

**DIVERSITY AND ECOLOGY OF FUNGI
ASSOCIATED WITH TERMITES OF
DIFFERENT FEEDING AND NESTING GROUP
AT PULAU TIGA, SABAH.**

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**PERPUSTAKAAN
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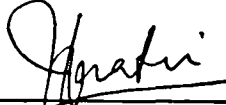


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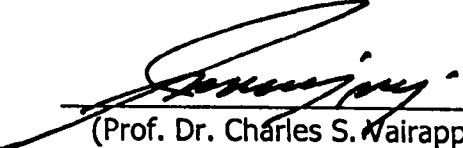
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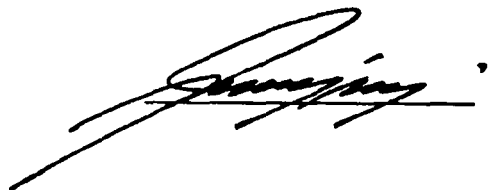
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ABSTRACT

The main objectives were to isolate and identify fungi from nest material and gut of three different termite species (*Macrotermes gilvus*, *Dicuspitermes nemorosus* and *Microcerotermes dubius*) and to screen bioactive compound extracted from the selected isolated fungi. 365 pure isolates strains were successfully isolated from 2835 isolation by using Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA), Malt extract-Yeast extract Agar (MEA) and Carboxymethyl Cellulose (CMC) agar. Of these, 165 (45.21%) pure strains were isolated from *Macrotermes gilvus*, 136 (37.26%) from *Dicuspitermes* sp. and 64 (17.53%) from *Microcerotermes dubius*. In detail, 29 (7.95%) isolates from *Macrotermes gilvus* guts, 79 (21.64%) isolates from mounds material and 57 (15.62%) isolates from fungus combs. For *Dicuspitermes* sp., 48 (13.15%) isolates from guts and 88 (24.10%) isolates from nest material. For *Microcerotermes dubius*, 34 (9.32%) isolates from guts and 30 (8.22%) isolates from nest materials. Fifty eight different species of fungus were identified (*Aspergillus clavatus*, *A. flavus*, *A. nidulans*, *A. niger*, *A. ochraceus*, *A. oryzae*, *A. penicillioides*, *Penicillium brevicompactum*, *P. chrysogenum*, *P. citrinum*, *P. citrinum* complex, *P. glaucum*, *Penicillium* spp., *Oidium* sp., *Helminthosporium* sp., *Paecilomyces lilacinus*, *Paecilomyces* sp., *Trichoderma harzianum*, *Trichoderma* sp., *Botrydipodia theobromae*, *Altenaria* sp., *Beauveria* sp., *Chaetomium* sp., *Cylindrocladium* sp., *Gliocladium* sp., *Humicola* spp., *Pestalotiopsis* sp., *Phomopsis* sp., *Scedosporium* sp., *Trichothecium* sp. and *Verticillium* sp.). Prominent morphological characteristics were highlighted in species description. In this study, 45 isolates were found to possess cellulolytic ability and the largest yellow halo zone shows are 63mm in diameter. Further, 33 isolates were found showing strong antimicrobial activity against *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Salmonella enteritidis*, *A. niger*, *A. flavus* and *A. parasiticus*. The study showed that the particular fungi isolated from termite gut and nest materials have cellulolytic activity and also some can inhibit the growth of some pathogenic fungi and bacteria.

Key words: Termite, Fungi, Isolate, Cellulolytic activity, Antimicrobial

ABSTRAK

KEPELBAGAIAN DAN EKOLOGI KULAT BERSEKUTU DENGAN ANAI-ANAI DARI KUMPULAN PEMAKAN DAN SARANG YANG BERBEZA DI PULAU TIGA, SABAH

Objektif utama kajian ini adalah untuk mengasingkan kulat, mengenalpastikan spesies kulat dan menyaringkan kulat berprestasi bioaktif daripada usus/perut dan bahan-bahan dalam sarang anai-anai yang berbeza species (*Macrotermes gilvus*, *Dicuspiditermes nemorosus* dan *Microcerotermes dubius*). Jumlah 2835 plat telah digunakan untuk perasingan kulat kali pertama yang menggunakan dan sebanyak 365 kulat tulen telah diasingkan daripada tiga species anai-anai Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA), Malt extract-Yeast extract Agar (MEA) and Carboxymethyl Cellulose (CMC) agar. Daripada 365 kulat tulen tersebut, 165 (45.21%) adalah dari *Macrotermes gilvus*, 136 (37.26%) dari *Dicuspiditermes nemorosus* dan 64 (17.53%) dari *Microcerotermes dubius*. Secara terperinci, 29 (7.59%) kulat tulen adalah diasingkan dari usus/perut *Macrotermes gilvus*, 79 (21.64%) dari bahan busuk *Macrotermes gilvus* dan 57 (15.62%) dari taman kulat *Macrotermes gilvus*. Bagi *Dicuspiditermes nemorosus* pula, 48 (13.15%) kulat tulen adalah dari usus/perut and 88 (24.10%) dari bahan sarang anai-anai. Manakala bagi *Microcerotermes dubius*, 34 (9.32%) kulat tulen adalah dari usus/perut dan 30 (8.22%) dari bahan sarang anai-anai. Sejumlah 57 species kulat telah dikenalpastikan (*Aspergillus clavatus*, *A. flavus*, *A. nidulans*, *A. niger*, *A. ochraceus*, *A. oryzae*, *Penicillium brevicompactum*, *P. chrysogenum*, *P. citrinum*, *P. citrinum complex*, *P. glaucum*, *Penicillium spp.*, *Oidium sp.*, *Helminthosporium sp.*, *Paecilomyces lilacinus*, *Paecilomyces sp.*, *Trichoderma harzianum*, *Trichoderma sp.*, *Botrydiplodia theobromae*, *Altenaria sp.*, *Beauveria sp.*, *Chaetomium sp.*, *Cylindrocladium sp.*, *Gliocladium sp.*, *Humicola spp.*, *Pestalotiopsis sp.*, *Phomopsis sp.*, *Scedosporium sp.*, *Trichothecium sp.* and *Verticillium sp.*). Ciri-ciri morfologi utama kulat yang dikenal pasti telah dicatat dan diuraikan. Dalam kajian ini, jumlah 45 kulat tulen didapati mempunyai potensi untuk menghasilkan enzim selulosa untuk mencernakan selulosa. Zon halo yang paling aktif bagi aktiviti selulosa adalah sebanyak 63mm dalam diameter. Selain itu, 33 kulat tulen didapati mempunyai aktiviti antimikrob yang kuat terhadap *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Salmonella enteritidis*, *A. niger*, *A. flavus* dan *A. parasiticus*. Secara kesimpulannya, kajian ini menunjukkan sebahagian kulat yang diasingkan daripada anai-anai mempunyai potensi untuk mencernakan selulosa dan juga ada potensi untuk menghalang pertumbuhan sesetengah species kulat dan bakteria patogenik.

Kata kunci: Anai-anai, Kulat, Mengasingkan, Aktiviti selulosa, Antimikrob

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
TITLE	i
DECLARATION	ii
CERTIFICATION	iii
AKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
ABSTRACT	v
<i>ABSTRAK</i>	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
LIST OF TABLES	xii
LIST OF FIGURES	xiii
LIST OF PHOTOS	xv
LIST OF PLATES	xvi
LIST OF EXPRESSIONS	xix
LIST OF APPENDIX	xx
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Termites	1
1.2 Microbes	2
1.2.1 Fungi	2
1.2.2 Actinomycetes and Bacteria	3
1.3 Symbiosis	4
1.4 Research justification	6
1.5 Objectives of study	7
CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Termites	8
2.1.1 Importance of Termite	8
2.1.2 Trophic Group	9
2.1.3 Nesting group	12
2.1.4 Taxonomic Classification of Blattodea: Termitoidae in Borneo	13
2.1.5 Lower Termite	13
2.1.6 Higher Termite	14
2.2 Microbes	15
2.2.1 Fungi	15
2.2.2 Actinomycetes	16
2.3 Microbes as Host of Insects Particularly Termites	16
2.4 Symbiotic Relationships	17

2.5	Bioactive Properties	20
2.6	Pathogenic Microbes	21

CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

3.1	Study Area	23
3.2	Samples Collection	24
3.3	Media for Fungi Cultivation and Preparation	24
3.4	Isolation of fungi	25
	3.4.1 Termites Nest/Mound Materials and Fungus Comb	25
	3.4.2 Termites Gut	26
	3.4.3 Pure Culture of Fungi	27
3.5	Sample Identification	27
	3.5.1 Morphology of Fungi	27
	3.5.2 Termite Identification	28
3.6	Biological Assay	28
	3.6.1 Antagonistic Test (Antimicrobial Potential)	28
	3.6.2 Cellulolytic Activity Screening	29
3.7	Abiotic Study of Nest/Mound Materials	29
3.8	Statistical Analyses	30
	3.8.1 Data Analyses	30
	3.8.2 Fungi Diversity	30

CHAPTER 4: RESULTS

4.1	Diversity of Termites at Pulau Tiga	32
	4.1.1 Termites Species in This Study	32
	4.1.2 Termite's Nest/Mound and Fungus Comb	34
4.2	Diversity of Fungi	38
	4.2.1 Isolation of Fungi from Termite's Gut	39
	4.2.2 Isolation of Fungi from Termite's Mound/ Nest Materials	39
4.3	Shannon-Weiner Diversity Index and Evenness	45
4.4	Biological Assays	45
	4.4.1 Antimicrobial Potential of Selected Fungi	45
	4.4.2 Cellulolytic Activity	53
4.5	Ecology	56
	4.5.1 Soil Analysis	57
4.6	Morphological studies of Identified Fungi	58
	4.6.1 <i>Aspergillus clavatus</i> (JKM059), PDA	63
	4.6.2 <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> (JKM088), PDA	64
	4.6.3 <i>Aspergillus nidulans</i> (JKM074), PDA	65
	4.6.4 <i>Aspergillus niger</i> (JKM055), PDA	66
	4.6.5 <i>Aspergillus ochraceous</i> (JKM063), PDA	67
	4.6.6 <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i> (JKM238) , PDA	68
	4.6.7 <i>Aspergillus paraciticus</i> (JKS136), PDA	69
	4.6.8 <i>Aspergillus sulphureus</i> (JKS199), PDA	70
	4.6.9 <i>Aspergillus</i> sp. (JKS187), MYA	71
	4.6.10 <i>Penicillium brevicompactum</i> (JKM057), PDA	72
	4.6.11 <i>Penicillium chrysogenum</i> (JKM001), PDA	73

4.6.12 <i>Penicillium citrinum</i> (JKM109), PDA	74
4.6.13 <i>Penicillium citrinum</i> complex (JKM077), MYA	75
4.6.14 <i>Penicillium glaucum</i> (JKM272), PDA	76
4.6.15 <i>Penicillium glaucum</i> variant 1 (JKM058), PDA	77
4.6.16 <i>Penicillium glaucum</i> variant 2 (JKM070), PDA	78
4.6.17 <i>Penicillium glaucum</i> variant 3 (JKM273), PDA	79
4.6.18 <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 12 (JKM270), PDA	80
4.6.19 <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 10 (JKM107), MYA	81
4.6.20 <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 2 (JKM025), MYA	82
4.6.21 <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 6 (JKM060), PDA	83
4.6.22 <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 8 (JKM078), MYA	84
4.6.23 <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 21 (JKS192), MYA	85
4.6.24 <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 3 (JKM032), MYA	86
4.6.25 <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 11 (JKM268), PDA	87
4.6.26 <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 9 (JKM079) sexual stage, MYA	88
4.6.27 <i>Altenaria</i> sp. 1 (JKM071), PDA	89
4.6.28 <i>Altenaria</i> sp. 2 (JKM266), PDA	90
4.6.29 <i>Beauveria</i> sp. (JKM021), MYA	91
4.6.30 <i>Botrydiplodia theobromae</i> (JKM039), PDA	92
4.6.31 <i>Cylindrocladium</i> sp. 1 (JKM082), MYA	93
4.6.32 <i>Cylindrocladium</i> sp. 2 (JKM080), MYA	94
4.6.33 <i>Chaetomium</i> sp. (JKM102), MYA	95
4.6.34 <i>Gliocladium</i> sp. 1 (JKM019), MYA	96
4.6.35 <i>Gliocladium</i> sp. 2 (JKM072), PDA	97
4.6.36 <i>Helminthosporium</i> sp. (JKM003), PDA	98
4.6.37 <i>Humicola</i> sp. 1 (JKM036), PDA	99
4.6.38 <i>Humicola</i> sp. 2 (JKM037), PDA	100
4.6.39 <i>Oidium</i> sp. (JKM002), PDA	101
4.6.40 <i>Paecilomyces lilacinus</i> (JKM008), PDA	102
4.6.41 <i>Paecilomyces</i> sp. (JKM069), PDA	103
4.6.42 <i>Pestalotiopsis</i> sp. (JKM030), MYA	104
4.6.43 <i>Phomopsis</i> sp. (JKM067), PDA	105
4.6.44 <i>Scedosporium</i> sp. 1 (JKM050), MYA	106
4.6.45 <i>Scedosporium</i> sp. 2 (JKM099), PDA	107
4.6.46 Sterile mycelia (JKM256), PDA	108
4.6.47 <i>Trichoderma harzianum</i> (JKM011), PDA	109
4.6.48 <i>Trichoderma</i> sp. (JKM066), PDA	110
4.6.49 <i>Trichothecium</i> sp. (JKM042), MYA	111
4.6.50 <i>Verticillium</i> sp. (JKM061), PDA	112

CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION

5.1	Microbes Occurrence	113
5.1.1	Occurrence of Microbes from Termite Guts	114
5.1.2	Occurrence of Microbes from Termite Nests/ Mounds Materials	116
5.2	Effect of Medium	117
5.3	Morphological Identification	118
5.4	Antimicrobes and Antagonistic Test Analysis	122

5.5	Abiotic Effects	122
CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION		125
REFERENCES		127
APPENDIX A		137
APPENDIX B		138
APPENDIX C		139
APPENDIX D		140
APPENDIX E		141
APPENDIX F		142
APPENDIX G		143
APPENDIX H		144
APPENDIX I		145
APPENDIX J		146
APPENDIX K		147
APPENDIX L		148
APPENDIX M		149
APPENDIX N		150
APPENDIX O		151
APPENDIX P		152
APPENDIX Q		153
APPENDIX R		154
APPENDIX S		155
APPENDIX T		156
APPENDIX U		157
APPENDIX V		158
APPENDIX W		159
APPENDIX X		160
APPENDIX Y		161

LIST OF TABLES

		Page
Table 3.1:	Total numbers of plates used for first screening.	27
Table 4.1:	List of termite species collected from Pulau Tiga using two standardised transects.	33
Table 4.2:	Number of samples collected from Pulau Tiga Park.	34
Table 4.3:	List of frequency of occurrence of identified fungi species isolated from fungus comb of <i>Macrotermes gilvus</i> .	46
Table 4.4:	List of frequency of occurrence of identified fungi species isolated from nests/mounds of <i>Macrotermes gilvus</i> , <i>Dicupiditermes nemorosus</i> and <i>Microcerotermes dubius</i> .	47
Table 4.5:	List of frequency of occurrence of identified fungi species isolated from guts of <i>Macrotermes gilvus</i> , <i>Dicupiditermes nemorosus</i> and <i>Microcerotermes dubius</i> .	49
Table 4.6:	Shannon-Weiner Diversity Index and Evenness of fungi isolated from three different species of termites.	50
Table 4.7:	Antibacterial activity of selected fungi against <i>Escherichia coli</i> , <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> and <i>Salmonella enteritidis</i> .	51
Table 4.8:	Antifungal activity of selected fungi against <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> , <i>Aspergillus niger</i> and <i>Aspergillus parasiticus</i> .	52
Table 4.9:	Abiotic data of Nest and Mound materials.	56
Table 4.10:	Major characteristic used for identification of fungi species.	59

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 3.1: Location and sampling site, Pulau Tiga Park, Sabah, North Borneo, Malaysia.	23
Figure 4.1: Total number of pure isolates strains from termite guts, nests/mounds material and fungus combs of <i>Macrotermes gilvus</i> , <i>Dicuspitermes nemorosus</i> and <i>Microcerotermes dubius</i> .	40
Figure 4.2: The frequency of occurrence of identified fungi isolated from combs of <i>Macrotermes gilvus</i> .	41
Figure 4.3: The frequency of occurrence of identified fungi isolated from mounds of <i>Macrotermes gilvus</i> .	41
Figure 4.4: The frequency of occurrence of identified fungi isolated from guts of <i>Macrotermes gilvus</i> .	42
Figure 4.5: The frequency of occurrence of identified fungi isolated from nests of <i>Dicuspitermes nemorosus</i> .	43
Figure 4.6: The frequency of occurrence of identified fungi isolated from from guts of <i>Dicuspitermes nemorosus</i> .	43
Figure 4.7: The frequency of occurrence of identified fungi isolated from nests of <i>Microcerotermes dubius</i> .	44
Figure 4.8: The frequency of occurrence of identified fungi isolated from guts of <i>Microcerotermes dubius</i> .	44
Figure 4.9: Enzymatic index (EI) of selected fungi isolated from <i>Microcerotermes dubius</i> nests.	53
Figure 4.10: Enzymatic index (EI) of selected fungi isolated from <i>Microcerotermes dubius</i> guts.	54
Figure 4.11: Enzymatic index (EI) of selected fungi isolated from <i>Dicuspitermes nemorosus</i> nests.	54
Figure 4.12: Enzymatic index (EI) of selected fungi isolated from <i>Dicuspitermes nemorosus</i> guts.	55

Figure 4.13: Enzymatic index (EI) of selected fungi isolated from <i>Macrotermes gilvus</i> mounds.	55
Figure 4.14: Enzymatic index (EI) of selected fungi isolated from <i>Macrotermes gilvus</i> nests and combs.	56

LIST OF PHOTOS

	Page
Photo 4.1: (a) Soldier of <i>Microcerotermes dubius</i> (Wood-feeder); (b) Soldier of <i>Dicuspiditermes nemorosus</i> (Soil-feeder); (c) Major and Minor Soldier of <i>Macrotermetermes gilvus</i> (Fungus-grower).	35
Photo 4.2: (a-c) Tower shaped Mounds/nests of soil-feeder, <i>Dicuspiditermes nemorosus</i> ; (d-f) Internal structure of soil-feeder's nests, hatched young, young immature and mature forms of termites in white from some stages and some castes.	36
Photo 4.3: (a-c) Spiky's nests of wood-feeder, <i>Microcerotermes dubius</i> on trees; (d-f) Internal structure of wood-feeder's nests, hatched young, young immature and mature forms of termites in white from some stages and some castes.	37
Photo 4.4: (a-c) Mounds of fungus-feeder, <i>Macrotermes gilvus</i> ; (d-f) Fungus combs that built, grow, and feed by fungus-feeder and the termites of <i>Macrotermes gilvus</i> .	38

LIST OF PLATE

		Page
4.6.1	<i>Aspergillus clavatus</i> (JKM059), PDA	63
4.6.2	<i>Aspergillus flavus</i> (JKM088), PDA	64
4.6.3	<i>Aspergillus nidulans</i> (JKM074), PDA	65
4.6.4	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> (JKM055), PDA	66
4.6.5	<i>Aspergillus ochraceous</i> (JKM063), PDA	67
4.6.6	<i>Aspergillus oryzae</i> (JKM238) , PDA	68
4.6.7	<i>Aspergillus paraciticus</i> (JKS136), PDA	69
4.6.8	<i>Aspergillus sulphureus</i> (JKS199), PDA	70
4.6.9	<i>Aspergillus</i> sp. (JKS187), MYA	71
4.6.10	<i>Penicillium brevicompactum</i> (JKM057), PDA	72
4.6.11	<i>Penicillium chrysogenum</i> (JKM001), PDA	73
4.6.12	<i>Penicillium citrinum</i> (JKM109), PDA	74
4.6.13	<i>Penicillium citrinum</i> complex (JKM077), MYA	75
4.6.14	<i>Penicillium glaucum</i> (JKM272), PDA	76
4.6.15	<i>Penicillium glaucum</i> variant 1 (JKM058), PDA	77
4.6.16	<i>Penicillium glaucum</i> variant 2 (JKM070), PDA	78
4.6.17	<i>Penicillium glaucum</i> variant 3 (JKM273), PDA	79
4.6.18	<i>Penicillium</i> sp. 12 (JKM270), PDA	80
4.6.19	<i>Penicillium</i> sp. 10 (JKM107), MYA	81
4.6.20	<i>Penicillium</i> sp. 2 (JKM025), MYA	82

4.6.21	<i>Penicillium</i> sp. 6 (JKM060), PDA	83
4.6.22	<i>Penicillium</i> sp. 8 (JKM078), MYA	84
4.6.23	<i>Penicillium</i> sp. 21 (JKS192), MYA	85
4.6.24	<i>Penicillium</i> sp. 3 (JKM032), MYA	86
4.6.25	<i>Penicillium</i> sp. 11 (JKM268), PDA	87
4.6.26	<i>Penicillium</i> sp. 9 (JKM079) sexual stage, MYA	88
4.6.27	<i>Altenaria</i> sp. 1 (JKM071), PDA	89
4.6.28	<i>Altenaria</i> sp. 2 (JKM266), PDA	90
4.6.29	<i>Beauveria</i> sp. (JKM021), MYA	91
4.6.30	<i>Botrydipodia theobromae</i> (JKM039), PDA	92
4.6.31	<i>Cylindrocladium</i> sp. 1 (JKM082), MYA	93
4.6.32	<i>Cylindrocladium</i> sp. 2 (JKM080), MYA	94
4.6.33	<i>Chaetomium</i> sp. (JKM102), MYA	95
4.6.34	<i>Gliocladium</i> sp. 1 (JKM019), MYA	96
4.6.35	<i>Gliocladium</i> sp. 2 (JKM072), PDA	97
4.6.36	<i>Helminthosporium</i> sp. (JKM003), PDA	98
4.6.37	<i>Humicola</i> sp. 1 (JKM036), PDA	99
4.6.38	<i>Humicola</i> sp. 2 (JKM037), PDA	100
4.6.39	<i>Oidium</i> sp. (JKM002), PDA	101
4.6.40	<i>Paecilomyces lilacinus</i> (JKM008), PDA	102
4.6.41	<i>Paecilomyces</i> sp. (JKM069), PDA	103
4.6.42	<i>Pestalotiopsis</i> sp. (JKM030), MYA	104
4.6.43	<i>Phomopsis</i> sp. (JKM067), PDA	105

4.6.44	<i>Scedosporium</i> sp. 1 (JKM050), MYA	106
4.6.45	<i>Scedosporium</i> sp. 2 (JKM099), PDA	107
4.6.46	Sterile mycelia (JKM256), PDA	108
4.6.47	<i>Trichoderma harzianum</i> (JKM011), PDA	109
4.6.48	<i>Trichoderma</i> sp. (JKM066), PDA	110
4.6.49	<i>Trichothecium</i> sp. (JKM042), MYA	111
4.6.50	<i>Verticillium</i> sp. (JKM061), PDA	112

LIST OF EXPRESSION

	Page
Expression 3.1: Enzymatic index (EI)	29
Expression 3.2: Water content	29
Expression 3.3: Diversity (H')	30
Expression 3.4: Evenness (J)	31
Expression 3.5: H' max	31

LIST OF APPENDIX

	Page
Appendix A	137
Appendix B	138
Appendix C	139
Appendix D	140
Appendix E	141
Appendix F	142
Appendix G	143

Appendix H	Antagonistic test of selected fungi against <i>Escherichia coli</i> – CSVLB120111P04, <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> – CSVLB120111P09 and <i>Salmonella enteritidis</i> – CSVLB120111P05.	144
Appendix I	Cellulolytic activities of selected fungi from <i>Microcerotermes dubius</i> and the yellow halo (clear zone) in CMC agar.	145
Appendix J	Cellulolytic activities of selected fungi from <i>Dicuspидitermes nemorosus</i> and the yellow halo (clear zone) in CMC agar.	146
Appendix K	Cellulolytic activities of selected fungi from <i>Macrotermes gilvus</i> and the yellow halo (clear zone) in CMC agar.	147
Appendix L	Plate 51: <i>Aspergillus</i> sp. 1 Plate 52: <i>Curvularia</i> sp.	148
Appendix M	Plate 53: <i>Cylindrocarpon</i> sp. Plate 54: <i>Humicola</i> sp. 3	149
Appendix N	Plate 55: <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 1 Plate 56: <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 4	150
Appendix O	Plate 57: <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 5 Plate 58: <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 7	151
Appendix P	Plate 59: <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 13 Plate 60: <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 14	152
Appendix Q	Plate 61: <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 15 Plate 62: <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 16	153
Appendix R	Plate 63: <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 17 Plate 64: <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 18	154
Appendix S	Plate 65: <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 19 Plate 66: <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 20	155
Appendix T	Plate 67: <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 22 Plate 68: <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 23	156

Appendix U	Plate 69: <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 24 Plate 70: <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 25	157
Appendix V	Plate 71: <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 26 Plate 72: <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 27	158
Appendix W	Plate 73: <i>Penicillium</i> sp. 28 Plate 74: <i>Sporothrix</i> sp.	159
Appendix X	The correlation of abiotic data and number of isolation	160
Appendix Y	Number of pure isolates fungi from guts and mounds/ nests of three different termite species.	161

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Termites

"Termites", normally people see them as a pest species that destroy woody structure in our house and as pest in the agriculture field. Actually termites can be viewed in a positive and negative ways. They benefit the environment and at the same time can become a pest in disturbed habitat. Termites are among the most important decomposer group in tropical rainforests. Termites are also major contributors to the biodegradation of lignocelluloses and hemicelluloses in tropical areas (Lee & Wood, 1971). The type of species present and their feeding groups as well as nesting behaviour determine their function. They are social insects and classified at the taxonomic rank of order Blattodea: Termitoidae (Joshua, 2013; Soohyun, Antoine, Panagiotis, Dong-Chan, Oh and Michael, 2013) and shared a common ancestor with cockroach in the evolutionary tree. Phylogenetically termites are closely related to cockroach compared to ants (Bignell & Eggleton, 1998), as evidence shows that termites are derived from the primitive group of wood-dwelling cockroach, while all ants are eusocial insect. In the past, termites are classified at the order of Isoptera. They have male and female workers and unlike most social insects, they are diploid rather than haplodiploid. Often they have a king and a queen in a colony. Most of the termites feed on dead wood, leaf litter, soil, or even animals dung. Termites are a major decomposer particularly in tropical ecosystem and their role of recycling wood and other plant matter are considered ecologically important (Wood & Sands, 1978). And termites are also important in regulating the flow of energy in the tropical ecosystem (Collins, 1983; Lawton, Bignell, Bloemers, Eggleton, and Hodda, 1996).

Termites can be divided into seven families which are Mastotermitidae, Hodotermitidae, Termopsidae, Serritermitidae, Kalotermitidae, Rhinotermitidae and Termitidae. Overall termites are divided into 14 subfamilies, 280 genera and about

2650 species (Kambhampati & Eggleton, 2000; Kambhampati, Kjer, and Thorne, 1996). But only four families (Kalotermitidae, Rhinotermitidae, Stylotermitidae and Termitidae) recorded in Borneo and three families in Peninsula Malaysia (Kalotermitidae, Rhinotermitidae and Termitidae) (Collins, 1988; Thapa, 1981; Tho, 1992). Of these four families, about 104 species of 33 genera were recorded in Sabah (Thapa, 1981). And about 323 species of 52 genera were recorded in the Indo-Malayan region (Tho, 1992).

Termites are also divided into, 'lower termites' and 'higher termites' based on the composition of the symbiont micro-biota in the gut (Homathevi & Noel Tawatao, 2003). And only Termitidae is grouped into higher termites. There are five functional groups for termites, which are wood feeder, soil feeder, wood and soil interface feeder, micro-epiphyte feeder and litter feeder (De Souza & Brown, 1994; Eggleton & Bignell, 1995; Eggleton, Bignell, Sands, Mawdsley, Lawton, Wood, and Bignell, 1996).

1.2 Microbes

1.2.1 Fungi

Fungi are enormous group in micro and macro organism's world and widely distributed in the world. Fungi can be found in the air, water, on land, in soil, on or even in plants and animals. There are about 100,000 known species of organisms of the kingdom fungi out of about 1.5 million species estimated on earth (Hawksworth, 1991).

Fungi are extraordinary which are neither plants, nor animals. They lack of chlorophyll, so they can grow independently without sunlight. Fungi can exist in single form or multi-cell form and can be found in moulds or imperfect form. Fungi are formed with filaments known as hyphae. Spores are important for fungi of which produced spores at the mature stage for reproduction (Choo, 2009).

Fungi are one of the most important groups of organisms on this planet, both in terms of their ecological and economic roles. By breaking down dead

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