

**EFFICACY OF MICROBIAL APPROACHES IN
CONTROLLING *Ganoderma boninense* Pat AND
THEIR EFFECT ON SOIL MICROBIAL DIVERSITY**



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UMS
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH

**SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH**

2014

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ARNNYITTE ALEXANDER



THIS IS SUBMITTED IN FULFILLMENT

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2014

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the material in this thesis is my own except for quotations, excerpts, equations, summaries and reference, which have been duly acknowledged.

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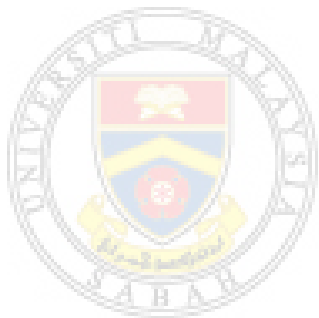
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ABSTRACT

Basal Stem Rot (BSR) is the most destructive disease of oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis* Jacq.) which caused by bracket fungus; *Ganoderma boninense*. With no remedy to date, this disease has jeopardized the industry of oil palm critically. Several approaches including cultural, chemical, mechanical and biological measures have been reported in attempt to control this disease, but unfortunately, none have given satisfactory result. Therefore, a more reliable approach that could manage this disease, besides a continuous and sustainable oil palm production is worth to be further investigated. Introduction of microbes in disease management have been used for decades. An astute observation of low incidence of disease due to *Ganoderma* pathogen in natural ecosystem suggests that a healthy natural ecosystem can hinder the incidence of *Ganoderma* pathogen outbreak. In this respect, study on the potential of microbes in suppressing the growth of *Ganoderma boninense* and its effect to the soil microbial diversity were investigated in this project. Three microbes-based products which are Living Soil Microbes (LSM), Agrinos (AGN) and Agriorganica (AO) were tested in this study. LSM contains multi-strain of *Bacillus* spp. and *Trichoderma* spp., whereas AGN consist of *Bacillus* spp., *Pseudomonas* spp. and *Aspergillus* sp. Meanwhile, AO comprises of three living food microbes which are *Lactobacillus*, *Nattobacillus* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* developed from Japanese fermentation and brewing technology. To examine the ability of the treatments in reducing BSR disease incidence, assessments in nursery and field trial were conducted. The results from both trials showed that LSM, AGN and AO were able to reduce the colonization of *G. boninense* based on the reduction of ergosterol content compared to untreated control. Based on the nursery results in prevention of *Ganoderma* colonization trial, after two months interval, LSM and AO showed greater reduction of ergosterol content with $1.991 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ and $1.994 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ respectively, however LSM recorded the lowest Disease Incidence (DI) with only 30%. After four months interval, LSM and AGN showed greater reduction in ergosterol content with $2.261 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ and $2.214 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ respectively, however, AGN and AO had the lower DI with 60%. Meanwhile, based on the results in suppression of *Ganoderma* colonization trial, after two months of interval, all treatments successfully reduced the ergosterol content and DI within the time frame. After four months interval, all treatments showed an increment in DI, however, LSM had the lowest ergosterol content which is $2.388 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$. Meanwhile, assessment in the field trial showed that both LSM and AO had significantly reduced the amount of ergosterol to $0.663 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ and $1.817 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$. Both LSM and AO also successfully reduced the DI down to 12% and 24% respectively. The effect of the application of microbial products to the soil microbial community was evaluated based on the isolation using Colony Forming Unit (CFU) and later identification using Biolog and molecular techniques. The numbers of CFU for bacteria and yeast after application of these microbes remain unchanged, which

were varied between 10^4 to 10^6 cfu/g and 10^2 to 10^5 cfu/g of soil respectively. However, the number of CFU for fungi was increased up to 10^4 cfu/g of soil. Identification based on Biolog and sequence homology technique shows that new species arose and overcome the predominated species after application of these microbes. The new identified species were *Enterobacter* spp., *Microbacterium* spp., *Burkholderia* spp., *Yarrowia* spp., *Paecilomyces* spp., *Neosertoya* spp. etc. *In vitro* antagonistic assay of microbial treatments showed that only LSM has the activity against *G. boninense* (Percentage Inhibition of Radial Growth, PIRG=70%). Observation under Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) showed that *Ganoderma* mycelium was highly disrupted and lysed after exposure to LSM treatment. Potential bioactive component produced by LSM during this interaction which inhibiting the growth of *G. boninense* was further investigated via Reverse Phase-High Performance Liquid Chromatography (RP-HPLC) and Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (LCMS). Several potential antimicrobes compounds were detected including Pyrene-1,6-dione, 12-Deoxyaklanonic acid, N-Methyl- α -aminoisobutyric acid, 4-O-8',5''-5'-Dehydrotriferulic acid, Halstoctacosanolide A, N-acetyl-leu-leu-tyr-amide, Methenamine, 12-oxo-10Z-dodecenoic acid, Gly-Met-OH and Lovastatin. These metabolites may probably contribute on the antagonistic effect of LSM microbes against *G. boninense*. This study showed that the use of biological control agents (BCAs) give promising results in controlling *G. boninense* under different level and environment. The use of BCAs could offer an alternatives for the use of fungicide and it may well be worth to be looked in more detail into the potential of BCAs for its future prospects in agriculture.

Keywords: basal stem rot, microbial approach, *Ganoderma boninense*, soil microbes, antagonist

ABSTRAK

KEBERKESANAN PENGGUNAAN MIKROB DALAM MENGAWAL *Ganoderma boninense* Pat DAN KESANNYA TERHADAP KEPELBAGAIAN MIKROB DALAM TANAH

Reput Pangkal Batang (RPB) ialah penyakit paling memudaratkan pokok kelapa sawit (*Elaeis guineensis* Jacq.) yang mana disebabkan oleh sejenis kulat; *Ganoderma boninense*. Penyakit ini telah merugikan industri kelapa sawit dengan teruk dan sehingga kini, tiada langkah yang mampu memulihkan jangkitan ini. Beberapa pendekatan termasuk langkah kultura, kimia, mekanikal dan biologi telah dilaporkan dalam percubaan untuk mengawal penyakit ini, tetapi malangnya, tiada yang mampu memberikan hasil memuaskan. Oleh itu, satu pendekatan yang lebih teliti mungkin mampu mengawal penyakit ini, di samping pengeluaran hasil kelapa sawit yang berterusan dan mapan adalah wajar untuk dikaji. Penggunaan mikrob dalam pengurusan penyakit telah digunakan selama berdekad lamanya. Satu kajian mendapati bahawa kadar penyakit disebabkan oleh patogen *Ganoderma* dalam ekosistem semulajadi adalah rendah dan ini menandakan bahawa ekosistem semulajadi mampu menghalang insiden wabak patogen *Ganoderma*. Oleh itu, kajian terhadap potensi mikrob dalam mengurangkan penyakit RPB dan kesannya ke atas kepelbagaian mikrob dalam tanah telah dijalankan. Tiga produk berasaskan mikrob iaitu Living Soil Microbes (LSM), Agrinos (AGN) dan Agriorganica (AO) telah diuji dalam kajian ini. LSM mengandungi pelbagai strain *Bacillus* spp. dan *Trichoderma* spp., manakala AGN terdiri daripada *Bacillus* spp., *Pseudomonas* spp. dan *Aspergillus* sp. Sementara itu, AO terdiri daripada 3 mikrob hidup makanan iaitu *Lactobacillus*, *Nattobacillus* dan *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* yang dihasilkan daripada teknologi penapaian Jepun. Untuk menguji keupayaan rawatan-rawatan tersebut dalam mengurangkan kadar penyakit RPB, percubaan di nurseri dan ladang telah dijalankan. Keputusan daripada kedua-dua percubaan menunjukkan bahawa LSM, AGN dan AO boleh mengurangkan insiden penyakit RPB berdasarkan pengurangan kandungan ergosterol berbanding dengan pokok yang tidak dirawat. Berdasarkan dengan keputusan di dalam percubaan pencegahan jangkitan *Ganoderma* di nurseri, selepas selang dua bulan, LSM dan AO menunjukkan penurunan kandungan ergosterol dengan masing-masing mencatatkan $1.991 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ dan $1.994 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$, namun LSM mencatatkan kejadian jangkitan (KJ) terendah dengan hanya 30% jangkitan. Selepas selang empat bulan, LSM dan AGN menunjukkan kandungan ergosterol terendah dengan masing-masing mencatatkan $2.261 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ dan $2.214 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$, namun, AGN dan AO mencatatkan KJ yang lebih rendah iaitu 60% jangkitan. Manakala berdasarkan dengan keputusan di dalam percubaan pengurangan jangkitan *Ganoderma*, selepas selang dua bulan, semua rawatan menunjukkan penurunan kandungan ergosterol dan KJ yang memberansangkan. Selepas selang

empat bulan, semua rawatan menunjukkan peningkatan KJ yang mendadak, namun LSM menunjukkan kandungan ergosterol terendah iaitu $2.388 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$. Manakala, berdasarkan dengan penilaian di ladang, LSM dan AO menunjukkan pengurangan kandungan ergosterol yang ketara dengan masing-masing mencatatkan $0.663 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ dan $1.817 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$. Kedua-dua rawatan LSM dan AO juga mencatatkan KJ terendah dengan masing-masing mencatat 12% dan 24% jangkitan. Kesan aplikasi rawatan mikrob ke atas kepelbagaian mikrob dalam tanah dinilai berdasarkan kaedah unit pembentukan koloni (UPK) dan seterusnya dikenalpasti menggunakan kaedah Biolog dan teknik molekular. Bilangan koloni bakteria dan yis yang terasing selepas aplikasi rawatan mikrob tidak berubah dengan bacaan masing-masing pada 10^4 sehingga 10^6 koloni/g dan 10^2 sehingga 10^5 koloni/g tanah. Walau bagaimanapun, jumlah bacaan koloni bagi kulat telah meningkat sehingga 10^4 koloni/g tanah. Penegenalpastian mikrob berdasarkan teknik Biolog dan jujukan homologi menunjukkan bahawa terdapat spesis baru yang muncul dan mengatasi spesis dominan selepas pengaplikasian rawatan mikrob ini. Antara spesis-spesis baru yang dikenal pasti adalah *Enterobacter spp.*, *Microbacterium spp.*, *Burkholderia spp.*, *Yarrowia spp.*, *Paecilomyces spp.*, *Neosertoya spp.* dan lain-lain. Pencerakinan antagonis setiap rawatan secara *in vitro* menunjukkan bahawa hanya LSM mempunyai aktiviti dalam melawan *Ganoderma* (Peratus Perencatan Pertumbuhan Radial, PIRG = 70%). Pemerhatian di bawah Mikroskop Pengimbas Elektron (MPE) menunjukkan mycelium *Ganoderma* mengalami gangguan dan pemecahan selepas dirawat dengan LSM. Sebarang komponen bioaktif berpotensi yang dihasilkan oleh LSM semasa interaksi perencatan pertumbuhan *G. boninense* selanjutnya dikaji menggunakan Fasa Berbalik-Kromatografi Cecair Berprestasi Tinggi (FB-KCBT) dan Kromatografi Cecair-Spektrometri Jisim (KCSJ). Beberapa kompon berpotensi antimikrobial yang dikesan termasuk Pyrene-1,6-dione, 12-Deoxyaklanonic acid, N-Methyl- α -aminoisobutyric acid, 4-O-8',5''-5'-Dehydrotriferulic acid, Halstoctacosanolide A, N-acetyl-leu-leu-tyr-amide, Methenamine, 12-oxo-10Z-dodecenoic acid, Gly-Met-OH dan Lovastatin. Komponen-komponen ini berkemungkinan terlibat ke atas kesan antagonis mikrob LSM terhadap *G. boninense*. Kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa penggunaan agen pengawal biocontrol (APB) memberikan keputusan yang memberangsangkan dalam mengawal *G. boninense* di bawah tahap dan persekitaran yang berbeza. Penggunaan APB boleh memberikan alternatif terhadap penggunaan racun kimia dan potensi APB wajar diselidiki lebih mendalam terhadap penggunaannya di masa hadapan dan prospek di dalam pertanian.

Kata kunci: reput pangkal batang, pendekatan mikrob, *Ganoderma boninense*, mikrob tanah, antagonis

LIST OF CONTENTS

	Page
DECLARATION	i
CERTIFICATION	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
ABSTRACT	v
ABSTRAK	vii
CONTENTS	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
LIST OF TABLES	xviii
LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS	xix
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Research objectives	3
CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW	4
2.1 Oil palm	4
2.2 Economic importance of oil palm industry	5
2.3 Pest and diseases of oil palm	6
2.4 Basal Stem Rot	8
2.5 <i>Ganoderma boninense</i>	13
2.5.1 Biology and epidemiology	13
2.5.2 Detection of Basal Stem Rot disease	16
2.6 Current management of <i>Ganoderma</i>	20
2.6.1 Cultural practices	20
2.6.2 Chemical control	22
2.6.3 Development of disease resistance variety	23
2.7 Biological control of plant disease	24

2.7.1	Mycoparasitism	25
2.7.2	Antibiosis	26
2.7.3	Metabolite production	27
2.7.4	Competition	28
2.7.5	Induction of systemic resistance	28
2.8	Biocontrol of <i>G. boninense</i>	29
2.8.1	Bacteria as biocontrol agent against <i>G. boninense</i>	29
2.8.2	Fungal as biocontrol agent against <i>G. boninense</i>	31
2.8.3	Yeast as biocontrol agent against <i>G. boninense</i>	32
2.9	Microbial communities in agricultural soil	32
2.10	Interaction of BCAs with soil microbes	33
2.11	Combined Biological Control Agents	35

CHAPTER 3: ISOLATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF *Ganoderma boninense* FROM SAPI NANGOH PLANTATION

		37
3.1	Introduction	37
3.2	Materials and methods	38
3.2.1	Identification based on <i>Ganoderma</i> Selective Media (GSM)	38
3.2.2	Identification based on PCR/sequence homology	38
3.3	Results	40
3.3.1	Identification of <i>Ganoderma</i> based on GSM	40
3.3.2	Identification of <i>Ganoderma</i> based on PCR/sequence homology	42
3.3.3	BLAST search and Phylogenetic tree construction	44
3.4	Discussion	51
3.5	Conclusion	54

CHAPTER 4: *IN VITRO Ganoderma*-ANTAGONISTS INTERACTION

4.1	Introduction	55
4.2	Materials and Methods	55
4.2.1	Agar well diffusion assay	55

4.2.2	Measurement of the Percentage Inhibition Radius Growth (PIRG)	56
4.2.3	Sample preparation for Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM)	56
4.2.4	Broth bioassay	56
4.2.5	Extraction of potential metabolites from bioassay broths	57
4.2.6	HPLC preliminary metabolites profiling	57
4.2.7	Preparation of sample for LCMS	57
4.2.8	LCMS profiling	58
4.3	Results	58
4.3.1	Inhibition of <i>Ganoderma</i> by potential microbes in well diffusion assay	58
4.3.2	Morphology changes of <i>G. boninense</i> after exposure to LSM	62
4.3.3	HPLC profiles of potential metabolites produced from <i>Ganoderma</i> -LSM interaction	64
4.3.4	Identity of metabolites which involved in <i>Ganoderma</i> -LSM interaction	65
4.4	Discussion	72
4.5	Conclusion	78
CHAPTER 5: EVALUATION ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MICROBIAL APPROACHES IN PREVENTING AND SUPPRESSING COLONIZATION OF <i>Ganoderma boninense</i>		79
5.1	Introduction	79
5.2	Materials and methods	80
5.2.1	Cultivation of oil palm seedlings	80
5.2.2	Artificial inoculation for <i>G. boninense</i> on oil palm seedlings	80
5.2.3	Preparation of microbial treatments (for nursery trial)	81
5.2.4	Assessment of the effectiveness of microbial treatments in nursery	82
5.2.5	Collection of root tissues	82
5.2.6	Preparation of microbial treatment (for field)	83

5.2.7	Assessment on the effectiveness of microbial treatments in field trial	83
5.2.8	Collection of trunk tissues	84
5.2.9	Quantification of fungal ergosterol content based on HPLC analysis and ergosterol standard	84
5.2.10	Evaluation on <i>G. boninense</i> colonization using ergosterol analysis and quantification	86
5.2.11	Evaluation of Disease Incidence (DI)	86
5.3	Result	87
5.3.1	<i>Ganoderma</i> colonization in nursery trial based on ergosterol analysis	87
5.3.2	Control of <i>Ganoderma</i> colonization in field trial based on ergosterol analysis	95
5.4	Discussion	97
5.5	Conclusion	101
CHAPTER 6: APPLICATION OF BIOLOGY CONTROL AGENTS AND ITS EFFECT TO OTHER SOIL MICROBES		102
6.1	Introduction	103
6.2	Materials and methods	103
6.2.1	Soil sampling	103
6.2.2	Preparation of serial dilution and plate inoculation	103
6.2.3	Culture media	103
6.2.4	Colony Forming Unit (CFU)	104
6.2.5	Isolation of soil microbial from soil samples	104
6.2.6	Biolog Identification of soil microbes isolated from oil palm soil	105
6.2.7	DNA Extraction for Prokaryotes	106
6.2.8	DNA Extraction for Eukaryotes	106
6.2.9	PCR Amplification	107
6.2.10	Cloning, DNA sequencing, and Sequence analysis	108
6.3	Results	109

6.3.1	Soil microbial population	109
6.3.2	Microbes identification based on Biolog and homology sequence technique	111
6.4	Discussion	114
6.5	Conclusion	121
CHAPTER 7: GENERAL DISCUSSION AND CONCLUDING REMARKS		122
REFERENCES		128
APPENDICES		154



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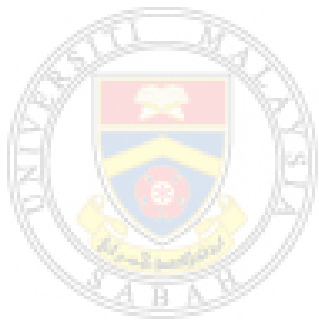
LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 2.1 Symptoms of Basal Stem Rot in Sapi Nangoh Plantation, Sandakan, Sabah. (a) Fallen oil palm tree due to rotten bole tissue, which weakens the tree making it susceptible to wind damage. (b) Typical basidiocarps of <i>G. boninense</i> on a BSR affected palm. (c) Unopened spears of oil palm tree. (d) Decaying in oil palm bole tissues leaving the trunk in hollow.	11
Figure 2.2 Morphology of different stages of <i>G. boninense</i> . (A) Mycelial of <i>G. boninense</i> grown on potato dextrose agar (PDA), after 14 days of incubation at 28°C. (B) Basidiocarps of <i>Ganoderma</i> on the trunk of infected oil palm tree.	16
Figure 3.1 Trunk tissues collected from oil palm tree were cultured on GSM media to isolate <i>G. boninense</i> . (a) <i>G. boninense</i> grew on GSM after 5 days of incubation indicated the presence of the fungi. (b) Absence of <i>Ganoderma</i> growth on GSM indicated of infected-free tissues.	41
Figure 3.2 The presence of clamp connection (arrowed) in <i>Ganoderma</i> mycelia isolated from GSM media. Clamp connection is a common characteristic of basidiomycetes observed under magnification power, 100x.	41
Figure 3.3 PCR amplification of the fungal isolates from ITS 1 and 5.8S gene.	42
Figure 3.4 PCR product of GB 1 from the isolate collected from Sapi Nangoh, Sandakan, Sabah.	43
Figure 3.5 PCR product of GB 2 from the isolate collected from Sapi Nangoh, Sandakan, Sabah.	43
Figure 3.6 PCR product of GB 3 from the isolate collected from Sapi Nangoh, Sandakan, Sabah.	44
Figure 3.7 Evolutionary relationship of five taxa among the GB 1 isolate (with NCBI query ID: lcl 16555).	48

Figure 3.8	Evolutionary relationship of five taxa among the GB 2 isolate (with NCBI query ID: lcl 37939).	49
Figure 3.9	Evolutionary relationship of five taxa among the GB 3 isolate (with NCBI query ID: lcl 24911).	50
Figure 4.1	Radial mycelia growth of <i>G. boninense</i> cultivated on PDA medium with and without the presence of the respective treatments.	60
Figure 4.2	Antagonistic assay of <i>G. boninense</i> on PDA medium with or without the presence of the respective treatments at 1, 6 and 12 days of incubation.	61
Figure 4.3	Antagonistic effects of LSM on <i>G. boninense</i> mycelium in agar well diffusion assay at day 12. (a) The healthy and dense branching mycelium of <i>G. boninense</i> from a control plate cultured in the absence of LSM. (b) Spores of <i>Trichoderma</i> spp. from LSM attached to <i>G. boninense</i> hyphae. (c) Hyphal branches of <i>G. boninense</i> were highly disrupted and disaggregated in the presence of LSM. (d) Highly shrivelled and flattened/lysis mycelium of <i>G. boninense</i> in the presence of LSM. Scale bars: (a)-(b): 10 μ m. (c)-(d): 2 μ m.	63
Figure 4.4	Metabolites profiling of <i>G. boninense</i> methanol extract via HPLC system at 210 nm wavelength.	64
Figure 4.5	Metabolites profiling of LSM methanol extract via HPLC system at 210 nm wavelength.	65
Figure 4.6	Metabolites profiling <i>G. boninense</i> treated with LSM methanol extract via HPLC system at 210 nm wavelength.	65
Figure 4.7	Mass spectrum of metabolites (arrowed) produced by <i>Ganoderma boninense</i> (control). Other peaks are compounds which do not involve in antimicrobial activity. (A) L-Valine (117.0790 m/z), (B) 4-chloro-3,5-dimethoxybenzyl alcohol (202.0397 m/z), (C) Tetracenomycin D3 (380.0532 m/z), (D) 16-Feruloyloxypalmitate (448.2825 m/z), (E) Triterpenoid (552.3087 m/z) (F) alpha,alpha-Trehalose 6-palmitate (580.3611 m/z).	67

- Figure 4.8 Mass spectrum of metabolites (arrowed) produced by LSM. 68
 Other peaks are compounds which do not involve in antimicrobial activity. (A) N-Methyl-a-aminoisobutyric acid (117.0790 m/z), (B) 4-chloro,3,5-dimethoxybenzyl alcohol (202.0397 m/z), (C) Pyrene-1,6-dione (232.0545 m/z), (D) 12-Deoxyaklanonic acid (382.1532 m/z), (E) Ala-Trp-OH (383.1096 m/z), (F) Lys Tyr Leu (422.2529 m/z), (G) N-Acetyl-leu-leu-tyr-amide (448.2825 m/z), (H) 4-O-8',5''-5'-Dehydrotriferulic acid (578.1272 m/z), (I) alpha,alpha'-Trehalose 6-palmitate (580.3611 m/z), (J) Halstoctacosanolide A (844.5102 m/z).
- Figure 4.9 Mass spectrum of metabolites (arrowed) produced by 69
Ganoderma boninense treated with LSM. Other peaks are compounds which do not involve in antimicrobial activity. (A) N-Methyl-a-aminoisobutyric acid (117.0790 m/z), (B) Methenamine (140.1063 m/z), (C) 4-chloro-3-5-dimethoxybenzyl alcohol (202.0397 m/z), (D) 12-oxo-10Z-dodecenoic acid (212.1412 m/z), (E) Pyrene-1,6-dione (232.0532 m/z), (F) Gly-Met-OH (314.0573), (G) Tetracenomyacin D3 (380.0532 m/z), (H) 12-Deoxyaklanonic acid (382.1532 m/z), (I) Lovastatin (404.2563 m/z), (J) N-acetyl-leu-leu-tyr-amide (448.2825 m/z), (K) Titerpenoid (552.3087 m/z), (L) 4-O-8',5''-5'-Dehydrotriferulic acid (578.1272 m/z), (M) alpha,alpha'-Trehalose 6-palmitate (580.3611 m/z), (N) Halstoctacosanolide A (844.5102 m/z).
- Figure 5.1 HPLC chromatogram of ergosterol, peak was detected at 7.3 85
 min.
- Figure 5.2 Integration of absorbance at 282 nm wavelength against 85
 concentration of standard ergosterol.
- Figure 5.3 Quantification of ergosterol content and percentage of Disease 88
 Incidence (DI) two months after artificial inoculation.
- Figure 5.4 Quantification of ergosterol content and percentage of Disease 90
 Incidence (DI) four months after artificial inoculation.
- Figure 5.5 Quantification of ergosterol content and percentage of Disease 92
 Incidence (DI) two months after treatments application.

Figure 5.6	Quantification of ergosterol content and percentage of Disease Incidence (DI) four months after treatments application.	94
Figure 5.7	Quantification of ergosterol content and percentage of Disease Incidence (DI) of palms in field trial before and after BCAs treatments.	96



UMS
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH

LIST OF TABLES

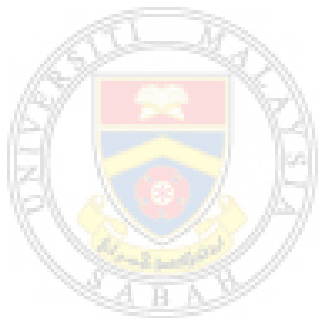
	Page
Table 2.1 Susceptibility of different parent material against <i>Ganoderma</i> .	23
Table 2.2 Tolerant progeny of oil palm against <i>Ganoderma</i> .	23
Table 3.1 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) master mix (MM) for <i>G. boninense</i> .	40
Table 3.2 The most homologous five microorganisms from NCBI gene bank in comparison to isolate GB 1.	45
Table 3.3 The most homologous five microorganisms from NCBI gene bank in comparison to isolate GB 2.	46
Table 3.4 The most homologous five microorganisms from NCBI gene bank in comparison to isolate GB 3.	47
Table 4.1 <i>In vitro</i> antagonistic potential of microbial treatments in well diffusion agar assay against <i>G. boninense</i>	59
Table 4.2 Comparison of compounds produced by GB, LSM and GB-LSM interaction based on LCMS.	70
Table 6.1 PCR master mix (MM) components for prokaryotes.	108
Table 6.2 PCR mater mix (MM) components for eukaryotes.	108
Table 6.3 Types of microorganism collected from oil palm plantation soil of Sapi Nangoh, Sandakan, Sabah before microbial treatments.	109
Table 6.4 Microorganism collected from oil palm plantation soil of Sapi Nangoh, Sandakan, Sabah after LSM and AO treatments.	110
Table 6.5 Identity of microorganisms isolated from Sapi Nangoh Oil Palm Plantation soil before application of microbial products based on Biolog technique.	111
Table 6.6 Identity of microorganisms isolated from Sapi Nangoh Oil Palm Plantation soil after application of LSM and AO based on Biolog and PCR/sequence homology technique.	113

LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

\pm	plus-minus
+	plus
-	minus
=	equals to
\geq	more or equal to
/	divide by
%	percentage
$^{\circ}\text{C}$	degree Celcius
α	alpha
β	beta
μg	microgram
g	gram
kg	kilogram
L	litre
m	meter
μl	microlitre
μM	micromolar
pM	picomolar
mg	milligram
ml	millilitre
mm	millimeter
$\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	microgram per millilitre
mg mL^{-1}	milligram per millilitre
U	unit
pH	power of hydrogen
m/z	mass to charge ratio
rpm	revolution per minute
h	hour
min	minute



CFU	Colony forming unit
PIRG	Percentage Inhibition of Radial Growth
SPSS	Statistical Analysis for Social Science
UV	ultraviolet
LC	liquid chromatography
LC/MS	liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry
ESI	electrospray ionization
Qtof	quadrupole-tile of flight
®	registered trademark
MPOB	Malaysian Palm Oil Board
PORIM	Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia



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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis* Jacq.) is known as a truly "golden crop of Malaysia" since it generated profitable export earnings for the country and truly nature's gifts for alleviating poverty in Malaysia (Basiron, 2007). Area of oil palm cultivation has grown rapidly from just under 60,000 ha in the 1960s to approximately 5 million ha in 2013 (MPOB, 2013). With the phenomenal expansion of oil palm area, palm oil production has rose significantly with an increase from 91,793 tonnes in 1960 to 19.2 million tonnes in 2013, or by almost 198 times within 52 years. The fast growth of this industry has made Malaysia to become the world's second largest palm oil producer, accounting for 37 percent of the world's palm oil production.

However, the oil palm industry is being jeopardized by Basal Stem Rot (BSR) which is caused by *Ganoderma boninense*. Infection of this disease can cause numerous yield losses and ultimately result in the destruction of basal tissues hence death of diseases palms. With no known remedy, BSR remained the most significant constraint to sustainable oil palm production in the Southeast Asian countries, especially in Malaysia and Indonesia. Many efforts have been attempted to eliminate this disease, but to date, no promising remedy is reported (Bivi *et al.*, 2010; Susanto *et al.*, 2005). Recently, an astute observation by Bivi *et al.* (2010) showed that low incidence of BSR disease due to pathogenic *Ganoderma* species in some natural stands has given rise to assumption that this disease is most likely kept under control by some biological means. Therefore, recent control measures to overcome this disease are now focused on the use of biological control agents (BCA). Several promising antagonist BCAs such as *Trichoderma* spp. (Sariah, 2005; Susanto *et al.*, 2005), *Penicillium* spp. (Dharmaputra *et al.*, 1989), *Burkholderia* spp. (Sapak *et al.*, 2008), *Bacillus* spp. (Suryanto *et al.*, 2012), and *Pseudomonas* spp. (Bivi *et al.*, 2010) have shown high efficacy in controlling the growth and infection of *Ganoderma boninense* in nursery and field conditions. Several