EFFECT OF INITIAL pH TO THE PRODUCTION OF THE THERMOSTABLE CELLULASE BY *Aspergillus fumigatus* IN SOLID STATE FERMENTATION USING OIL PALM FROND

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ........................................... iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS .......................................... iv
LIST OF TABLES ............................................. vi
LIST OF FIGURES ............................................ vii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS .................................... viii
ABSTRACT ...................................................... ix
ABSTRAK ........................................................ x

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION
1.1 Background Study ....................................... 1
1.2 Problem Statement ........................................ 3
1.3 Significance of the Study ............................... 3
1.4 Objectives of the Study ................................. 4

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW
2.1 Oil Palm ...................................................... 5
2.2 Significance of Oil Palm in Malaysia ................. 6
2.3 The Fungi .................................................... 8
2.4 Thermophilic Fungi ....................................... 9
2.5 Component of Lignocellulosic Materials .......... 9
2.6 Cellulase Enzymes ....................................... 11
2.7 Solid State Fermentation ............................... 13

CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY
3.1 Materials ................................................... 15
   3.1.1 Raw Materials ....................................... 15
   3.1.2 Chemicals ............................................ 15
   3.1.3 Apparatus ............................................ 16
3.2 Methods ..................................................... 16
   3.2.1 Inoculum Preparation ............................... 16
   3.2.2 Dry Mycelium Weight ............................... 16
   3.2.3 Quantitative Screening ............................ 17
   3.2.4 Standard Curve .................................... 18
3.3 Data Analysis ............................................. 18
   3.3.1 Filter Paper Assay .................................. 18

CHAPTER 4: RESULT AND DISCUSSION
4.1 Effect of Different pH Levels on FPase Activities of
   *Aspergillus fumigatus*. ................................ 21
4.2 Effect of Different pH Levels on Total Reducing Sugar
   Produced by *Aspergillus fumigatus*. ............... 25
4.3 The Relationship of The Standard Curve, Total Reducing Sugar
   and FPase .................................................... 27
Cellulases are the group of hydrolytic enzymes, capable of degrading all types of lignocellulosic materials. Cellulases have the wide range of applications. Present study was carried out to study the thermostable cellulase enzyme production ability of *Aspergillus fumigatus* against the lignocellulosic bio-waste like oil palm frond as the substrate under solid state fermentation at 50 °C in different initial pH levels, pH (5, 7 and 9). The enzyme activity was measured by using FPase assay every 24 hours for 10 days. In this study, the highest level of enzyme activity was obtained at pH 5.0 followed by pH 7.0 and the least was obtained at pH 9.0. This indicates that alkaline medium is not suitable for *A. fumigatus* development. It was therefore concluded that *A. fumigatus* is able to produce high amount thermostable cellulase at pH 5.0 in solid state fermentation using oil palm frond as the substrate.