

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**MOLECULAR BASED DETECTION
OF *Salmonella* sp. IN SELECTED FISH
SPECIES VIA MULTIPLEX
POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION
ASSAY**

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of the requirements for the degree of
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Biology**

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AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledge as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Undergraduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

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ABSTRACT

Multiplex polymerase chain reaction (multiplex PCR) assay offers a very specific multiple detections of target bacteria by amplifying more than one gene in a single assay, which aids directly in reducing cost, energy and time. The target bacteria in this study is *Salmonella* sp. which comes from family of Enterobacteriaceae. This study aims to implement the molecular-based detection of *Salmonella* sp. by using specific *invA* gene and 16S rRNA as the internal amplification control gene through multiplex PCR. The assay used to detect bacteria isolated from fish samples specifically on *Salmonella* sp. The *invA* gene was chosen in this study as a specific fragment of *Salmonella* sp. since it gives this bacteria the ability to invade the intestinal cell of its host. BLAST was performed in both target genes. The specific primer sequence of *invA* gene was selected since this gene expressed in almost all *Salmonella* spp., and 16S rRNA was chosen since it presents in almost all gram negative bacteria. The genomic DNA was extracted from bacteria culture of 5 *Salmonella* sp., 3 other bacteria strains and selected fish species. The optimized condition of multiplex PCR was performed with $T_a = 58^\circ\text{C}$, $\text{MgCl}_2 = 1.5 \text{ mM}$, $\text{dNTPs} = 0.25 \text{ mM}$, both *invA* primers = $0.8 \mu\text{M}$, both 16S rRNA primers = $0.3 \mu\text{M}$ and *Taq* polymerase = 2U. Both 16S rRNA and *invA* genes were successfully amplified by giving two fragments with size of 478 bp and 254 bp respectively. The specificity test showed 2 bands of 16S rRNA and *invA* gene were formed for all target bacteria of *Salmonella* sp., but only single band was formed for all other bacteria strains as non-targeted samples. As a proof-of-concept, bacteria culture isolated from seven fish samples showed none *Salmonella* sp. as no fragment of *invA* gene produced. This study was done to provide benefits in term of the detection of pathogenic *Salmonella* sp. in the food industry by focusing on fish samples.

TABLE OF CONTENT

	Page
CONFIRMATION BY PANEL OF EXAMINERS	ii
AUTHOR'S DECLARATION	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
ABSTRAK	v
ACKNOWLEDMENT	vi
TABLE OF CONTENT	vii
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of Study	1
1.2 Problem Statement	2
1.3 Objectives of the Study	3
1.4 Significance of Study	3
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	5
2.1 <i>Salmonella</i> sp.	5
2.2 The Occurrence of <i>Salmonella</i> sp. in Food Products	6
2.3 Food Spoilage Associated with Bacterial Contamination	7
2.4 <i>Salmonella</i> sp. Related Diseases and Infections	8
2.5 Epidemiology of <i>Salmonella</i> sp. Infections	8
2.6 Clinical Signs, Symptoms and Diagnosis for <i>Salmonella</i> sp. Infections	10
2.7 Treatments for <i>Salmonella</i> sp. Infections	11
2.8 Detection of <i>Salmonella</i> sp.	11

2.8.1 Culture-based Detection	11
2.8.2 Molecular-based Detection	11
CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY	13
3.1 Apparatus and Materials	13
3.1.1 Raw Materials	13
3.1.2 Apparatus	13
3.1.3 Chemicals and Reagents	13
3.2 Methods	14
3.2.1 Biochemical Test for Target Bacteria Strain	14
3.2.2 Preparation of Bacteria Pure Culture	14
3.2.2.1 <i>Pure Culture from Raw Fish Samples</i>	15
3.2.3 DNA Extraction of Bacteria	15
3.2.4 Gene Selection and Primer Design	16
3.2.5 Multiplex Polymerase Chain (multiplex PCR) Reaction	16
3.2.5.1 <i>Preparation of Multiplex PCR Assay</i>	17
3.2.6 The Multiplex PCR Products Visualization	17
3.2.7 Specificity Test of <i>Salmonella</i> sp. detection	18
3.2.8 Specificity Test on Real Samples (Proof-of-concept)	18
3.2.9 Flowchart of the Study	19
CHAPTER 4: RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS	20
4.1 Gram Staining and Microscopy Analysis	20
4.2 Biochemical Tests and RapID ONE System kit for Bacterial Identification	21
4.3 Preliminary Detection of Bacterial DNA	24
4.4 Selection of <i>invA</i> Gene of <i>Salmonella</i> sp. and 16S rRNA as Internal Amplification Control Gene	25
4.5 Multiplex Polymerase Chain Reaction (mPCR)	27
4.5.1 Condition of Multiplex PCR	27
4.6 Specificity Test of <i>Salmonella</i> sp. Primers	28
4.7 Specificity Test on Real Samples (Proof-of-Concept)	30