

Advances in Biological Sciences Research

Asmoro Lelono ·
Muhammad Akbar Bahar · Syubanut Wathon ·
Kartika Senjarini · Asep Ginanjar Arip ·
Ramdhan Putrasetya · Beny Andika ·
Nadhea Ayu Sukma · Bambang Sugiharto *Editors*

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Asmoro Lelono · Muhammad Akbar Bahar ·
Syubanul Wathon · Kartika Senjarini ·
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Beny Andika · Nadhea Ayu Sukma ·
Bambang Sugiharto
Editors

Proceedings of the 4th
International Conference
on Life Sciences
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(ICOLIB 2021)



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Preface ICOLIB 2021

I am pleased to welcome all of the speakers and participants to the 2021 International Conference on Life Sciences and Biotechnology (4th ICOLIB), which is held from 15 to 16 November 2021, virtually on Zoom meeting. The conference is organized by the Department of Biology, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, the University of Jember.

This year the conference's theme is "Towards Sustainable Development: Application of Biosciences to Improve Welfare and Quality of Life". Along with the theme, we have four conference topics; there are Applied Sciences (Agriculture, Biotechnology and Bioinformatics), Basic Sciences (Ecology, Zoology, Botany, and Microbiology), Biodiversity and Bio-conservation, and Health and Medicine (Pharmacy and Medical Sciences). This scientific event provides a platform for researchers, academics, professionals, industries, and policymakers to exchange ideas, share the recent advances and development in life sciences, and can be a valuable place for starting fruitful collaboration, especially in uncovering the potential of biodiversity at the molecular level to biosphere.

This year's conference is also the first time held online due to the global pandemic situation. However, it becomes a blessing in disguise, because the conference becomes accessible to a wider audience and participants from all over the world. The number of participants registered is 223, among them, 170 participants will present their research.

Most of the participants are from Indonesia but also we have participants from Malaysia, Czech Republic, China, Philippines, Pakistan, and India. Besides the participants, the online of this conference also allows us to invite speakers from Netherlands, Germany, USA, and Australia. There will be Prof. A.G.G (Ton) Groothuis from GELIFES Institute, Groningen University Netherlands, Prof Antonius Suwanto from IPB Indonesia, Prof Simon Griffith from Department of Biological Sciences at Macquarie University, Sydney, Dr. Jorge A. Santiago-Blay from the Department of Paleobiology MRC-121 National Museum of Natural History Smithsonian Institution, USA, Prof. Elvira Hoerandl from George-August, Goothingen University Germany, Dr. Kahar Muzakar from Biology Department, Jember University, and Dr. Christina Bauch from Instituto Universitario in Lisbon, Portugal and Groningen University, Netherlands.

The output of this conference will be published in the Atlantis Press Proceeding: Part of Nature in series of "Advances in Biological Sciences Research", the Journal of ILMU Dasar MIPA, and the Journal of Tropical Biodiversity and Biotechnology. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the Board of Jember University which supported this conference. And I also like to thank to Vanadia and DAAD as one of the main sponsors which make this conference possible.

I hope this conference will be fruitful for everyone. We look forward to seeing you all at the next ICOLIB conference.

Asmoro Lelono
Chairman of 4th ICOLIB 2021

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Contents

Peer-Review Statements	1
<i>Bambang Sugiharto, Asmoro Lelono, Muhammad Akbar Bahar, Syubanul Wathon, Asep Ginanjar Arip, Kartika Senjarini, Ramdhan Putrasetya, Beny Andika, and Nadhea Ayu Sukma</i>	
Analysis of the Impact of 200 μ T and 300 μ T <i>Extremely Low Frequency</i> (ELF) Magnetic Fields on the Growth Rate of Edamame Plants	4
<i>Sudarti, Trapsilo Prihandono, Winaning Nur Prihatin, and Ilme Mufida Suyono Putri</i>	
Application of Gibberellic Acid (GA_3) and Coconut Water with Stratification on Morphological, Anatomical, and Germination of Cherry Seed (<i>Prunus jamaakura</i>)	15
<i>Ika Fitri Ariyani, Solichatun, Suratman, and Sugiyarto</i>	
Lipase Production of <i>Aspergillus aculeatus</i> MS. 11 Using Solid State Fermentation on Rubber Seed Press Cake	24
<i>Maya Nurjanah and Miftahul Ilmi</i>	
Sex-Embryo Determination Using the Heart Rate as a Non-destructive Method in the Avian Species: Study on Japanese Quail (<i>Cortunix japonica</i>)	44
<i>Asmoro Lelono and Bambang Sugiharto</i>	
The Habitat Characteristics of Banteng (<i>Bos Javanicus</i> D'alton, 1832) in Pringtali Feeding Ground, Meru Betiri National Park, East Java	53
<i>Arif Mohammad Siddiq, Hari Sulistiyowati, and Tom Reader</i>	
Circan: A Database of Circular RNAs Exploring Chromosomal Linkages in Human Cancers	65
<i>Gaurav Kumar Bhagat</i>	
The Diversity of Indigenous Mushrooms Grow on Decomposed Oil Palm Empty Fruits Bunch at Palm Oil Plantation in Paser Regency, Indonesia	72
<i>Masitah, Krishna Purnawan Candra, Muhammad Amir Masruhim, and Pintaka Kusumaningtyas</i>	

The Study of Antibacterial and Antioxidant Activities of <i>Styrax</i> Leaves Fermentation by <i>Aspergillus niger</i>	79
<i>Sam Muehl Sejahtera Naiborhu, Adelina Manurung, and Merry Meryam Martgrita</i>	
Optimization of Citric Acid Production by Utilizing Rice Husk Waste as a Substrate Using Submerged Fermentation.	88
<i>Eka Rahmadani Ritonga, Adelina Manurung, and Merry Meryam Martgrita</i>	
Analysis of Amino Acids, Protein Profile, Calcium and Phosphorus Levels of <i>Upeneus moluccensis</i> Waste (<i>Thorns and Scales</i>)	98
<i>I Dewa Ayu Ratna Dewanti, I Dewa Ayu Susilawati, Pujiana Endah Lestari, Erawati Wulandari, Risty Widi Endah Yani, and Sunlip Wibisono</i>	
Identification of Advantages of <i>Indigofera-Pennisetum</i> Intercropping Under Coconut Plantation Based on Dry Matter Yield	110
<i>Malcky Makanaung Telleng, Wilhelmina Beritan Kaunang, Srimalasinha Sane, and Ivonne Maria Untu</i>	
In Vitro Analysis of Human IgG Immune Response Against 31 kDa and 67 kDa Immunogenic Protein from <i>Aedes albopictus</i> Salivary Glands	122
<i>Syubbanul Wathon, Izza Afkarina, Unzilatih Rohmah, Rike Oktarianti, and Kartika Senjarini</i>	
The Apyrase Functional Properties of the 56 kDa Protein from <i>Aedes aegypti</i> Salivary Gland.	135
<i>Rike Oktarianti, Alfian Suhardiansyah, Elisa Erni, Syubbanul Wathon, and Kartika Senjarini</i>	
The Habitat Suitability of Javan Langur (<i>Trachypithecus auratus</i> E. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1812) in Kucur Resort at Alas Purwo National Park, Indonesia	144
<i>Haikal Idris Maulahila, Arif Mohammad Siddiq, and Hari Sulistiyowati</i>	
Humoral Immune Response (IgG) of BALB/c Mice (<i>Mus musculus</i>) Post-injection by 56 kDa Immunogenic Protein Extract from the Salivary Glands of <i>Aedes aegypti</i> L.	157
<i>Aisyah, Rike Oktarianti, Kartika Senjarini, and Syubbanul Wathon</i>	
The Effectiveness of Suspension Beta Asarone Mixed with Silica Nanoparticles in the Mortality of <i>Crocidolomia pavonana</i>	168
<i>Purwatiningsih, Barlah Rumhayati, Susantin Fajariyah, and Raodatul Jannah</i>	

Classification of Lymphoma, Benign Lesions, and Carcinoma Using Convolutional Neural Network 175
Hanina Nuralifa Zahra, Isa Anshori, Hasna Nadila, Hofifa Mulya Utami, Joshua Adi Chandra, Muhammad Rashid Kurniawan, Yunianti Khotimah, Widyardana Adiprawita, Hermin Aminah Usman, and Okky Husain

Comparative Study of Convolutional Neural Network Architecture in Lymphoma Detection 193
Michaella Yosephine, Rafita Erli Adhawiyah, Yasmin Salsabila Kurniawan, Isa Anshori, Ramadhita Umitaibatin, Vegi Faturrahman, Rey Ezra Langelo, Widyardana Adiprawita, Hermin Aminah Usman, and Okky Husain

Deep Learning for Lymphoma Detection on Microscopic Images 203
Ammar Ammar, Irfan Tito Kurniawan, Resfyanti Nur Azizah, Hafizh Rahmatdianto Yusuf, Antonius Eko Nugroho, Ghani Faliq Mufiddin, Isa Anshori, Widyardana Adiprawita, Hermin Aminah Usman, and Okky Husain

Citric Acid Production Optimation from Toba Banana Peel Through Submerged Fermentation by *Aspergillus niger* Using Central Composite Design. 216
Merry Meryam Martgrita, Adelina Manurung, Herti Novalia Hutapea, and Fauziah Balqis Anggi Fitriani

Activity Enhancement of Antioxidant Contained in Sugar Palm Fruit (*Arenga pinnata* Merr) Through Solid State Fermentation by *Aspergillus oryzae* 225
Merry Meryam Martgrita, Roga Florida Kembaren, Adelina Manurung, Herti Novalia Hutapea, and Theodora Mega Putri Lumbangaol

Electroelution of 31 kDa Immunogenic Protein Fraction from the Salivary Gland of *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* (Diptera: Culicidae). 234
Ilma Zakiyyah, Linda Dwi Santika, Syubbanul Wathon, Kartika Senjarini, and Rike Oktarianti

The Effect of Dietary Bromelain Enzyme on Broiler Chicken (*Gallus gallus*) Growth Performance 249
Ni'matul Laili Nur Mahfudhoh, Sajidan, and Agung Budiharjo

Amylase Production by *Rhizopus oryzae* Using Solid State Fermentation with Cassava Solid Waste as Substrate 257
Merry Meryam Martgrita, Roga Florida Kembaren, Herti Novalia Hutapea, Ivana Sitepu, and Evy Enjelina Simanjuntak

In Vitro Cytotoxicity of Gallic Acid Derivatives (Alkyl gallates) Against Breast MCF-7 Cancer Cells	266
<i>Ade Arsianti, Maya Dorothea, Naura Syafira, Ananda Tony, and Anton Bahtiar</i>	
The Roles of Genetic and Epigenetic Aspects in Mandibular Prognathism: A Review	277
<i>Putri Fatimatus Zahro, Francisca Veyta Ayu, Fadli Jazaldi, and Elza Ibrahim Auerkari</i>	
Genetics and Epigenetics Aspects of Thalassemia	288
<i>Inayu Mahardhika Putri, Ferry P. Gultom, and Elza Ibrahim Auerkari</i>	
The Comparison of Essential Oil Extraction from Citronella Grass (<i>Cymbopogon nardus L.</i>) Using Solvent-Free Microwave Extraction and Microwave Hydrodistillation Methods	297
<i>Ditta Kharisma Yolanda Putri, Ardetha Titarnia Aurly, Siti Fatimah, and Boy Arief Fachri</i>	
The Effects of Ethanol Extract of Asian Pigeon Wings (<i>Clitoria ternatea L.</i>) Flower on Body Weight and Malondialdehyde Level in Diabetes Rat Model	303
<i>Tantri Febriana Putri, Brian Wasita, and Dono Indarto</i>	
Modifying High Sucrose Tomatoes by Genome Editing A-Review	312
<i>Muhammad Mufarrij Fuad Ulfi, Ridlo Firmansyah, Wahyu Indra Duwi Fanata, Dibyajyoti Pramanik, Jae-Yean Kim, and Sholeh Avivi</i>	
Patau Syndrome: Genetic and Epigenetic Aspects	321
<i>Yesi Octavia, Muhammad Garry Syahrizal Hanafi, Fadli Jazaldi, and Elza Ibrahim Auerkari</i>	
Anticancer Effect of Red Fruit Fractions Toward Breast Cancer in T47D Cell and Oral Squamous Cancer in KB Cell	330
<i>Hana Ratnawati, Yoki Chandra, and Endry Kho</i>	
Screen-Printed Carbon Electrode Fabrication Method for Electrochemical Biosensor Application	341
<i>Eduardus Ariasena, Ivandy Arifin Putra Noerrizky, Raih Rona Althof, and Isa Anshori</i>	

Immunogenic Proteins from Salivary Gland of Potential Malaria Vector <i>An. vagus</i> and <i>An. sundaicus</i>	354
<i>Ika Wahyuni, Rike Oktarianti, Syubbanul Wathon, Lailly Nur Uswatul Hasanah, and Kartika Senjarini</i>	
Identification of Protein Levels as Production of Bacteriosin from <i>Lactobacillus Plantarum</i> in Fermented Chicken Eggs	363
<i>Azmi Mangalisu, Irma Isnafia Arief, Andi Kurnia Armayanti, and Zakiah Wulandari</i>	
Alkaloid Fraction of <i>Mirabilis Jalapa</i> Leaves has Higher <i>Betaxanthin</i> Levels than Ethanol Extract and is Potentially Developed for Anemia Treatment.	370
<i>Yuliana Heri Suselo, Dono Indarto, Brian Wasita, and Hartono</i>	
Changing of Morphological, Anatomical, Cytological Characteristic and Artemisinin Content in <i>Artemisia cina</i> by Colchicine Treatment	378
<i>Maria Marina Herawati, Endang Pudjihartati, and Andree Wijaya Setawan</i>	
The Effect of Extract Areca Seeds (<i>Areca catechu</i> L.) on the Thickness of the Colonic Tunica Muscularis in Mice (<i>Mus musculus</i>) Fedded <i>Trichuris muris</i> Infective Eggs Peroral.	391
<i>Endy Juli Anto</i>	
Utilization of Bagasse for Bioethanol Raw Materials Using Crude Cellulase from <i>Phanerochaete Chrysosporium</i> with SSF Method	399
<i>Sri Rulianah, Prayitno, and Carita Ayu Maulidina</i>	
Determination of Salinity Tolerance on Cayenne Genotypes Based on Leaf Damage Symptoms	409
<i>Rustikawati, Mimi Sutrawati, Wuri Prameswari, Catur Herison, and Yoga Suprimansyah</i>	
Selection of Potential Plants as Phytoremediation for Heavy Metals in Estuarine Ecosystem: A Systematic Review	420
<i>Alfin Fatwa M. Afifudin, Rony Irawanto, and Neny Purwitasari</i>	
Genetic and Epigenetic Aspects of Amelogenesis Imperfecta and Dentinogenesis Imperfecta	435
<i>Nurulia Januarti, Francisca Veyta Ayu, Ria Puspitawati, and Elza Ibrahim Auerkari</i>	

Isolation and Identification of Biogas-Producing Methanogenic Bacteria from Cow Manure.	444
<i>Grace Roma Artha Samosir, Ellyas Alga Nainggolan, Meiyer Marthen Kinda, and Dedy Anwar</i>	
Molecular Aspects of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus	451
<i>Benita Kurniawan, Francisca Veyta Ayu, Benny Mulyono Soegiharto, and Elza Ibrahim Auerkari</i>	
An Extracellular Cellulase Production Under Solid-State Fermentation of Coffee Pulp Waste by <i>Aspergillus</i> sp. VTM1 and Its Purification	460
<i>Ramadhan Putrasetya, Reni Rusdianti, Viara Septaninda Sugianto, Rudju Winarsa, Siswoyo, and Kahar Muzakhar</i>	
Production and Partial Purification of Cellulase from <i>Aspergillus</i> sp. VT12 by Solid-State Fermentation Using Coffee Pulp.	467
<i>Farah Salma Elida, Dwi Fajarwati Ramadhani, Rudju Winarsa, Hidayat Teguh Wiyono, Siswoyo, and Kahar Muzakhar</i>	
The Cytotoxicity Effect of Ethanol Extract and Alkaloid Fraction of <i>Mirabilis jalapa</i> Leaves in Hepatocarcinoma Cell Line	475
<i>Yuliana Heri Suselo, Dono Indarto, Brian Wasita, and Hartono</i>	
Pectinase Production by <i>Aspergillus</i> VTM4 Induced by Pomelo Pulp (<i>C. maxima</i> Merr.) As Substrate	482
<i>Rudju Winarsa, Okta Novalia Gasani, Tamimul Badriya, Hidayat Teguh Wiyono, Siswoyo, and Kahar Muzakhar</i>	
Pectinase Production of <i>Aspergillus</i> sp. VTM5 Through Solid State Fermentation Using Coffee Pulp Substrate and Its Purification	492
<i>Azizah, Atim Ainul Hidayah, Rosa Amelia, Hidayat Teguh Wiyono, Siswoyo, and Kahar Muzakhar</i>	
Coffee Pulp Waste Substrate Based in Cellulase Production by <i>Penicillium</i> sp. VT11 Under Solid-State Fermentation	501
<i>Hidayat Teguh Wiyono, Nabilah Ilmalah Sunarto, Finda Rahmawati, Rudju Winarsa, Siswoyo, and Kahar Muzakhar</i>	
Cellulase Production from <i>Paecilomyces Lilacinus</i> ICP1 Using Coffee Pulp as Substrate	510
<i>Trianawati, Rudju Winarsa, Siswoyo, and Kahar Muzakhar</i>	
Isolation and Identification of Hemicellulolytic Bacteria from Indonesian Coffee Pulp Waste	517
<i>Sattya Arimurti, Yulia Nuraini, Tri Ardyati, and Suharjono Suharjono</i>	

Linker Optimization in Breast Cancer Multiepitope Peptide Vaccine Design Based on Molecular Study	528
<i>Fadilah Fadilah, Rafika Indah Paramita, Linda Erlina, Khaerunissa Anbar Istiadi, Puspita Eka Wuyung, and Aryo Tedjo</i>	
Phytochemical Screening and Antimicrobial Activity of <i>Cordyline fruticosa</i> Leaf Infusion and Ethanol Extract Against <i>Shigella dysenteriae</i> and <i>Candida albicans</i>	539
<i>Vilya Syafriana, Amelia Febriani, and Hera Ratmasari</i>	
Tobacco Stalk as Source of CMCase Enzyme Production of Actinomycetes Isolated from Rhizosphere of Tobacco (<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> L.) by Submerged Fermentation	550
<i>Esti Utarti, Annisa'ul Jannah, and Sattya Arimurti</i>	
Susceptibility Status of <i>Culex quinquefasciatus</i> to Malathion in Brebes Regency, Indonesia	560
<i>Husnatun Nihayah, Budi Mulyaningsih, and Sitti Rahmah Umniyati</i>	
The Comparative Effects of Branded and Local High Fat Foods on Body Mass Index and Vascular Wall Thickness in Male Wistar Rats for Development of Atherosclerosis Animal Model.	572
<i>Prasetyo Sarwono Putro, Dono Indarto, Bambang Poerwanto, Widiastuti Soewondo, and Sulistyani Kusumaningrum</i>	
The Influence of Gum Inducer Solution Administration on the Gum Production of the Jaranan Plant (<i>Lannea coromandelica</i> (Houtt.) Merr.)	579
<i>Hidayat Teguh Wiyono, Selin Monika Prihasinta, Dwi Setyati, and Nadhea Ayu Sukma</i>	
In Silico Study of Antigenicity and Immunogenicity of the D7 Protein from Salivary Glands of <i>Aedes aegypti</i>	588
<i>Kartika Senjarini, Susmaya Atmandaru, Ari Satia Nugraha, Syubbanul Wathon, and Rike Oktarianti</i>	
DNA Barcoding of <i>Vanda tricolor</i> Lindl. Based on <i>matK</i> , <i>rbcL</i> and ITS2 Sequences	596
<i>Mukhamad Su'udi, Waki'atil Rosida, El Shania Ravitamala, and Dwi Setyati</i>	
Ecological Value of Tree Vegetation at Ere-ere Biosite of Ijen Geopark, Indonesia	605
<i>Hari Sulistiyowati, Arif Mohammad Siddiq, Abdullah Baraas, Fikli Perdana Kusuma, and Firman Syauqi Nur Sabila</i>	



Peer-Review Statements

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[AQ1](#) All of the articles in this proceedings volume have been presented at the International Conference on Life Science and Biotechnology (ICOLIB) on November 15–16, 2021 at Jember University Indonesia. These articles have been peer-reviewed by the members of the Scientific Committee of ICOLIB and approved by the Editor-in-Chief, who affirms

[AQ2](#) that this document is a truthful description of the conference’s review process.

1 Review Procedure

The reviews were double-blind. Each submission was examined by two reviewer(s) independently. The conference submission management system was easy chair.

We divided the submission of the ICOLIB participant into two categories, the first is abstract and the second the full manuscript submission. The submissions of the abstract were first screened for generic quality, relatedness to the main topic and suitability by the editorial team. Based on this initial screening, all of the abstracts would be classified by the main theme, i.e. Applied Sciences (Agriculture, Biotechnology & Bioinformatics), Basic Sciences (Ecology, Zoology, Botany, and Microbiology), Biodiversity & Bioconservation, Health & Medicine (Pharmacy & Medical Sciences). All of the selected abstracts would be presented by their author during the ICOLIB conferences. The committee gave an option to the authors to publish their manuscripts or just presented their work in the ICOLIB conference.

All of the complete manuscripts then follow the review process, the first step was to evaluate the relatedness to the proceedings series “Advances in Biological Sciences Research”, scientific quality, novelty and contribution to the science. The second step is checking the similarity using Turnitin to evaluate the textual overlap and detect the possible sign of plagiarism. The third step was to send for peer review by matching each

B. Sugiharto—Editors-in-Chief of the ICOLIB.

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paper's topic with the reviewers' expertise, taking into account any competing interests. However, in some case, we also sent the manuscript to the third reviewer to consider another opinion if the first two reviewers has an opposite decision. A paper could only be considered for acceptance if it had received favourable comments and suggestions from the two reviewers. The recommendations then sent back to the author to address the reviewer's comment. The acceptance or rejection of a revised manuscript was final. In the final steps, all of the manuscripts were adjusted in their layout and some of the technical editing for the pre-print version. This preprint document would be sent to the author for clarification. They also should be sent a statement of the novelty and originality of the study.

2 Quality Criteria

Reviewers were instructed to assess the quality of submissions solely based on the academic merit of their content along the following dimensions. The editorial gave a rubric for a guideline which contains some important aspect related to the quality of the manuscript such as:

1. Pertinence of the article's content to the scope and themes of the conference;
2. Clear demonstration of originality, novelty, and timeliness of the research;
3. Soundness of the methods, analyses, and results;
4. Adherence to the ethical standards and codes of conduct relevant to the research field;
5. Clarity, style, cohesion, and accuracy in language and other modes of expression, including figures and tables.

We have a policy that each manuscript should be reviewed by two reviewers and each reviewer only reviews two manuscripts. The consequences of this policy is that we contact more reviewers, in total we ask 61 reviewer for completing the review process.

3 Key Metrics

Total submissions	118
Number of articles sent for peer review	67
Number of accepted articles	61.
Acceptance rate	51.5%
Number of reviewers	61

4 Competing Interests

Neither the Editor-in-Chief nor any member of the Scientific Committee declares any competing interest.

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In Silico Study of Antigenicity and Immunogenicity of the D7 Protein from Salivary Glands of *Aedes aegypti*

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Abstract. The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito has been known as the primary vector in the transmission of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF). D7 protein has been reported as a protein expressed in the salivary glands of mosquito vectors that can increase the transmission of the pathogen because of its ability to immunosuppress the host immune response (immunogenic). This study aimed to perform an in-silico analysis of the antigenicity and immunogenicity of D7 protein from the salivary glands of the *Aedes aegypti* vector. The results showed that the D7 *Ae. aegypti* (accession number: P18153 (UNIPROT)) could be recognized as an antigenic and immunogenic protein by finding its predicted protein epitopes on B cell as well as T cell. The YYKCLVESS peptide was identified as a suitable candidate as a linear B cell epitope. The peptides KGLYEKLGKDI and KNQAYSKPAVMEIDGKQCPQ were identified as epitopes of conformational B cells. The LYDPVAQKF peptide has a high affinity; thus, it was identified as a T cell potential epitope. The identified epitope could be further evaluated at *in vivo* study to be developed as a potential transmission-blocking vaccine candidate for DHF.

Keywords: DHF · *Aedes aegypti* · Salivary Gland · D7 protein · Vaccine

1 Introduction

Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) is an infectious diseases caused by Dengue Virus (DENV) that can be transmitted rapidly by mosquitoes throughout the tropic's region and some parts of the subtropic regions. Increasing of DHF cases in endemic areas occur in a short period, even causing "Kejadian Luar Biasa" (KLB, extraordinary cases) in some parts of the world, including Indonesia [1]. DENV is an RNA virus belonging to the genus *Flavivirus*, family *Flaviviridae*. This virus has four serotypes, including DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3, and DENV-4 [2]. Genus *Aedes* (*Ae.*) is an important mosquito vector in transmitting DENV to the human body. *Ae. aegypti* has been known as the primary vector, and *Ae. albopictus* as a secondary vector [3].

Transmission of DENV by *Aedes* mosquitoes into the human body occurs in the process of blood-feeding through salivary glands [4]. Mosquito saliva contains protein substances that can modulate human immune response and activate anticoagulation, anti-inflammatory, and vasodilating properties that make it easier for the blood-feeding process [5]. Furthermore, the protein complexes in the saliva are known to have the ability to induce cellular immunity and the production of specific antibodies [6].

The 31 kDa protein from the salivary gland of *Ae. aegypti* has been reported to constitute protein D7 as the main component [7]. D7 protein is a protein expressed in Diptera blood-feeding salivary glands. D7 protein in *Aedes* mosquitoes belongs to odorant-binding proteins (OBP) family [8]. This protein is able to inhibit the activity of biogenic amines such as serotonin, histamine, and leukotrienes which play a role in the vasoconstriction process. and inflammatory response [9]. In addition, protein D7 can elicit an adaptive immune response that triggers the production of antibodies against salivary components [10]. This indicates the properties of D7 protein to have antigenicity and immunogenicity activities. Antigenicity is the ability of the antigen to be recognized by antibodies, whereas immunogenicity is the ability of the antigen to induce cellular as well as humoral immune responses [11]. However, the antigenicity and immunogenicity active sites of the D7 salivary gland protein from *Ae. aegypti* have not yet been identified so far. This research wanted to analyze the antigenicity and immunogenicity of the D7 protein from the salivary gland of *Ae. aegypti* by using in silico approach.

2 Materials and Methods

2.1 Time and Location

This research was conducted from April to June 2021 at the Biotechnology Laboratory, Department of Biology - Faculty of Mathematics & Natural Sciences, The University of Jember - Indonesia.

2.2 Material of Research

The material used in this research was amino acids sequences of D7 protein from *Ae. aegypti* with Accession No. P18153 from UNIPROT (<https://www.uniprot.org/>). We also used this protein's 3D structure to predict the conformational B-Cell epitope from this website.

2.3 Methods

2.3.1 Prediction of B-cell Epitopes

Prediction of linear B cell epitope from D7 protein sequence was conducted using analytical methods from the following website <http://tools.iedb.org/main/>. This analysis was based on the methods available in Kolaskar and Tongaonkar [12]. From the 3D structure of D7 protein (GDP ID: 3DXL; PDB Chain ID: A), conformational B cell epitope has been predicted by DiscoTope 1.1 method [13], which was available on the page <http://tools.iedb.org/discotope/>.

2.3.2 Prediction of T-Cell Epitopes

T cell epitope prediction was performed using MHC I and MHC II analysis, which can be accessed via <http://www.iedb.org/>. T cell epitope MHC I-based prediction was carried out using NetMHCpan EL 4.1 [14]. The following specific alleles with a range size of 9-m were used i.e. HLA-A*01:01, HLA-A*02:01, HLA-A*03:01, HLA-A*11:01, HLA-A*23:01, HLA-A*24:02, HLA-B*07:02, HLA-B*08:01, HLA-B*35:01, HLA-B*40:01, HLA-B*44:02, and HLA-B*44:03 [15].

2.4 Data Analysis

Data analysis is carried out based on results from antigenicity and immunogenicity analysis from B cell and T cell epitope prediction, resulting in a table and/or graphic. The high linear B cell epitope value prediction was shown by residue scores above the threshold specified by the server, which is 1.029. The potential amino acids sequences for B cell epitope conformation were sequences with predicted epitope scores above the threshold specified by DiscoTope i.e., -7.7. Method NetMHCpan 4.1 was used to predict the binding affinity of the peptide with HLA-I on MHC I T cell epitope. Selected peptides were sorted based on a low percentile rank ($\leq 2\%$) and a high sequence identity score ($\geq 90\%$), meaning they had a high and good affinity to the HLA-I molecule [14, 15].

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Prediction of B-Cell Epitopes

Prediction of linear B cell epitope with Kolaskar and Tongaonkar method used the default of window size 7 and the threshold of 1.029. This analysis showed in Fig. 1. 12 peptides were predicted to have high antigenicity, as shown in Table 1. Those predicted peptides had amino acids residues that were higher than the threshold. The higher score of amino acid residues compared to the threshold meant a higher probability of its acting as epitope candidate [9].

This research used the prediction of conformational B cell epitope with DiscoTope approach by using the default threshold of -7.7 for epitope identification. The predicted results of the conformational B cell epitope can be seen in Fig. 2.

Using DiscoTope approach, 102 amino acid residues have been identified as part of the epitope region. This B-cell epitope region is displayed in Fig. 3 as 3D structure marked with yellow. Previous studies showed that conformational B cell epitope should be consisted of about 10–22 residues [16]. Therefore, in this research, the following peptides could be considered as candidates for conformational B cell epitopes, including KGLYEKLGKDI peptides at position 154–164 with 11-m length as well as the PKKQVYSKPAVQSQV peptides at position 297–311 with 15-m long.

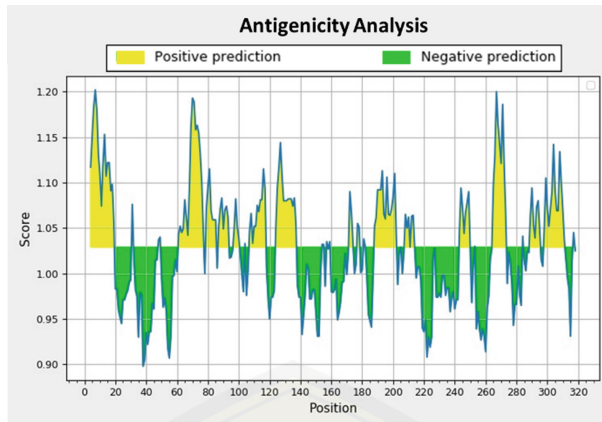


Fig. 1. Antigenicity analysis result.

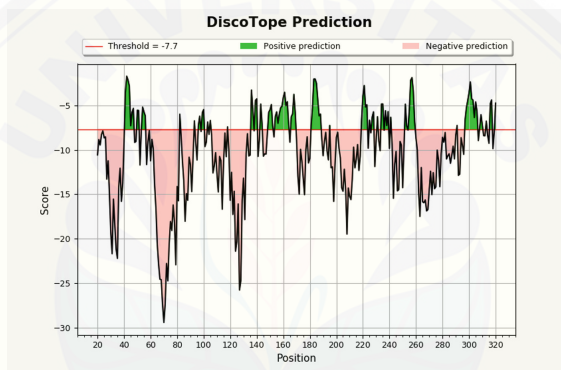


Fig. 2. Prediction of B cell conformational epitope.

Based on the prediction of linear B cell epitope (antigenicity analysis) and conformation, there was an overlapping of the KKQVYSKPAVQSQV peptide at positions 298–311, indicating that these peptides could be the best candidate for B cell epitope. This linear B cell epitope is predicted as the most antigenic part of a protein. It has been widely observed that the antigenicity properties of an antigen are shown by its ability to be recognized by antibodies [11].

Amino acids residues identified as epitopes using the conformational method are known to have immunogenicity or the ability to increase cellular immune response and trigger specific antibody production [6]. The B cell epitope is a molecule in antigens capable of interacting with specific antibodies produced by the immune response. Antibodies in host immune response have function to bind specifically to the target antigen and activate other cell components from cellular as well as the humoral immune system of the host [17].

Table 1. Prediction of peptides with its potential amino acids

No	Start	End	Peptide	Length
1	4	19	PLLLAIVTTFSVVAST	16
2	61	77	DSPATQCFGKCVLVRTG	17
3	79	85	YDPVAQK	7
4	87	93	DASVIQE	7
5	107	117	VEAYANAVQQL	11
6	124	137	CAAVFKAYDPVHKA	14
7	188	202	QQLCKIRQYTVLDDA	15
8	208	213	TDCVMK	6
9	243	249	LEKVLND	7
10	265	273	YYKCLVESS	9
11	289	295	SQIYAFN	7
12	298	311	KKQVYSKPAVQSQV	14

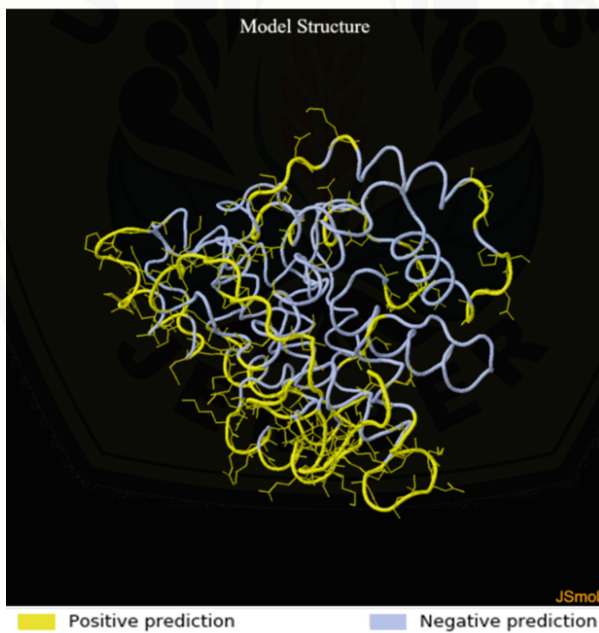


Fig. 3. 3D structure with epitope prediction

Table 2. Prediction of T-cell epitopes

Allele	Start	End	Length	Peptide	Score	Percentile Rank
HLA-A*24:02	78	86	9	LYDPVAQKF	0.987085	0.01
HLA-A*23:01	78	86	9	LYDPVAQKF	0.984488	0.01
HLA-A*03:01	77	85	9	GLYDPVAQK	0.982311	0.01
HLA-A*03:01	96	104	9	KAYPSLGEK	0.937474	0.02
HLA-A*11:01	197	205	9	TVLDDALFK	0.91721	0.02
HLA-B*44:02	102	110	9	GEKSKVEAY	0.916324	0.02
HLA-A*24:02	109	117	9	AYANAVQQL	0.902793	0.02

3.2 Prediction of T-Cell Epitopes

Prediction of T-cell epitope based on its ability to bind MHC I with NetMHCpan EL 4.1 method could determine the ability of each protein sequence to bind certain MHC I molecules [14]. T cell epitope prediction results using NetMHCpan EL 4.1 method can be seen in Table 2. There were 7 peptides with high affinity to bind HLA 1 with a score of more than 90% and percentile rank of less than 2% [14], [15]. Results of antigenicity analysis and T cell epitope prediction showed that peptide YDPVAQK at positions 79–85 and peptide AYANAVQQL at position 109–117 were a potential candidate for T cell epitope. Particularly, YDPVAQK had higher score with lower percentile rank compared to AYANAVQQL, thus YDPVAQK peptide was very likely to be the best candidate for T cell epitope especially for further development design vaccine design. This was also strengthened by its ability to bind with the 3 most common HLA alleles found in the world i.e., HLA-A*24:02, HLA-A*23:01, and HLA-A*03:01.

This ability to bind HLA (MHC) is an important property for predicting T-cell epitope. HLA binding allows APC-antigens to involve T cells via T cell receptors to stimulate proinflammatory response. The high affinity of specific peptides to MHC molecules is the most critical determinant for protein immunogenicity. This is essential in designing vaccines as those immunogenic antigens will stimulate T-cells and antibody responses [18].

This in silico study showed that D7 protein from the salivary gland of *Ae. aegypti* (Accession No.: P18153) was an antigenic and immunogenic protein because B-cell and T-cell epitopes were predicted on these proteins. Peptide sequences of KQVYSKPAVQSQV and YDPVAQK were identified as the best candidates for B cell epitope and T cell epitope, respectively.

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Authors’ Contributions. KS, ASN and RO conceived and designed the original idea and the experiment, SA perform an experiment. KS and SA wrote the first draft of the manuscript. SW

evaluated the generation of tables and schemes, and together with KS, ASN, and RO wrote the final version. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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