

In vitro screening of endophytic fungi associated with mangroveas biofertilizer on the growth of black rice (*Oryza sativa*L. "Cempo Ireng")

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Abstract. Microorganisms play an important role in maintaining soil fertility and plant health. They can act as biofertilizers and increase the resistance to biotic and abiotic stress. This study focused on the isolation and selection of endophytic fungi associated with mangrove that have ability to promote the growth of *Orizasativa* L. Cempoireng. Assessing the growth of plant was study in vitro test by using PDA as a media. A total of 17 fungi were found in leaf, stem and root of mangrove and classified into 6 morphotypes according to colonies characteristics and form of mycelium. The best isolate (the endophytic fungi with characteristic of white fungus colonies mycelium septa and non-septa revealed the high ability to promote the germination seed and growth of CempoIreng. Overall, the study indicated that the endophytic fungicontributed the positive effect on the growth of *Oryza sativa*L. "Cempo Ireng".

1. Introduction

Mangroves are known as ecological services both in tropical and subtropical regions by providing niches for various flora, fauna as well as microbes [1]. Endophytes fungi are cluster of fungi that colonize the plant interior and contribute to the growth, development, fitness, and adaptation of the host plant. They have been found in almost all plant families including mangrove family. Endophytes fungi often confer considerable benefits to the host plants they inhabit [2]. They can stimulate plant growth by providing nutrients such as phosphate, iron and increase plant resistance to stress such as drought, high salinity, and metallic toxicities. Moreover, endophytic fungus may produce a number of secondary metabolites (auxin, cytokinin, and gibberellin) that contribute to stimulate the growth of plants [3,4].

On the other hand, black rice (*Oryzasativa* L. cultivar "CempoIreng") has been believed as an alternative healthy food for diseases treatmentsbecause of its nutritive and medicinal value. It contains anthocyanin, flavonoids, vitamin B1, Fe, and vitamin E that is higher than brown or white rice [5]. Therefore, the study highlighted the potential endophytic fungus associated with mangrove and investigated their ability to promote the plant growth of *Orizasativa* L. CempoIreng.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Materials

The main materials were mangrove that were collected from Kuala Langsa, Langsa, Aceh, Indonesia. All chemicals used for the study were analytical grade and obtained from C.V Multikreasi Medan.



2.2. Methods

2.2.1. Preparation of fungal endophyte isolates

The endophyte isolates were obtained from the roots, stems, and branch of mangrove. The isolation method followed the proposed method of Naweet *et al.* [6] that has been modified on plant surface sterilization. The roots, stems, and leaves of the plant were cut ± 1 cm and washed with running water. The surface was sterilized gradually through immersion in 70% alcohol for 1 minute, followed by immersion with 5% NaOCl for 2 minutes, and 70% alcohol for 30 minutes. Furthermore, each part of the plant rinsed as much as 3 times with sterile distilled water. Roots, stems, and leaves that have been cut are placed on a 10% PDA medium and incubated in the dark. The isolated plant sterile test was performed by scraping the last rinse of sterile distilled water onto a 10% PDA medium and subsequently incubated for 3-5 days. The mycelium growing on plant tissue pieces was observed daily. The mycelium then was transferred to a 10% PDA medium for purification.

2.2.2. Purification and identification of endophytic fungi

The purification of the spore fungus was carried out by transferring the fungus which has grown by 0.5 cm into the medium of the PDA [7]. An identification book from Nakagiri [8] is used as a reference to identify morphology of endophytic fungi covering macroscopic and microscopic observations. The same colonies were considered the same isolate, and each representative colony was separated into isolates.

2.2.3. Determination of potential of endophytic fungi as biofertilizers

Sterilization of rice seeds surface was performed by soaking the seeds of black rice in sterile water for 15 minutes and 1% NaOCl for 2 minutes. Subsequently, they were rinse with sterile water 2 times then grown on PDA medium. Furthermore, after germination, the seeds were transferred to a pure culture of endophytic fungi aged 4-7 days on PDA medium. Each PDA medium was filled with 15 seeds of rice crops. Observations were carried out by measuring the crown height and root length at 7 days after planting. The observed variables were the height of stem and the length of the root. Determination of the potential fungi as biofertilizer was determined by the response of seeds after endophytic fungi treatments [9].

2.2.4. Data Analysis

The parameters observed were germination, height of stem, root length of black rice plants grown in-vitro. Data were analysed using ANOVA at 5% significant level and continued with the Smallest Different Test (DMRT). The test criteria were as follows: if the value $F_{\text{count}} > F_{\text{table}}$, then H_1 was accepted and H_0 was rejected, If the value $F_{\text{count}} < F_{\text{table}}$, then H_0 was accepted and H_1 was rejected [10].

3. Results and Discussions

The study obtained a total of 17 isolates of fungi from roots, stems, and leaves of mangrove (table 1) which initially grouped into 6 morphotypes according to colonies characteristics and form of mycelium i.e (1) the white fungus colonies with mycelium (PS) and (2) non-septa (PNS), (3) black fungus with mycelium septa (HS) and (4) non-septa (HNS), and (5) yellow fungus with mycelium septa (KS) and (6) non-septa (KNS).

Tabel 1. List of endophytic fungi isolated from mangrove located in Kuala Langsa, Aceh, Indonesia based on morphotypes*

Isolates	Number of isolates			Percentage (%)
	Root	Stem	Leaf	
PS	4	2	1	41,18
PNS	2	1	2	29,4
HS	1	0	0	5,89
HNS	1	1	0	11,76
KS	0	1	0	5,89
KNS	1	0	0	5,89
Total	9	5	3	100

*6 morphotypes of fungi: the white fungus colonies with mycelium (PS) and (2) non-septa (PNS), (3) black fungus with mycelium septa (HS) and (4) non-septa (HNS), and (5) yellow fungus with mycelium septa (KS) and (6) non-septa (KNS).

According to a total of 17 endophytic fungi isolated from mangrove, the endophytic fungi with mycelium septa and non-septa were dominant on frequencies of 41.18% and 29.4% respectively. Furthermore, the observations on three parts of the plant exhibited that endophytic fungi were most widely found in the roots of mangrove. The result was consistent with the research of Paul *et al.* [11] who reported that the root was the most high-frequency isolate compared to the stem and leaf. It can be explained that root of plant provides suitable habitat for various micro organism including endophytic fungi.

In order to test the ability of endophyte as biofertilizer, the *in vitro* tests was performed by aseptically germinating and growing Cemporeng in potato dextro agar (PDA). The results revealed that the endophytic fungi had potency to stimulate the germination seed and growth of Cemporeng particularly for the white fungus colonies with mycelium non-septa (PNS) (Table 2 and Figure 1).

Tabel 2. *In vitro* test to the ability of endophytic fungi associated with mangrove from Kuala Langsa, Aceh, Indonesia as biofertilizer on the seed germination and growth of Cemporeng.

Treatments	Respons of the germination seed of Cemporeng		Respons of the growth of Cemporeng	
	Normal germination	Non germination	Average of height of stem (cm)	Average length of root (cm)
Positive controls	8 (86,7)	7 (13,3)	1,5	0,2
Endophytic fungi.	PS	14 (93,3)	1 (6,7)	2,4
	PNS	15 (100)	0	0,6
	HS	2 (13,3)	0	1,9
	HNS	3 (20)	0	0,5
	KS	5 (33,3)	0	2,0
	KNS	2 (13,3)	0	2,1

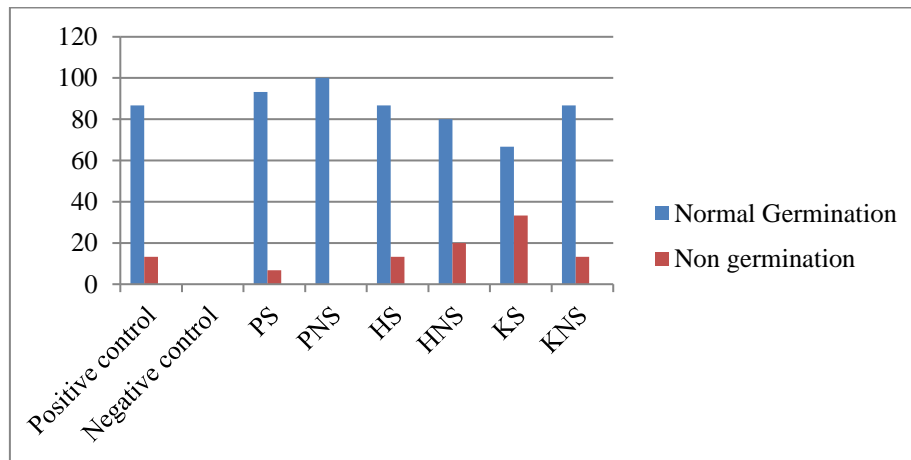


Figure 1. Percentage of *in vitro* test toward the ability of endophytic fungi associated with mangrove from Kuala Langsa, Aceh, Indonesia as biofertilizer on the germination and growth of Cemporeng.

The figure 1 displayed the positive responses of germination of Cemporeng *in vitro* test approximately 65 % by adding the isolated endophytic fungi associated with mangrove. This finding could be explained by Kusumawardani *et al.* [12] who reported that endophytic fungi tested could inhibit the growth of pathogenic fungi through antagonistic mechanisms viz competition mechanisms, parasitism, and antibiosis. Additionally, the effect of endophytic fungi associated with mangrove toward the growth of Cemporeng particularly stem height and root length showed the positive responses as showed in figure 2(a) and 2(b). The isolated fungus was able to increase the stem height of 1.98 cm and the root length of 0.36 cm compared to the control that was 1.5 cm and 0.2 cm respectively. These results were supported by Hamayun [13] and Khan [3] who stated endophytic fungi have the ability to produce a number of secondary metabolites viz. auxin, gibberellin and cytokines that promote the growth of Cemporeng. In the same way, Sirrenberger *et al.* [14] reported that the endophytic fungus isolated from *Piriformospora indica* was able to rise *Arabi-dopsis* growth by increasing the production of auxin hormone which plays a role in increasing the length of the plant stem (apical dominance). As a result it will increase plant growth.

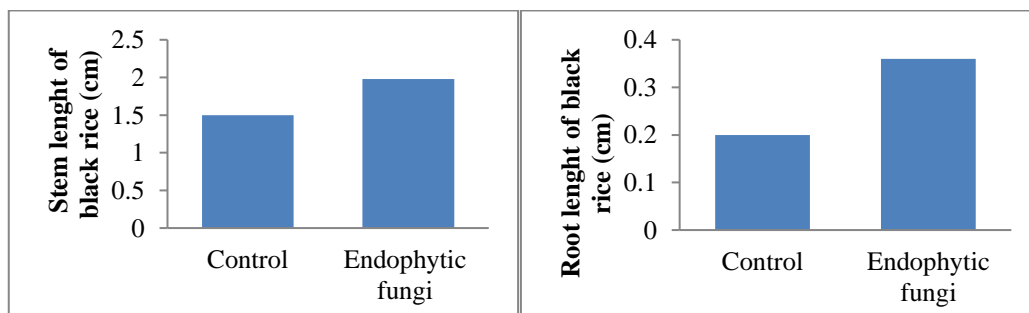


Figure 2. *In vitro* test on the ability of endophytic fungi as biofertilizer toward the growth of stem (a) and root of Cemporeng (b).

4. Conclusions

The present study screened the potential endophytic fungi associated with mangrove plant that was collected from Kuala Langsa, Aceh, Indonesia. The study found a total of 17 endophytic fungi associated with mangrove plant. However, there are 2 colonies which exhibited the best responses on the growth of *Orizasetiva* L-Cempolreng particularly toward the stem height and root length.

5. Acknowledgments

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