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**ISOLATION AND MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF L-GLUTAMINASE
PRODUCING BACTERIA ISOLATED FROM RED CLAY SOIL IN PUNCAK ALAM
SELANGOR**

By

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been submitted previously or currently for any other degree at UiTM or any other institutions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nur Syakila Binti Rohawi', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

(NUR SYAKILA BINTI ROHAWI)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
TITLE PAGE	
DECLARATION	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	ix
ABSTRACT	x
CHAPTER	
1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Soil	
2.1.1 Red clay soil (Ultisol and Oxisol)	5
2.2 L-glutamine	6
2.3 L-glutaminase	
2.3.1 Background	9
2.3.2 L-glutaminase and antineoplastic agent	11
2.4. Enzyme specificity and apoptosis in cancer cells	14
2.5 Microbiological identification of L-asparaginase producing bacteria	
2.5.1 Nutrient agar	16
2.5.2 Blood agar	16
2.5.3 Mac Conkey agar	17
2.5.4 Eosin – Methylene- Blue (EMB) agar	17
2.6 Molecular characterization	
2.6.1 16S rDNA	18
2.6.2 Molecular study of 16S rDNA in L-glutaminase bacteria	20
3 MATERIALS AND METHODS	
3.1 General methodology	21
3.2 Study location	22
3.3 Soil collection	
3.3.1 Materials	23
3.3.2 Methods	23
3.4 Soil sample preparation	
3.4.1 Materials	24
3.4.2 Methods	25
3.5 Isolation of bacteria	
3.5.1 Materials and equipments	27
3.5.2 Methods	28
3.6 Isolation of L-glutaminase producing bacteria	

ABSTRACT

L-glutaminase was found as an effective enzyme in medical and food industry especially for cancer therapy and flavor enhancing agent become a remarkable attention for seeking more information of its uses and application as well as its origin of production. Various L-gutaminase producers from different sources have been studied from the past years. The aim of this study is to isolate L-glutaminase producing bacteria from the red clay soil using microbiological and molecular technique. L-glutaminase producer have been isolated from rapid screening culture using submerged fermentation method. Bacteria DNA of positive L-glutaminase producer were extracted and PCR was carried out to amplify 16S rDNA gene. PCR products were sequenced and the nucleotide sequence were determine using BLAST program in NCBI website. Out of 36 bacteria isolated, 4 bacteria were positive in screening test. Result of sequencing showed *Comamonas sp*, *Stenotrophomonas sp* and *Pseudomonas sp* were isolated. This shows that red clay soil has been inhabitant by L-glutaminase producing bacteria.

Key words: Bacteria L-glutaminase, L-glutamine, therapeutic enzymes, red clay soil, 16S rDNA

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Cancer is a type of disease that caused by uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells which may affect any part of body. The spreading of these rapid growth cells will interfere with the normal cells environment thus leads to the failure of organ function and subsequently lead to death (Mustaffa, Musa, Abu, & Yusof, 2012). The latest report on the incidence of cancer worldwide updated by WHO on February 2015, indicates that 14 million new cases of cancer with 8.2 million deaths were reported since 2012. The statistics were expected to increase about 70 % in the next 20 years. In fact, about 60 % cases were reported from Africa, Asia and Central and South America that contributed about 70 % of total cases worldwide. On the other hand, report by WHO for incidence of cancer in Malaysia until 2012, about 29321 cancer cases were reported that affected both sexes (World Health Organization, 2015). Cancer becomes the third leading disease in Malaysia after cardiovascular and infectious diseases (Kean *et al.*, 2014).

Many studies have been conducted and relate the causes of cancer with many factors including lifestyle, environmental and also genetic factors. These factors are then further categorized into internal and external factors (Hesketh, 2012). The external factors include the effect from tobacco consumption, chemicals, radiation, as well as from infectious organism whereas the internal factors may be due to inherited genetic mutation, hormonal changes, immune condition and also sudden mutation that caused changes in metabolism in cell growth (Cotter *et al.*, 2007). The above factors may activate oncolytic genes that already presence in humans and thus causes proliferation and growth of the cancer cells. Many treatments have been implemented to cure cancer especially for the rapid growth of malignant cancer cells but its efficiency to treat cancer is still doubtful. The common treatment such as chemotherapy, steroids, radiation, intensive combined treatment such as bone marrow and stem cells transplant still not