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IN-SILICOANALYSIS OF SYMBIONT BACTERIA DIVERSITY INTHEMIDGUT OF *Aedesaegypti***USING16SrDNAMOLECULARMARKERSDATABASE**

Analisis In-Silico Diversitas Bakteri Simbion Asal *Midgut Aedes aegypti* **Berdasarkan Database Marka Molekuler 16S rDNA**

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ABSTRACT

Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) is caused by the dengue virus, which is transmitted through Aedes aegypti *mosquitoes when they feed on human blood. To effectively control the DHF vector, it is crucial to accurately characterize the symbiont bacteria associated with Ae. aegypti through an in-silico approach to identify potential targets. This study utilized in- silico analysis based on the 16S rDNA molecular marker to explore the diversity of symbiont bacteria obtained from bioinformatics databases. The analysis and visualization of bacterial diversity were conducted using the Pathosystem Resource Integration Center (PATRIC). The analysis results revealed that bacterial diversity in the midgut of Ae. aegypti, categorizedas culturable and non-culturable bacteria, exhibited similar abundance patterns at the family level, albeit with varying detection rates. The most dominant taxa included the phylum Proteobacteria, class Gammaproteobacteria, order* Enterobacterales*, and family Enterobacteriaceae. Within the culturable bacteria category, the dominant taxa were the genus* Salmonella *and species* Salmonella enterica*, whereas the non-culturable bacteria category indicated the prevalence of the genus* Escherichia *and species* Escherichia coli*.*

Keywords: *bacteria, bioinformatics, database, dengue, symbiont*

ABSTRAK

Demam Berdarah Deng ue (DBD) merup akan p enyakit infeksi virus d eng ue yang ditransmisikan melalui vektor *Aedes aegypti* ketika *blood feeding* kepad a manusia. Karakterisasi bakteri simbio n dari *midgut Ae. aegypti* untuk menspesifikkan target potensial seb agai agen pengendalian vektor DBD dap at dilakukan melalui pend ekatan *in-silico*. Analisis *in-silico* dilakukan b erd asarkan d ata marka molekuler 16S rDNA untuk memahami diversitas bakteri simbio n yang dikoleksi dari database bioinformatika. Analisis d an visualisasi diversitas bakteri menggunakan *software Pathosystem Resource Integration Center* (*PATRIC*). Hasil analisis *in-silico* diversitas bakteri dari *midgut Ae. aegypti* kategori kultur dan tid ak dap at dikulturkan menunjukkan kesamaan kelimpahan *Taxa* yang dominan hingg a pada tingkat Famili namun deng an persentase yang berbed a. Data *Taxa* paling dominan melip uti Filum Proteobacteria, Kelas Gammaproteobacteria, Ordo *Enterobacterales*, dan Famili Enterobacteriaceae. Kategori bakteri kultur menunjukkan *Taxa* dominan Genus *Salmonella* dan Sp esies *Salmonella enterica*, sedangkan kategori b akteri yang tidak dap at dikulturkan menunjukkan Taxa dominan genus *Escherichia* dan spesies *Escherichia coli*.

Kata Kunci: bakteri, bioinformatika, database, dengue, simbion

INTRODUCTION

Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) remains a global annual issue in tropical and subtropical regions. Approximately twothirds of the world's population is highly vulnerable to DHF, with reported cases ranging from 100 to 390 million each year (Sun et al. 2020). DHF has been confirmed as endemic in 128 countries, including Indonesia (Koh et al. 2018). In 2021, Indonesia reported a total of 73,518 DHFcases with 661 deaths (KemenKes RI 2022). The infection of DHF is caused by the dengue virus, transmitted to humans through the vector *Ae. aegypti* (Harapan et al. 2020).

The primary vector for dengue transmission is the female Ae. aegypti mosquito (Malassigné et al. 2020). Transmission of the dengue virus can occur when female *Ae. aegypti* mosquitoes feed onDHF patients, facilitating the transfer of the virus from the mosquito's body to humans (Mapder et al. 2020). The success of virus transmission to humans depends on its abilityto infect various mosquito organs involved in dengue virus transmission, including the midgut, hemocoel, and salivary glands.

The midgut serves as an incubation site for the dengue virus (Koh et al. 2018). Once the virus has successfully multiplied, it migrates to the salivary glands through the hemocoel, and can be transmitted to healthy individuals during mosquito feeding (Zhang and Wang, 2020). However, transmission may fail when the dengue virus reaches the midgut, as the mosquito's natural immune response inhibits virus replication (Nouzova et al. 2019).

Mosquitoes possess physical, physiological, and molecular defense mechanisms as part of their immune system (Kumar et al. 2018). The physical defense is the first layer of defense, inhibiting pathogen infection through the Peritrophic Matrix layer (Simões et al. 2018). Physiological and molecular defenses are mediated by physiological processes and gene expression (Lee et al. 2019). To complete the transmission cycle, the dengue virus must penetrate these layers in the midgut (Kumar et al. 2018). Symbiotic bacteria can activate several defense mechanisms in the midgut upon detecting pathogen infections, such as dengue virus (Scolari et al. 2019). Additionally, symbiotic bacteria can inhibit dengue infection by secreting secondary metabolites (Gao et al. 2020).

The isolation and exploration ofsymbiotic bacteria establish an interaction between mosquito symbiotic bacteria and pathogens. Some symbiotic bacteria associated with *Ae. aegypti* have beenfound to inhibit dengue virus infection (Wilke and Marrelli, 2015), shortenmosquito lifespan (Wu et al. 2019), and affect the mosquito's life cycle (Coon et al. 2017). The role of symbiotic bacteria in inhibiting dengue infection highlights their potential as biocontrol agents against *Ae. aegypti*. Mapping the diversity of symbiotic bacteria helps identify the dominant symbiotic bacteria present in the midgut of *Ae. aegypti* and control the dengue vector. This can be achieved through in-silico analysis of symbiotic bacteria data in bioinformatics databases. Isolation andcharacterization of symbiotic bacteria can provide more accurate information for their expected biocontrol function.

In-silico analysis allows the mapping of symbiotic bacteria diversity without the need for conventional bacterial isolation methods. Mapping the diversity of living organisms can be achieved through taxonomic classification approaches using DNA barcoding in bioinformatics databases (Bennett et al. 2019; Scolari et al. 2019).This study employed an in-silico analysis to map the diversity of symbiotic bacteria in the midgut of *Ae. aegypti*, using 16S rDNA molecular markers available in the NCBI database (Table 1 and 2), which are commonly used for bacterial characterization. The insilico analysis of symbiotic bacteria from the midgut of *Ae. aegypti* supports the laboratory analysisresults regarding the exploration ofsymbiotic bacteria's potential as a new biocontrol agent against DHF vectors.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Location and time

This research was conducted from August to December 2022 at theBiotechnology Laboratory, Biology Department, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, University of Jember.

Table 2. 16S rDNA Sequences Collection of Non-Culturable Bacteria from NCBI Database

Materials and equipment

This research utilized both hardware and software. The hardware used was an ASUS FHD352 Laptop with an Intel

Core i3-1005G1 3.4 GHz processor, 4GB DDR4 RAM, 512GB SSD, and NVIDIA Ge-Force MX330. The software used was Notepad for saving the sequence file. Bioinformatics databases provided by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) (https:/[/www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/\)](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/)) and Pathosystems Resource Integration Center (PATRIC) (https://patricbrc.org/) were also involved. The materials used in this study were bacterial 16S rDNA sequence data from *Ae. aegypti* midgut obtained from the NCBI database.

Research methods

The research method in this study can be seen in the Figure 1. The detailed research procedure is described as follow:

Figure 1. Research procedure for in-silico analysis of symbiont bacteria diversity from the midgut of *Aedes aegypti* based on 16S rDNA molecular markers database

16S rDNA sequence collection

Initially, 16S rDNA sequences for this study were obtained from the NCBI database. The data were collected using the keyword "bacteria midgut *Aedes aegypti* 16S rDNA." The collect-ed 16S rDNA sequences were saved in a notepad file.

Selected sequence compilation

The 16S rDNA sequences collected from the *Ae. aegypti* midgut in the NCBI database were compiled into a single notepad file with a .txt format (Garg et al. 2016). This data was then converted into. fasta format forfurther analysis.

Krona construction and visualization

Krona construction was performed using PATRIC, a bioinformatics information center for bacterial data, established by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). PATRIC provided gene sequence data and analysis for studying pathogens. This website tool can be used to perform bioinformatics analysis, such as microbial community abundance based on an in-silico approach (Wattam et al. 2017). The analysis was performed on the 16S

rDNA sequence data from the *Ae. aegypti* midgut accessed through PATRIC. The analysis was con-ducted using the Kraken 2 Algorithm. The results of the analysis were presented in a pie chart called Krona, which visualizes the metagenomic composition of the microbe (Gaio et al. 2021). Krona is an interactive metagenomic visualization platform that allows exploration of bacterial abundance data through metagenomic classification hierarchies. Additionally, Krona provides the composition of bacterial taxa based on sequence data in the bioinformatics database, reporting the percentage of bacterial taxa by referring to the NCBI database.

Analysis of microbial abundance

Krona displayed a pie chart of taxa in various regions with specific hierarchies. Thedata display consisted of circles with different color gradations to signify different hierarchies and microbial abundance (Ondov et al. 2011). The inner circle represented the highest taxonomic hierarchy, while the outer circle represented taxa at lower hierarchies. Different colors were used to indicate variousbacterial taxa, and

the abundance of each bacterium was represented by the percentage of metagenomic data obtainedfrom the bioinformatics database.

RESULTS

The collection of 16S rDNA sequence

16S rDNA sequence data was gatheredfrom the NCBI, a comprehensive openaccessbioinformatics database known for its substantial collection of nucleotide sequences(Sayers et al. 2021). A collection of 16S rDNAsequences was obtained using the query "bacteria midgut *Aedes aegypti* 16S rDNA" with a lengthy filter to identify the longest sequence results. This approach aimed to obtain data that is close to full length in the 16S rDNA sequence region. The intact 16S rDNA sequence is approximately 1600 base pairs (bp) long, encompassing ninehypervariable regions (V1–V9). The 16S rDNA molecular marker is commonly used for bacterial characterization due to its conservation and universality among prokaryotic organisms, including bacteria andarchaea. The universality of this marker is observed in numerous prokaryotes. Theanalysis revealed a distinct and conserved hyper-variable region consisting of nine regions within the 16S rDNA sequence, whichremained intact across prokaryotic generations(Santos et al. 2020).

Clustering bacterial diversity

Bacterial diversity was clustered using PATRIC, and taxonomic classification was applied to group sequence data based on kinship. Taxa refer to metagenomic data. This analysis employed the Kraken 2 algorithm to identify k-mers as indicators of taxonomic units (Davis et al. 2020). The top 100 data sequences were retrieved from NCBI, prioritizing those with the most complete nucleotide count, considering the 16S rDNA molecular marker with a total length of 1600 bp (Santos et al. 2020). The research estimated that sequences closer to theoptimal size would yield higher-quality results. The clustering process led to the classificationof culturable and non-culturable bacteria.

Culturable bacteria

The collection of culturable bacteria documented the 100 longest sequences fromthe NCBI database. The classification of culturable bacteria revealed that the most dominant phylum was Protobacteria, accounting for 62% of the total Krona. This phylum is represented by red areas. The nextdominant phylum was the Terrabacteria clad group, comprising 29% of all Krona and appearing as green areas. The blue areas corresponded to FCB bacterial taxa or the phylum Sphingobacteria, with an abundance of 9% (Figure 2). Within the Protobacteria phylum, the Class Gammaproteobacteriashowed the highest abundance at 57% (Figure 2b). This class was further divided into orders, namely Enterobacterales and Pseudomonadales. Enterobacterales was themost abundant order identified, accounting for37% of the total class (Figure 3a). The order Enterobacterales consists of the family Enterobacteriaceae, known for its highest abundance at 35% (Figure 3b). The most dominant genus and species were *Salmonella* and *Salmonella enterica*, representing 17% of the entire class (Figure 4a and 4b).

Figure 2. Krona of symbiont bacteria from *Ae. aegypti* midgut within culturable bacteria at the level of: a. Phylum; b. Class

Figure 3. Krona of symbiont bacteria from Ae. aegypti midgut within culturable bacteria at the level of: a. Ordo; b.Famili

Figure 4. Krona of symbiont bacteria from *Ae. aegypti* midgut within culturable bacteria at the level of: a. Genus; b. Species

Non-culturable bacteria

The sequence data used to identify non-culturable bacteria consisted of the 100 longest sequences obtained from the NCBI database. All sequences were recorded in a notepad file and converted to. fasta format. The analysis results were visualized using Krona. Among the Krona categories, the most dominant phylum was Protobacteria, accounting for 88% of the total Krona and marked by red areas. The Terrabacteria clad group, marked by green areas, was the sec- ond most abundant bacteria, representing 9%of the total Krona. The taxon FCB group or Sphin-gobacteria, indicated by the blue area,had an abundance of 2%. The phylum Verrucomicrobia, marked by the purple area, was the least abundant, comprising 1% of thetotal Krona (Figure 5a). Within the Protobacteria phylum, the class Gammaproteobacteria exhibited the highest abundance at 71% (Figure 5b). This class was further divided into two orders: Enterobacterales and Pseudomonadales. Among these, Enterobacterales was the mostcommon order, account-ing for 37% of the total (Figure 6a). The order Enterobacterales included the family Enterobacte-riaceae, which had the highest abundance of 35% (Figure 6b). The dominant taxa at the genus and species levels were Salmonella and Salmonella enterica, respectively, with abundances of 17% each (Figure 7a and 7b).

Figure 5. Krona of symbiont bacteria from *Ae. aegypti* midgut within non-culturable bacteria at the level of: a. Phylum; b. Clas

Figure 6. Krona of symbiont bacteria from Ae. *aegypti* midgut within non-culturable bacteria at the level of: a. Ordo;b. Famili

Figure 7. Krona of symbiont bacteria from *Ae. aegypti* midgut within non-culturable bacteria at the level of: a. Genus; b. Species

DISCUSSION

The analysis revealed that the database primarily consisted of taxa from the phylum Proteobacteria. The majority of Proteobacteria taxa were found in the midgut of *Ae. aegypti* (Kozlova et al. 2021). Krona categorization of culturable bacteria identified differences in the taxa, including the presence of the order Flavobacteriales and genus *Elizabethkingia*, which were only found in culturable bacteria. These bacteria were predominantly present in laboratoryreared mosquitoes. Variationswere also observed in the families of taxa between culturable and non-culturable bacteria. For example, the Bacilli class accounted for 6% of the total taxa in non- culturable bacteria, while it comprised 26% of the taxa in culturable bacteria. Krona analysis further demonstrated differences in the diversity of symbiont bacteria in the mosquito midgut, influenced by factors such as species, sex, habitat, and food sources (Terenius et al. 2012). Food sources, particularly sugar or blood, playeda role in shaping the abundance and diversity of symbiont bacteria in the midgut. Sugar-rich diets, high in carbohydrates, and blood meals, rich in proteins, created different environmental conditions in the midgut of different mosquitoes, resulting in distinct taxa profiles (Wu et al. 2019). Additionally, variations in blood sources based on different blood types affected the abundanceand diversity of bacterial taxa, such as Pseudomonas and Serratia, which were more abundant in mosquitoes feeding on human blood compared to other mammalian blood sources (Sarma et al. 2022).

The composition of symbiont bacteria is influenced not only by the vector itself but also by the characteristics of the symbiont bacteria. Enterobacterales and Serratia were the most commonly found taxa in the mosquito midgut. The population of the Enterobacterales and Serratia genera tended to increase when mosquitoes fed on blood, possibly due to these bacteria'sability to withstand oxidative stress in theblood meal (Wang et al. 2011). Bacterial activity, particularly antagonisticinteractions, also played a role in shaping the bacterial communities. For example, Cedecea bacteria inhibited Serratia, while Serratia infections inhibited

Asia infections in mosquito bodies (Kozlova et al. 2021).

The genera of symbiont bacteria knownto influence the mosquito's life cycle belong tothe phylum Proteobacteria, class Gammaproteobacteria, and order Enterobacterales. Based on Krona visualization, the most abundant bacterial taxain both culturable and non-culturable bacteriaincluded Serratia, Enterobacter, and Escherichia. However, bacterial taxa not belonging to the order Enterobacterales, suchas Wolbachia, Proteus, and Chromobacterium, were also identified. Some of these symbiontbacteria taxa were capable of influencing the transmission of pathogens in mosquitoes. Forinstance, *Serratia marcescens* inhibitedmosquito development by secretingSmEnhancin protein, rendering *Ae. aegypti* more susceptible to DENV infection. *Serratia odorifera* increased the suscepbility of *Ae.aegypti* to DENV-2 (Apte-Deshpande et al. 2012). Wolbachia strain Wmel blocked mosquitoborne viruses like DENV, Chikungunya, Zika, and yellow fever, and reduced mosquito lifespan (Gao et al. 2020). Wolbachia strain wAlbB increased ROS production, triggering one of the mosquito's immune response pathways and reducing DENV infection (Pan et al. 2012). Chromobacterium secreted AMP compounds, which degraded DENV protein and preventedDENV infection (Saraiva et al. 2018). Proteussp. was known to enhance resistance to DENVby regulating AMP (Wu et al. 2019). Several bacterial species played important roles in transmitting DHF by affecting *Ae. aegypti* as theDHF vector, as shown in Table 3.

The analysis results documented multiple symbiont bacteria in the mosquito midgut capable of influencing *Ae. aegypti*'s ability as a DENV vector. Wolbachia bacteria demonstrated the strongest potential for blocking arbovirus transmission, increasing susceptibility to DENV, increasing ROS and AMP secretion, and acting as biocontrol agents to control *Ae. aegypti* in Indonesia (Apte-Deshpande et al. 2012, Gao et al. 2020, Tantowijoyo et al. 2020). Another symbiotic bacterium in the midgut of *Ae. aegypti* with promising potential is the genus Serratia, known for its roles in vector control (Gao et al. 2020). Serratia belongs to the order Enterobacterales and although it may not be the most abundant species, it has the highest abundance among other orders. The analysis acknowledged *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella enterica* as the two most

abundant species within this order. *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella enterica* are also bacterial species that belong to the predominant taxa in the orderEnterobacterales.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of 16S rDNA data, incorporating both culturable and non- culturable bacteria, was facilitated by Krona for data presentation. The results reveal that the midgut of *Ae. aegypti* exhibits similar dominant taxa abundance at the phylum to family levels, albeit with varying percentage values. The dominant taxa identified in this study include Proteobacteria, Gammaproteobacteria, Enterobacterales, andEnterobacteriaceae, among others, at the levels of phylum, class, order, and family, respectively. Notably, within the category of culturable bacteria, the dominant taxa are observed at the genus level, specifically *Salmonella*, with *Salmonella enterica* being the most prevalent species. Conversely, in the category of non-culturable bacteria, the dominant taxa at the genus level are *Escherichia*, with *Escherichia coli* being the prevailing species. Serratia, belonging to the order Enterobacterales, demonstrates the most promising potential in controlling *Ae. aegypti*, despite not being the most dominantspecies.

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