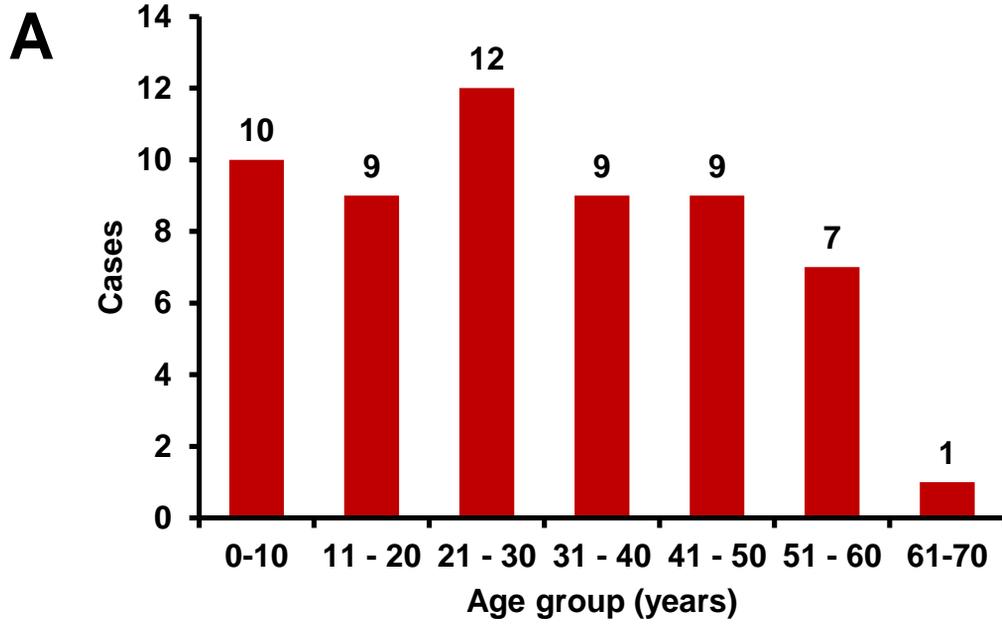


Figure 2

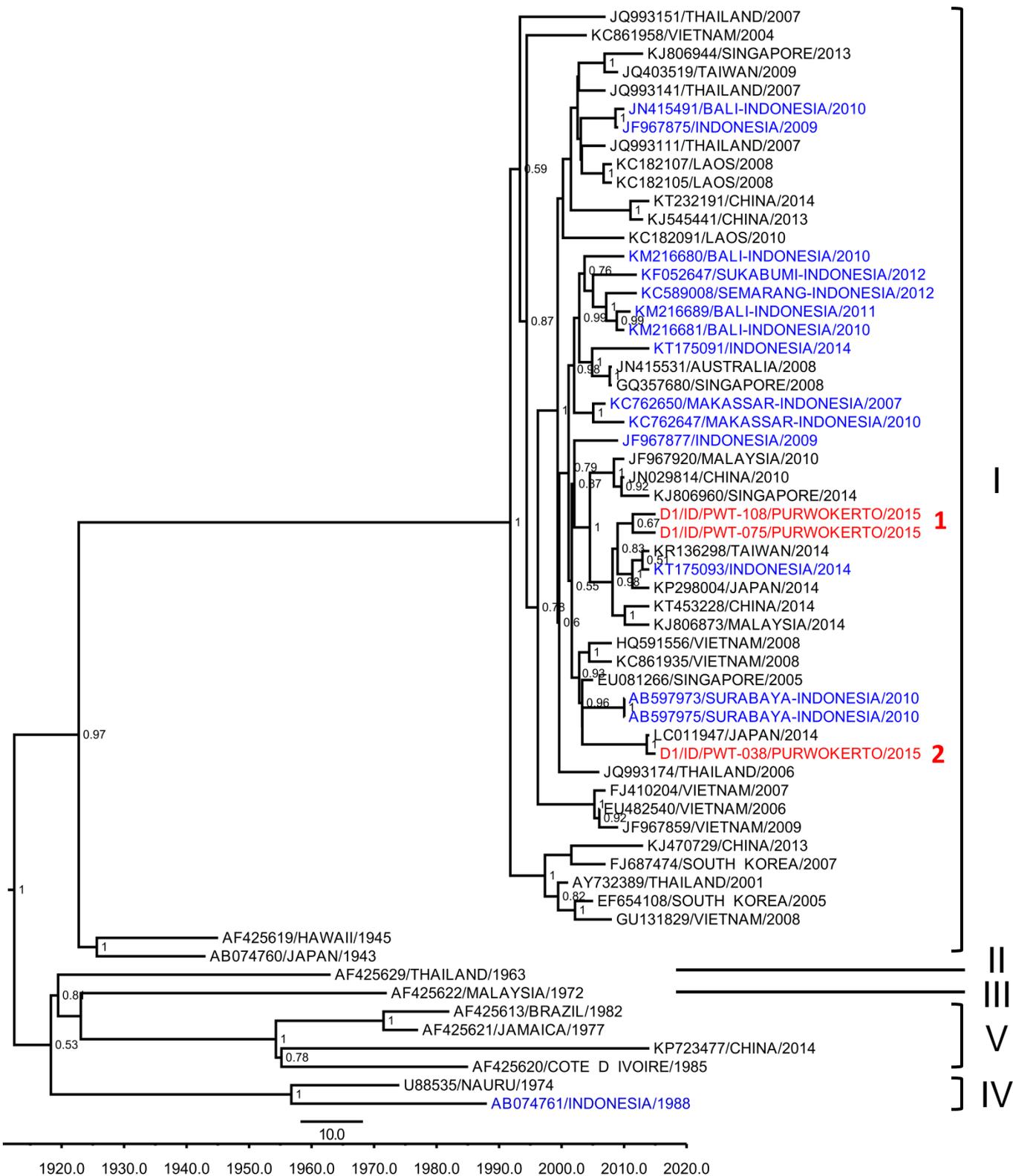


Figure 3

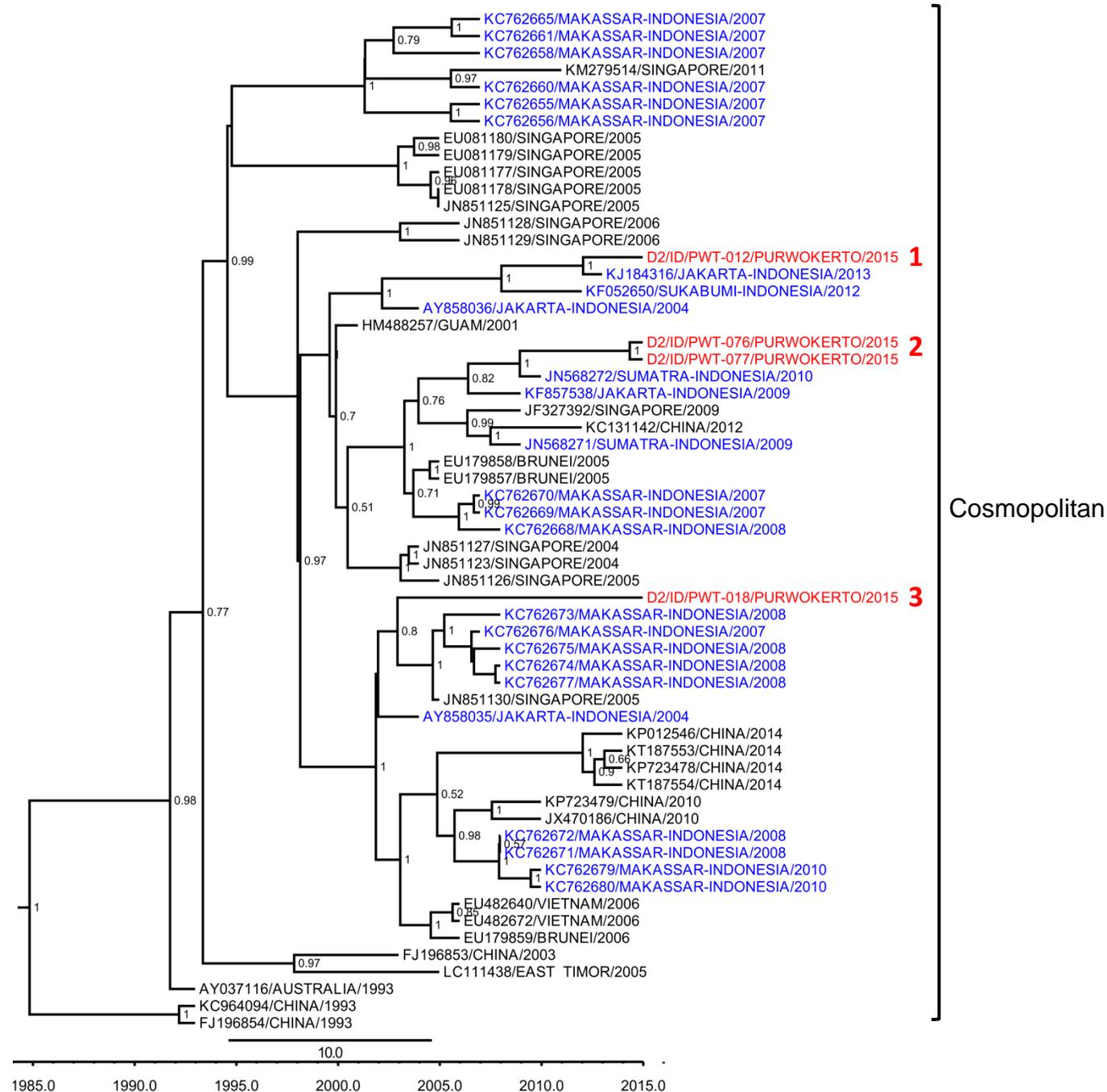




Figure 5

