

EXPRESSION AND PURIFICATION OF  
RECOMBINANT GHRH IN *E.COLI*

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## **ABSTRAK**

*Ekonomi akuakultur ditubuhkan atas kapasiti kepenggunaan infrastruktur sedia ada, yang mana ia bergantung kepada kadar pertumbuhan yang tinggi terutama bagi sesetengah organisma. Endokrin yang bertindakbalas kepada persekitaran dan kepelbagaian genetik, pada asasnya berfungsi mengawal tumbesaran pada ikan dan vertebrata yang lain. Evaluasi terhadap indeks hormone ini dengan itu boleh membuktikannya berperanan terhadap peningkatan tumbesaran dalam ikan. Spesis Garupa adalah antara spesis akuakultur komersial yang penting di Sabah dan dianggap sebagai ikan termahal dalam pasaran tempatan. Growth Hormone Releasing Hormone adalah polipeptida yang mengkodkan 44 asid amino, dan fungsi utamanya adalah untuk merangsang penghasilan hormon tumbesaran dan rembesan daripada pituitari somatotrof dengan cara bergabung dengan reseptor GHRH-R. Gen sintetik pelB-GHRH yang pada asalnya didapati daripada Garupa dan mengandungi 144 jujukan DNA, telah diuji keupayaannya untuk berekspresi di dalam bakteria Escherichia coli (BL21). Sintetik gen tersebut digabungkan dengan vector berekspresi pET22b diikuti dengan transformasi ke dalam hos tidak aktif (E.coli TOP 10) untuk tujuan analisis jujukan DNA. Pengekspresan dan penghasilan protein pula adalah melalui Escherichia coli (BL21). Rangsangan menggunakan 0.5mM isopropyl  $\beta$ -thiogalactosidase (IPTG) pada suhu 37°C menghasilkan ekspresi protein bersaiz 12 kDa, menandakan protein tersebut masih mengandungi tag 6xhistidine dan pemotongan signal peptide yang tidak sempurna. Purifikasi dilanjutkan dengan kaedah Size Exclusion Chromatography dan pecahan mengandungi protein tunggal telah didapati. Protein yang diekspreskan tersebut berpotensi dalam aplikasi akuakultur dan kepelbagaian industri perikanan.*

## ABSTRACT

### EXPRESSION AND PURIFICATION OF RECOMBINANT GHRH IN E.COLI

The economics of aquaculture are founded upon capacity utilization of available infrastructure, which in turn depend on high growth rates of the selected organism. Endocrine responses to both environmental and genetic variables ultimately control growth in fish and other vertebrates. Evaluation of these hormonal indices could prove useful in development of growth enhancement in fish. The Grouper species are amongst important commercial aquaculture species in Sabah and regarded as the most expensive fish in the local market. The Growth Hormone Releasing Hormone (GHRH) is a 44-aa polypeptide, and the primary function of GHRH is to stimulate Growth Hormone synthesis and secretion from pituitary somatotrophs via binding to its receptor, GHRH-R. A synthetic gene encoding the fusion protein *pelB*-GHRH that was originally discovered in Groupers, consisting of a 144 bp DNA sequence was tested to determine its ability to express in *Escherichia coli* (BL21). The synthetic gene was ligated to the expression vector pET22b followed by transformation into a non-expression host (*E.coli* TOP 10) for the purpose of DNA sequence analysis. Expression and protein production was carried out using *Escherichia coli* (BL21). Induction using 0.5mM *isopropyl β-thiogalactosidase* (IPTG) at 37°C resulted in expression of 12 kDa protein suggesting that the protein contains a 6X histidine tag and improper signal peptide cleavage. Further purification was done using size exclusion chromatography method and a fraction containing a single protein was obtained. The expressed protein has potential applications in the aquaculture and ornamental fish industry.