

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**PHYLOGENETIC RELATIONSHIPS
OF THE *ORANG ASLI* IN TAMAN
NEGARA BASED ON *ALU8* BI-
ALLELIC MARKERS**

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Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Science

Faculty of Applied Sciences

January 2017

ABSTRACT

The *Orang Asli* is a collection of ethnic groups that are believed to be the indigenous people of Peninsular Malaysia. They consist of three different ethnics which are *Senoi*, *Proto-Malay* (or also known as the Aboriginal Malay) and *Negrito*. Till now, there is very few research carried out in Malaysia involving *Orang Asli* population. Recent studies only focused on haplotype diversity of Y-STRs in Malays of Kelantan and Minang. For many years, there are many changes on *Orang Asli* population in Peninsular Malaysia. The reason for these changes maybe due to the *Orang Asli* migration, *Orang Asli* communities living together in the village and *Orang Asli* neighbourhood with adjacent village or states. Hence, there is an urgent need for study on the genetic and evolutionary history of *Orang Asli* population. In this study, the evolutionary history and relationship among *Orang Asli* in Taman Negara is based on the *Alu* insertion polymorphisms specific to chromosome 8. *Alu* bi-allelic markers are generally most preferred among other markers, as there is no known mechanism of back-mutation reported which means that they are identical by descent markers. This research focused on the highest population of *Orang Asli* which resides in Taman Negara, Pahang. The analysis includes the distribution of *Alu* polymorphisms specific on chromosome 8 (by using PCR) in forty-nine samples of *Orang Asli* and also the genetic distance between (Bateq and Semoq Beri) tribes of *Orang Asli* in Taman Negara. Results revealed that a total of twenty-one *Orang Asli* individuals contained APO insertion. Whilst, fourteen *Orang Asli* individuals contained FXIIB insertion. Furthermore, there were significant differences in the *Alu* FXIIB element compared to the *Alu* APO element of *Orang Asli* population based on the phylogenetic trees construction. It can be concluded that outbreeding might have occurred between the Bateq and Semoq Beri tribes of *Orang Asli* population in Taman Negara. This is because, the genetic distances of *Alu* APO and *Alu* FXIIB sequences between both tribes are closer to each other. Further study is to be taken up on large population of *Orang Asli* in various geographical areas of Peninsular Malaysia for heterozygosity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Firstly, I thank Allah for giving me the opportunity to embark on my Master and for completing this long and challenging journey successfully. My gratitude and thanks go to my supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Farida Zuraina Mohd Yusof, and co-supervisor, Cik Siti Saizah Mohd Said. Thank you for the support, patience and ideas in assisting me with this project. I also would like to express my gratitude to the staff of the UiTM Physiology Laboratory, especially Encik Johari Saffar for helping me with the facilities, knowledge and assistance.

My appreciation goes to the Officer of the JAKOA who have provided the facilities and assistance during sampling. Special thanks to my colleagues, friends and family for helping me with this project.

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