

Characterization of Indigenous Rhizobacterial Isolates from Healthy Chilli Rhizosphere Capable of Inducing Resistance Against Anthracnose Disease (*Colletotrichum Gloeosporioides*).

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Abstract— Anthracnose disease on chilli caused by *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* is difficult to be controlled because the disease can be transmitted through the seeds, and has a high genetic diversity. One of promising alternative control is using biological control agents, such as groups of rhizobacteria. The objective of this research were : to characterize the morphology, physiology and molecular of selected rhizobacterial isolates, which were capable of controlling the anthracnose disease and to enhance the growth and yield chilli. Three rhizobacterial isolates (B1.37, B2.11 and P1.31) were used. These isolates were indentified based on morphology (colony form, elevation, edge, and color), physiology (gram tes, the production of hormone IAA, chitinase enzyme, hydrogen cyanide, and solvents phosphate) and molecular. The isolates were identified by using 16S rRNA sequencing. The results indicated that isolate B1.37 belonged to species of *Bacillus cereus* strain ML 267, isolate B2.11 belonged to *Bacillus cereus* strain LH8 and isolate P1.31 belonged to *Chryseobacterium gleum* strain NBRC 15054.

Keywords— Morphology, physiology, molecular, rhizobacteria, anthracnose, chilli

I. INTRODUCTION

Introductions of indigenous rhizobacterial (RB) isolates from West Sumatera can induce systemic resistance on chilli against anthracnose disease in the field. B1.37 and P1.31 is the best isolates in increasing resistance on chilli plants. Introductions of indigenus rhizobacterial isolates on chilli seeds is an effort to obtain a source of healthy plants to face the complexity of problems by the plants after being transferred to an endemic areas. Mechanisms of induced systemic resistance of plants by bacteria isolates generally involve production of bacterial metabolites such as : hydrogen cyanide (HCN), extracellular lytic enzymes (chitinase), dissolved phosphate [1] and [2] , and to produce indole acetic acid (IAA) growth hormone by bacteria isolates for stimulate plant vigor and more able to resist the attack of pathogens [2]. Until now there have not been a report on the ability of indigenous rhizobacterial isolates to control anthracnose disease and enhance the growth of chili seedlings, physiological responses of induced systemic resistance of chilli plants and morphological, physiological and molecular characterization. The objectives of this research were: to characterize the morphology, physiology

and molecular of selected rhizobacterial isolates, which have the ability to control the anthracnose disease and to enhance the growth and yield of chilli.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS.

Research consisted of 2 stages, 1) Characterization of morphology and physiology of indigenous RB isolates, conducted in Laboratory of Biotechnology Department, College of Agriculture and Laboratory of Natural Products Chemical, Faculty of Pharmacy, Andalas University. 2) Molecular identification of indigenous RB isolates, conducted in laboratory of biogenetic research station in Bogor, from January to October 2013.

Materials used in this experiment were: NA media, Kings B media, TSA media, peptin media, TSB (Tryptic Soya Broth) media, CDS solution (cyanide Detection Solution), Picric acid, sodium carbonate, distilled water sterile, phosphate buffer 0.1 N, 3% KOH, 1 N HCL, HCL₃, IAA, alcohol, spirits, namely random primer P5 (5' - AACGCGCAAC-3'), TE, SDS, proteinnase K, CTAB/NaCl, phenol : chloroform: isoamyl-alcohol (PCL), agarose gel, sodium acetate isopropanol, tag polymerase, Tris-HCl, KCl, MgCl₂, dNTPs, buffer TBE, etc. The tools used include : a

glass cup, erlemeyer, glass objects, petri dishes, test tubes, needles, filter paper, measuring cup, measuring pipette, autoclave, laminar air flow, Bunsen lamp, UV transilluminator, kauntor colony, homogenizer, spectrophotometers, PCR machines, analytical balance, pipette, heating plate, and stationery.

Working procedure:

A. Characterization of morphology and physiology of indigenous RB isolates

Characterization of morphology of indigenous RB isolates : Bacteria were cultured in media Tryptic Soya Agar (TSA) for Bacillus group and Nutrient Agar (NA) for the other groups. They were incubated for two days and observed. Observation covered, color, form, elevation, and diameter of the colony [3].

B. Characterization of physiology of indigenous RB isolates

Gram test: The purpose of doing gram test is to determine whether the reaction of the bacteria isolates are gram negative or positive. One ose of bacterial culture (2 x 24 hours old) was taken and placed on object glass, then was dripped by one drop of KOH solution (3%). If clumping occurs, the bacteria is gram-negative and if not it is gram-positive bacteria [4].

Production of IAA growth hormone : To produce IAA growth hormone the procedure used was the one described by [5]. Rhizobacteria isolates were grown in King's B liquid medium, added with 5 ml solution of tryptophan (0.5%) and without solution of tryptophan. Bacterial cells were grown in erlemeyer (100 ml) and were placed on shaker (120 rpm) for 2 days at 30⁰C. After incubation, the cells were centrifuged (3.000 rpm for 10 min at 4⁰C) and 1 ml of supernatant was combined with 2 ml of Salkowsky reagent (150 ml of 95-98% H₂SO₄, 7,5 ml of 0,5 M FeCl₃/6H₂O, and 250 ml distilled water) and incubated for 30 min at room temperature. The quantification of IAA was carried out using IAA standard curve.

Production of chitinase enzyme : Production of chitinase enzyme qualitatively was evaluated by observing the formation of clear zone around the bacteria described by [6]. Rhizobacteria isolates were grown in medium containing colloidal chitin. Composition of the medium was : Na₂HPO₄ (0.65), KH₂PO₄ (1.5), NaCl (0.25), NH₄Cl (0.5), MgSO₄ (0.12), CaCl₂ (0.005), colloidal chitin (10), pH 6.5, and agar (15) in (g L⁻¹). Sterilized medium was poured into petri dishes and allowed it to freeze. Bacterial isolates to be tested were taken a little bit and scratched into the media and then incubated for 10 days at a temperature of 30⁰C. Parameters measured were colony and clear zone diameter. The ratio of chitinase enzyme activity was determined by comparing size of the clear zone (CZ) and the colony size (CS) [7].

Phosphate Solvents : The ability to dilute phosphate qualitatively was evaluated by observing the formation of clear zone around the bacteria. Rhizobacteria isolates were grown in selective Pikovskaya medium described by [8] with composition of the medium used was : 10 g/L glucose, 5 g/L Ca₃ PO₄ , 0,5 g/L (NH₄)₂SO₄, 0,2 g/L KCl, 0,1 g/L MgSO₄.7H₂O, 0,01 g/L MnSO₄.H₂O, 0,5 g/L of yeast

extract and 0.01 g/L FeCl₃.6H₂O, and 15 g agar/L at pH 7.0. Sterilized medium was poured into petri dishes and allow them to freeze. Bacterial isolates to be tested were then taken a little bit and scratched into the media and incubated for 5 days at a temperature of 30⁰C. Parameters measured were colony and clear zone diameter. The ratio of phosphate solvents activity was determined by comparing size of the clear zone (CZ) and the colony size (CS) [7].

Production of hydrogen cyanide (HCN) : To produce hydrogen cyanide qualitatively method of Bakker and Schiper (Munif, 2001) was used. Composition of the medium used was 4.4 g glycine; 30 g Tryptic Soy Broth (TSB); 15 g of agar in 1000 ml in distilled water. Medium was sterilized by autoclaving for 20 minutes. Medium was poured into petri dishes. The production of cyanide was detected using solution of Cyanide Detection Solution (CDS) containing 2 g of picric acid and 8 g of sodium carbonate, and then dissolved in 200 ml of sterile distilled water. Filter paper was cut into size of 1 x 1 cm² and sterilized. Pieces of filter paper were dipped in solution CDS and placed at upperside of the petri dish lid, and then incubated at room temperature for 4 days. Bacteria producing hydrogen cyanide was detected by a change in color from yellow to brownish orange on the filter paper.

C. Molecular identification of indigenous RB isolates

Isolation of DNA: Indigenous RB isolates to be isolated DNA were grown in NB medium for 48 hours. Bacterial cells are harvested by means of sentrifigasi culture, 1.5 ml of culture at 15.000 rpm for 10-15 minutes. Suspended pelet in 200 μ l TE using vortex. Add 50 μ l SDS (19%) and stirred by means of reversing the tube several times until the suspension looks clear. Add 10 μ l proteinase K (10 mg/ml) and incubated at 37⁰C (in water bath) for 1 hour. Add 80 μ l CTAB / NaCl (10% CTAB in 0.7 M NaCl) and incubated at 65⁰C for 20 minutes. Add phenol : chloroform : Isoamyl alcohol (PCI) 25 : 24 : 1 mixture and do as much volume with vortex mixing for 2 minutes. Centrifugation at 11 rpm for 15 minutes to separate the mixed phase. Move the liquid phase (aqueous phase) to a new tube and add Cl (24: 1) with the same volume. Performed by vortex mixing for 2 minutes. Then in a centrifuge at a speed of 11 rpm for 15 minutes and take the supernatant transferred to a new tube. Add 0.1 volume of sodium acetate (1M) and the same volume of isopropanol, mix by reversing the tube several times. Discard the ethanol and dry the pellet with vacuum for approximately 15 minutes. Pellet suspended in 100 μ l TE or sterile distilled water [10].

DNA amplification and sequence analysis : Extracted DNA was amplified by PCR based method of [10] using a random primer that P5 (5'-AACGCGCAAC-3'), each PCR reaction (25 μ l) consists of 5 μ l DNA template, 1 μ l random primer (10 μ M), Tag polymerase, 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 9.0), 50 mM KCl, 3 mM MgCl₂, each dNTP 400 μ M (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech). DNA amplifikasi at a temperature of 92⁰C for 1 min, primer placement at a temperature of 35⁰C for 1 min and DNA synthesis at 73⁰C for 2 minutes.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Characterization of the morphology and physiology of indigenous RB isolates

Characterization of the morphology and physiology of indigenous RB Isolates: Observation of indigenous RB isolates indicated that all isolates showed colony with beige color, isolate B1.37 was gram-positive, convex elevation, regular form, a rod shape, diameter 1.5 mm. Isolate B2.11 was gram-positive, flat elevation, irregular form, diameter 3 mm. Isolate P1.31 was gram-negative, flat elevation, irregular form, and diameter 5 mm (Table 1).

TABLE I
CHARACTERIZATION OF MORPHOLOGICAL AND PHYSIOLOGICAL

No	Indigenous RB isolates		Colony of indigenous RB isolates				
	code	Origin	Nature	Color	Form	Elevation	Diameter (mm)
1	B1.37	Highland	Gram +	Beige	Regular	Convex	1,5
2	P1.31	Lowland	Gram -	Beige	Irregular	Flat	5
3	B2.11	Highland	Gram +	Beige	Irregular	Flat	3

B. Characterization of physiology of indigenous RB isolates.

Production of IAA growth hormone : Isolates P1.31 and B1.37 capable of producing IAA growth hormone approximately 11.6 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and 15.7 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, when compared with pure IAA solution. Isolate B2.11 did not produce IAA growth hormone. For more details the production of IAA growth hormone by indigenous RB isolates could be seen in Fig. 1.

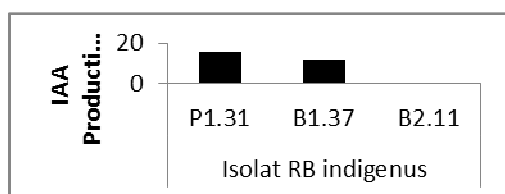


Fig. 1. Production of IAA hormones by indigenous RB isolates

Figure 1 showed that the indigenous RB isolates were capable of producing IAA growth hormone 11.6 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ - 15.7 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. IAA growth hormone served to accelerate and affect root growth of chilli plants, so as to meet the need of nutrients and water, and lead to changes in the chemical compounds in plants, and stimulate plant vigor and more able to resist the attack of pathogen.

[11] suggested that *Pseudomonas fluorescens* bacteria not only increase the availability of phosphate but also able to produce growth regulating substances such as indole acetic acid (IAA) and gibberellin acid (GA3) and vitamins, IAA hormones acts as a plant growth promoter, causing plants to be healthy, strong and resistant to pathogen attack. [12] obtained endophytic bacteria from the roots and seeds of corn that capable of synthesizing IAA hormones and able to induce systemic resistance by suppressing wilt Stewart disease severity on corn plants ranging from 48.95 to

55.60%. [13] obtained IAA hormone produced by PGPR from isolates of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* 89B61, *Serratia marcescens* 90-166, *Bacillus pumilus* SE34, *Pseudomonas chlororaphis* O6 and the *gacS* mutant, in tryptopan medium and Salkowski reagents respectively 34 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, 25 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, 7.5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, 5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, 35 $\mu\text{g/mL}$.

According to [14] the success of the biological control of plant diseases is determined by the mechanism of inhibition against pathogenic biological control agents. The mechanism of inhibition of every different biological agents, and each can have more than one mechanism of inhibition. Wide inhibitory mechanism that is generally found in biological agents is siderophores, antibiosis, competition, micoparasitisme, PGPR, induced resistance, enzymes and toxins. Each mechanism of inhibition of these plants have special characteristics as well as the nature and involves several factors that influence it.

Production of chitinase enzyme : All bacterial isolates produced clearing zones. [6] classified producers as good when $\text{CZ/CS} > 2$ and weak when $\text{CZ/CS} < 2$ (Tabel 2).

TABLE II
RATIO OF CZ/CS OF VARIOUS ISOLATES

No	The indigenous RB isolates	CZ/CS	Producers
1	B2.11	2.1	Good
2	B1.37	1.6	Weak
3	P1.31	1.6	Weak

Table 2 showed that isolates B2.11 had a highest CZ/CS ratio, 2.1 followed by isolate B1.37 and isolate P1.31. High ratio of CZ/CS indicates an isolate has higher ability for degradation. [6] found 18 isolates of rizobacteria producing CZ/CS ratio approximately 1,11 to 2,50 grown in medium of chitin agar. This was consistent with the finding of [1] that PfMDU3 PfMDU2 isolates capable of producing the enzyme chitinase with clear zone of 2.2 mm wide on a medium containing 0.2% colloidal chitin, and was able to inhibit the mycelial growth of *Rhizoctonia solani* causing stem rot disease on rice plants in vitro.

The chitinase enzyme is an enzyme that can degrade chitin. Chitin is a constituent component of most fungal cell walls. Chitinase produces an extracellular enzyme that is used for making nutrients for bacteria. Chitinase degrades chitin oligomers into simpler compounds making the medium appears clear, especially around the bacterial colonies [15]. Chitin in the medium induces the secretion of chitinase to degrade chitin as a carbon source. [16] obtained chitinase enzyme secreted by *Bacillus alvei* BG07, BG12 and *Bacillus cereus* BG 35 capable of controlling the fungus *Colletotichum capsici* in vitro. In addition [17] also obtained transgenic tobacco plants resistant to *Botrytis cinerea* fungus due to the expression of β -1,3 endoglukanase. [17] reported from the study of chitinase enzyme activity using the induction method to diffuse directly, she obtained bacterial isolates having chitinase enzyme activity, with diameter of 1.29 cm, capable of controlling the fungus *Candida albicans*.

Ability of indigenous RB isolates to dissolve phosphate
Capability of indigenous RB isolates to dissolve phosphate was detected by the formation of a clear zone around the

bacteria. The results showed that all isolates produced clear zones (Fig. 2). The value of CZ/CS ratio isolates B2.11, B1.37 and P1.31 are presented in Table 3.



Fig. 2. Clear zone around the indigenous RB isolates

TABLE III
RATIO OF CZ/CS OF VARIOUS ISOLATES

No	the indigenous RB isolates	CZ/CS	Producers
1	B2.11	2.70	Good
2	B1.37	2.50	Good
3	P1.31	1.25	Weak

Table 3 showed that indigenous RB isolate B2.11 had a highest CZ/CS ratio, 2.70, followed isolate B1.37 with of CZ/CS ratio is 2,50 and isolate P1.31 with of CZ/CS ratio is 1,25. [18] obtained the genus *Streptomyces*, *Stretosporangium*, *Nocardia* and *Microtetraspora* having the ability to dissolve phosphate with ratio CZ / CS ranged from 0.78 to 3.

Dissolution of phosphate is caused by organic acids of non-volatile produced by microbes. These acids derive from metabolism of glucose as a carbon source. According to [19] organic acids produced by bacteria include: citric acid, glutamic acid, Succinic, lactic, oxalic, glyoxylic, malate and fumarate. The organic acid will chelate cations in the form of a stable complex with Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, Fe²⁺ and Al³⁺, resulting in a solvent phosphate into available forms that can be absorbed by plants.

Production of hydrogen cyanide : Production of hydrogen cyanide was detected by discoloration of filter paper containing solution of CyanideDetection Solution from yellow to orange. The result showed that three isolates did not show the change of filter paper color, meaning that indigenous RB isolates did not produce hydrogen cyanide, and antagonistic compounds against *Colletotrichum capsici*. According to [20] *P.fluorescens* strains used to trigger plant growth and pathogen control, with a variety of mechanisms including production of siderophores, hydrogen cyanide, and antibiosis.

C. Molecular identification of indigenous RB isolates

Molecular identification of indigenous RB isolates based 16S rRNA gene sequences, known isolate B1.37 is 100% similar with *Bacillus cereus* strain ML 267, isolate B2.11 is 99% similar to the *Bacillus cereus* strain LH8, and isolate P1.31 is 99% similar to the *Chryseobacterium gleum* strain NBRC 15054. [21] reported *Bacillus cereus* is a type rizobakteria which includes division Firmicutes, class Firmibacteria, Bacillales order, family Bacillaceae. These bacteria are characterized as gram-positive, rod shape, one-celled, sized (0.5-2.5) x (1.2 to 10) µm, aerobic or facultative anaerobic and heterotrophic, more heat resistant, dry and other environmental factors destructive. These bacteria can survive in a certain environment that can survive at

temperatures of -5 to 75⁰C with the level of acidity (pH) between 2-8. [22] obtained six rizobakteria strains that are PGPR (Plant Growth Promoting Rizobacteria) from the Bacillus group: *Bacillus pumilus* 4, *B.pumilus* IN7R, *B.amyloliquefaciens* IN937a, *B.subtilis* IN937b, *B.pumilus* SE34, and *B. subtilis* GB05 able to induce plant resistance of wheat (*Pennisatum glaucum*) against Powdery mildew diseases (powdery mildew) by *Sclerotium graminicola*. Furthermore, [23] reported *Chryseobacterium gleum*, are gram-negative, aerobic, rod shape. [24] obtained that isolate *Chryseobacterium* sp strains StRB 126 isolated from the roots on potato plant have the ability to produce enzymes for degradation.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the experimental results it can be concluded that isolate B1.37 was identified as *Bacillus cereus* strain ML 267, isolate B2.11 was identified as *Bacillus cereus* strains LH8 and isolate P1.31 was identified as *Chryseobacterium gleum* strain NBRC 15054. All rizobacterial isolates capable of producing chitinase enzyme, phosphate solvent but not capable of producing hydrogen cyanide. *Bacillus cereus* strain ML 267 and *Chryseobacterium gleum* strains NBRC 15054 capable of producing indole acetic acid (IAA) growth hormone, while *Bacillus cereus* strains LH8 did not produce IAA growth hormone.

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