



Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



Jordan Journal
of



Biological Sciences

An International Peer-Reviewed Scientific Journal

Financed by the Scientific Research and Innovation Support Fund



<http://jjbs.hu.edu.jo/>

DAFTAR ISI

1. *Cover* jurnal
2. Halaman pengesahan
3. Artikel final yang sudah dipublikasi
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5. Review 1
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2.

Halaman Pengesahan

HALAMAN PENGESAHAN

Judul : Morphological Identification of Mycorrhizal Fungi Isolated from Native Orchid in Indonesia

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Publikasi : Jordan Journal of Biological Sciences, Vol. 14, No. 5, Pp. 1031 – 1034, 2021

Alamat Web (Link) : <https://doi.org/10.54319/jjbs/140523>
<http://repository.lppm.unila.ac.id/id/eprint/43096>

Penerbit : Hashemite University

ISSN : 1995-6673


Indeks : Scopus Q2, SJR 0.29 (2021)

Jenis Publikasi : Jurnal Internasional Bereputasi

Bandar Lampung, 14 Juli 2022

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DOKUMENTASI LEMBARA PENELITIAN DAN PENGABDIAN KEPADA MASYARAKAT UNIVERSITAS LAMPUNG	
TGL	06/07/2022
NO. INVEN	553/0/B/1/FMIPA/2022
JENIS	jurnal
PARAF	J

3.

**Artikel Final Yang
Sudah Dipublikasi**

المجلة الأردنية للعلوم الحياتية
Jordan Journal of Biological Sciences (JJBS)

<http://jjbs.hu.edu.jo>

Jordan Journal of Biological Sciences (JJBS) (ISSN: 1995–6673 (Print); 2307-7166 (Online)): An International Peer- Reviewed Open Access Research Journal financed by the Scientific Research and Innovation Support Fund, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Jordan and published quarterly by the Deanship of Scientific Research , The Hashemite University, Jordan.

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Morphological Identification of Mycorrhizal Fungi Isolated from Native Orchid in Indonesia

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Received: February 27, 2021; Revised: May 2, 2021; Accepted: November 28, 2021

Abstract

Moth orchid [*Phalaenopsis amabilis* (L.) Blume] is a species of native orchid from Indonesia. The association of this orchid with mycorrhizal fungi in nature is as a biocontrol agent. In a previous study, one *Ceratobasidium* isolate from Yogyakarta, Indonesia was successfully identified based on rDNA-ITS molecular analysis. This study aimed to identify these isolates based on morphological analysis to complement other identification data, namely anatomy and molecular. Verification morphological analysis is carried out by observing macroscopic and microscopic characteristics, as well as observing peloton. The results of showed that the characterization of Yogyakarta isolates had similarities with *Ceratobasidium*. These character equations include colony color, cell length, core number, and cell width. The examination of orchid roots also showed the presence of pelotons in the cortical cells. This study confirms that the fungal isolates of orchid mycorrhiza from Yogyakarta, Indonesia were *Ceratobasidium* based on morphological and molecular analysis. This research is one of the efforts to preserve native orchids in Indonesia using mycorrhiza fungi as a biocontrol agent. This study is the first to report regarding *Ceratobasidium* isolated from native orchids in Indonesia based on morphological analysis.

Keywords: *Ceratobasidium*; mycorrhiza; morphological analysis; *Phalaenopsis*; Indonesia

1. Introduction

Orchid is a type of ornamental plant that has a high aesthetic value and is most in demand by the community (Mose et al., 2020). The moth orchid [*Phalaenopsis amabilis* (L.) Blume] is one of Indonesia's national flowers, namely the charm that was set through Presidential Indonesia Decree Number 4/1993. Diseases are still the main obstacle in the cultivation and development of natural orchids (Mahfut et al., 2019; Mahfut, 2020; Mahfut et al., 2020^b; Mahfut et al., 2021).

Endophytic mycorrhiza is a form of symbiosis between fungi and plant roots during a certain period of their life cycle, forming colonies in plant tissues without endangering their hosts. In general, mycorrhizal fungi help germination of orchid seeds in the presence of ethylene and various vitamins. Another role is to support efforts to provide nutrition for plant growth and development (Haro and Benito, 2019), and to assist in the formation of more buds and flowers. In plant resistance, mycorrhiza fungi serve as a biological agent of control in plant protection against pathogenic infections (Safarini et al., 2020; Song et al., 2020).

In a previous study, Mahfut et al. (2020) reported one *Ceratobasidium* isolate from Yogyakarta, Indonesia based on rDNA-ITS molecular analysis. The results show sequences measuring 600-750 bp DNA products located on the ITS1-5.8S-ITS4 region. Reconstruction of phylogenetic trees resulted in Indonesian isolates having undergone speciation and separated from *Ceratobasidium*

isolates from other countries. This research is a follow-up study which aims to clarify the identification of these isolates as *Ceratobasidium* based on morphological analysis. Furthermore, this research can be used as a benchmark in developing strategy for conserving moth orchid through protection against plant diseases.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Collection of Healthy Orchid Root Samples and Endophytic Mycorrhizal Isolation

Healthy root of *P. amabilis* collected from Yogyakarta, Indonesia on coordinates 8° 30' - 7° 20' LS 109° 40' - 111° 0' BT. The sample was taken to the Biotechnology Laboratory of the Faculty of Biology UGM to isolate endophytic mycorrhiza following the Chand et al. (2020) method. Isolation of endophytic fungi was then carried out by cutting the roots and culturing on PDA medium. The fungal colonies obtained from the isolation were then purified by sub-culturing aseptically and incubating for 7 days at room temperature (20-25°C). It is possible that the isolates obtained are pure and single isolates that are not contaminated by other fungi.

2.2. Macroscopic Characteristic Observation

To observe the macroscopic characteristics of the isolated fungi, small portion of isolates ($\pm 1 \text{ mm}^2$) were placed in the middle of the PDA medium. Furthermore, the growth of the isolates was observed and measured every day for 7 days. Furthermore, observations of colony morphological characteristics such as colony color, colony

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base color, the surface color of young colonies, the appearance of colonies, and the growth rate of the colony were carried out.

2.3. Making Slide Culture Preparations

Observation of microscopic characteristics was also carried out using the slide culture method (Stoian et al. 2019) with a slight modification. This method was carried out to monitor microscopic characteristics such as the color of hyphae, bulk in hyphae, angle of branching of hyphae, and number of cell nuclei. The number of nuclei was observed after treating with safranin and 3% KOH.

2.4. Observation of Pelotons in roots

Observation of peloton was carried out by making squash preparations on root samples which had been treated with previous endophytic fungal inoculations. Root samples are sliced and soaked in trypan blue dye for 15 minutes. Observations were carried out using a light microscope at 100 x magnification.

3. Results

3.1. Collection of Healthy Orchid Root Samples and Endophytic Mycorrhizal Isolation

One endophytic fungus, namely Yogyakarta was isolated from root samples of *P. amabilis* in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in Figure 1.

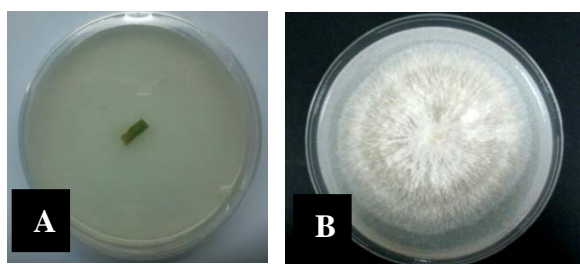


Figure 1. A) Root samples of MP1 cultured on PDA medium, B) Colonies of fungi that grow on 7 days old orchid roots

Identification results based on macroscopic, microscopic, and molecular characteristics showed that the isolate was *Ceratorhiza* which is one of the types of *Rhizoctonia* endophytic mycorrhiza. According to Chand et al. (2020), *Ceratorhiza* is *Rhizoctonia* grouped by cell hyphae and moniloid, and many are found to be associated with orchid roots.

3.2. Macroscopic Characteristics

Special characteristics of Yogyakarta isolate were identified as having branching types that formed elbows or 90° angles and hyphae cells with a cell nucleus 2 (binucleate). These two characteristics are special characteristics of endophytic mycorrhiza. Endophytic fungi have 1-3 nuclei (binucleate) nuclei, whereas pathogenic fungi have more than 3 nuclei (multinucleates). This is in accordance with the opinion of Pannecouque & Hofie (2009) that in addition to binucleates, the characteristics of endophytic fungi are branching which forms a 90°C or T-shaped branches.

Overall, the results of identification of Yogyakarta isolates showed similarities with the types of *Ceratorhiza* mycorrhiza. The following characteristics of Yogyakarta isolates compared to supporting references are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Comparison of the characteristics of Yogyakarta isolates and *Cerathoriza* isolates according to Shan et al. (2002)

Characteristics	Yogyakarta Isolate	<i>Cerathoriza</i> Isolate
The surface color of young colonies	White to yellow	Yellow to white
The appearance of colonies	Like cotton	Like cotton
Hyphae color	Hyaline	Hyaline
Hyphae diameter (µm)	6.20-6.72	3.8-7.5
Moniloid cell form	Elongated, barrel shaped	Ellipsoidal or elongate barrel shape
Moniloid cell size (µm)	(12.22-14.56) × (2.39-2.91)	(7.5-15.0) × (10.0-25.0)
The growth rate of the colony (mm / hr)	0.72	0.42-0.52
Number of cell nuclei	Binucleate	Binucleate

Table 2. Comparison of the characteristics of Yogyakarta isolate and *Cerathoriza* isolates according to Currah and Zelmer (1992)

Characteristics	Yogyakarta Isolate	<i>Cerathoriza</i> Isolate
Colony color	White to yellow	Cream, yellow, or brown
The appearance of colonies	Like cotton	Like cotton
The form of branching hyphae	90°	90°
Air hyphae diameter	<3 µm	<4 µm
Number of nuclei per cell	Binucleate	Binucleate
Clamp connection	-	-
Surface of the colony	Like cotton	Flat and waxy
Moniloid cells	Elongate barrel shaped	-
Moniloid cell length	12.22-14.56	-
Moniloid cell width	2.39-2.91	-

Based on observations of hyphae and cells using safranin O-KOH dye (Figure 2), it was found that Yogyakarta isolates were endophytic fungi of *Ceratorhiza* with specific characteristics having branching types that form elbows or 90° angles, the color of vegetative hyphae is hyaline, with diameters of 6.20-6.72 µm, fungal colonies form cell monilioids with elongate barrel shape and moniloid size (12,22-14,56) µm x (2.39-2.91) µm.

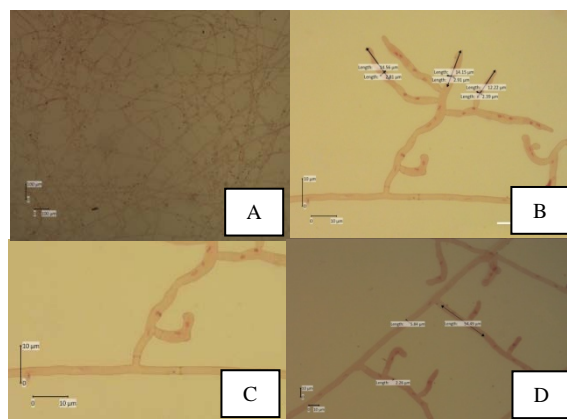


Figure 2. Microscopic observation of hyphae cells and moniloid cells *Ceratorhiza* from Yogyakarta isolates on the 7-day PDA medium using safranin O-KOH staining; (A) Colony, (B) Moniloid cell nucleus, (C) Binucleate, (D) Branching of hyphae 90°. Magnification (A) 10 x, (B, C, D) 40 x. Bar = 10 µm

3.3. Observation of Endophytic Mycorrhizal Hyphae (Peloton)

Observation of the cross section of the root sample indicated the presence of pelotons in the root cortex (Figure 3). Currah & Zelmer (1992) explain that the characteristic of endophytic fungal hyphae colonizing plants will form a mass of dense hyphae in cortical cells called pelotons.

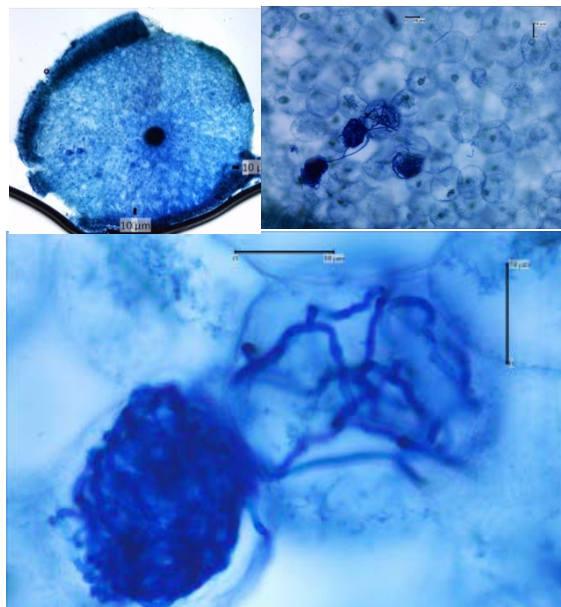


Figure 3. Peloton structure in the anatomy of the root cortex cells of MP1 with Trypan Blue staining. Magnification (A) 4 x, (B) 10 x, (C) 40 x. Bar = 10 μ m

4. Discussion

Characteristics of endophytic mycorrhizal analysis were obtained and compared with the reference characteristics (Shan et al., 2002; Currah and Zelmer, 1992); it was found that Yogyakarta isolates were *Ceratorhiza* isolates. *Ceratorhiza* is an anamorphic phase of *Ceratobasidium*. According to Athipunyakom et al. (2004), the genus *Ceratorhiza* is a mycorrhizal isolate which is commonly found associated with orchids, where endophytic fungi of this type are *Rhizoctonia* which are grouped according to cell hyphae and moniloid. Growth of *Ceratorhiza* reached a diameter of 9 cm after 4 days of incubation by forming a symmetrical zone. The colony turned yellowish after 7 days, and the colony surface appeared as cottony clumps. The lumps are aerial hyphae; this is known from the hyphae that grow on the surface of the agar media. These hyphae are fertile hyphae which play a role for reproduction. The length of moniloid cells is 12.22-14.56 μ m, width 2.39-2.91 μ m and lancet-shaped. If the ratio of length and width is 3.5-4: 1 then it is called the lancet type. The number of nuclei in binucleic cells, according to the characteristics reported by Shan et al. (2002) and Currah and Zelmer (1992).

The peloton structure is evident in the roots of *P. amabilis* which are associated with endophytic fungi (Figure 3). One of the parameters for the mechanism of resistance induction can be the formation of a peloton structure which shows that endophytic fungi penetrate the

epidermal finger and into the cortex. In the cortex, the pulp will enter the cell space (intracellular) and form a peloton.

The presence of peloton proves that the endophytic fungi can penetrate into the root tissue of *P. amabilis*. According to Currah and Zelmer (1992), the stage of infection with endophytic fungi begins with the formation of appressorium which is an inflated hyphae. These hyphae originate from spores that germinate or externally hyphae at the root surface of infected host plants. Hyphae will then penetrate the root surface mechanically and enzymatically into the space between the root epidermal cells and into the cortex and beyond. Hyphae develop without destroying the cells of the root cortex. In cortex cells, hyphae form a peloton in the form of dense hyphae. In the peloton, the accumulation of organic materials includes protein, glycogen, fat, and nutrients produced by absorption from the soil.

5. Conclusion

The results showed that the characterization of endophytic mycorrhizae from the roots of *P. amabilis* from Yogyakarta, Indonesia had similarities with the type of endophytic mycorrhizal *Ceratorhiza*. These character equations include colony surface color, colony appearance, hyphae color, hyphae diameter (μ m), cell moniloid shape, moniloid cell size (μ m), colony growth rate (mm / hour), core number, hyphae branching shape, and clamp connection. The results of mycorrhizal induction also produce a peloton structure in orchid root cortex cells. The peloton structure is evident in the roots of *P. amabilis* which are associated with endophytic fungi. The presence of peloton proves that endophytic fungi can penetrate into the root tissue.

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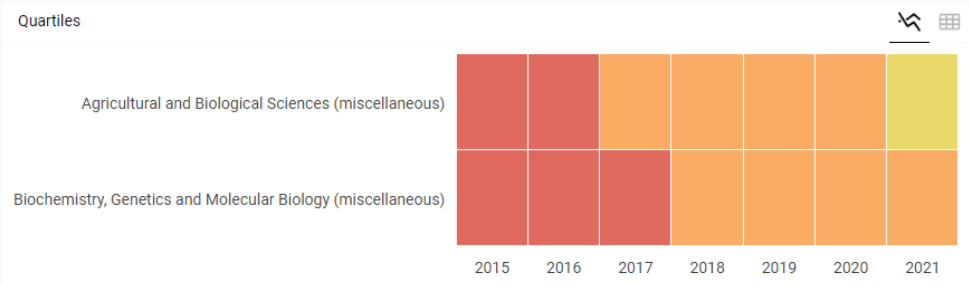
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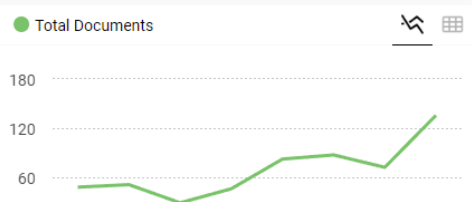
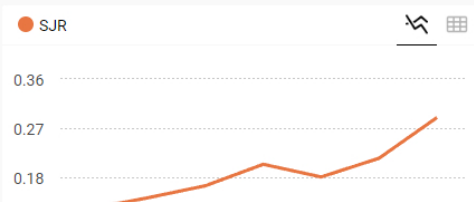
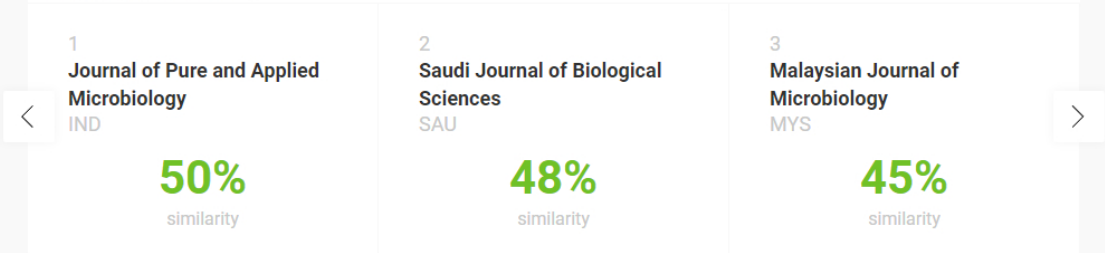
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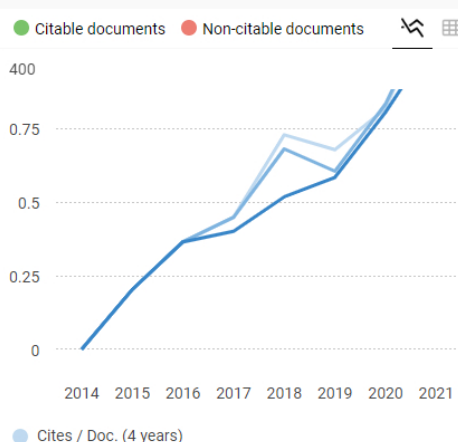
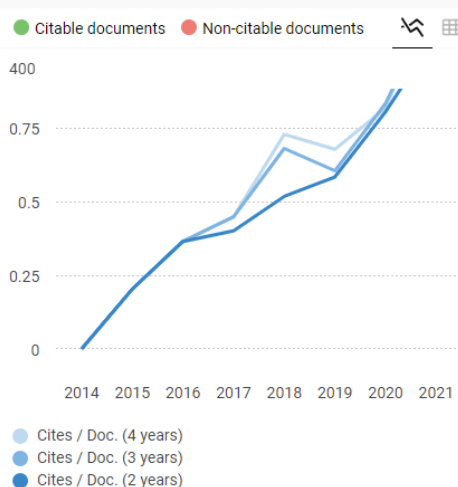
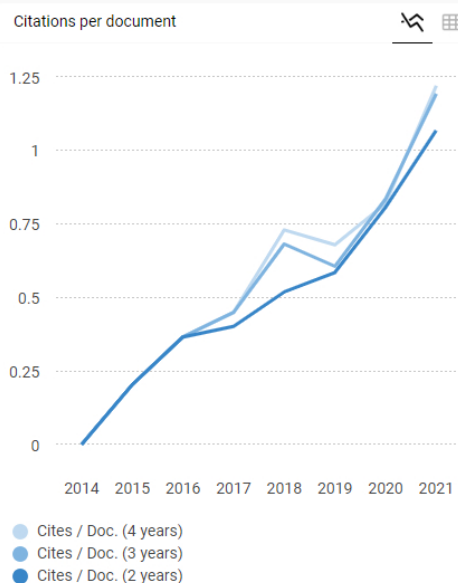
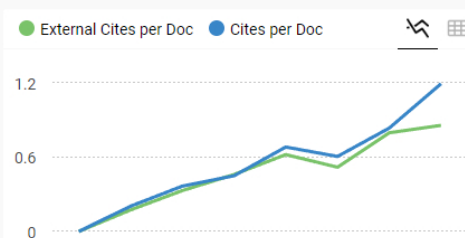
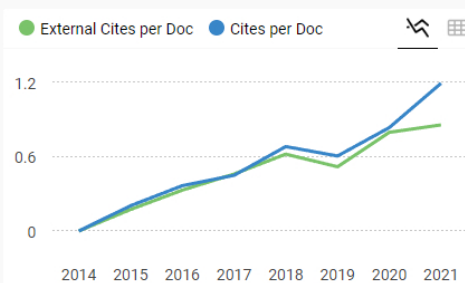
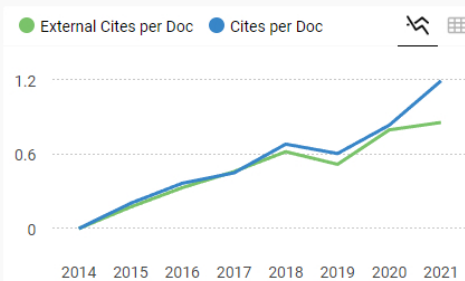
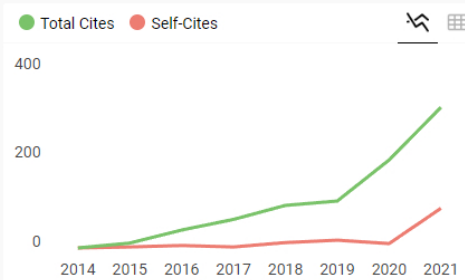


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April 20, 2021

MORPHOLOGICAL IDENTIFICATION OF MYCORRHIZA FROM NATIVE TROPICAL ORCHIDS IN INDONESIA

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TROPICAL ORCHIDS IN INDONESIA**

Authorships [Mahfut] and Affiliation:

Department of Biology, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Universitas
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Conflict of interest/sponsorship (if any):

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Signature (on behalf of all co-authors (if any))

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PART A:

On a scale of 1 – 5 (1 being lowest and 5 being highest), rate the manuscript based on the following criteria;

NO.	Criteria	Score
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3	Are the keywords and abstract sufficient and informative?	2.5
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12	Is the MS written in correct and satisfactory English?	1

Please rate the priority for publication of this article (10 is the highest priority, 1 is the lowest priority)

05

PART B: Comments per Section of Manuscript:

Abstract	The abstract needs a thorough revision as some of the sentences are not clear. The fungus studied in the present study was molecularly characterized in a previous study. In such a case, it is not clear why its identity has to be characterized morphologically. Use either <i>Ceratorhiza</i> or <i>Ceratobasidium</i> which is haphazardly used throughout the text. This study is not the first report on the morphological characterization of <i>Ceratorhiza</i> in moon orchid (see Khaterine et al. 2011; Warcup 1981).
Introduction	The introduction should emphasize the need to carrying out the study. It is well known that mycorrhizal fungi are mandatory for orchid seed germination and plant development. The aim of the study should be modified as the protection of orchid from diseases by mycorrhizal fungi was not examined.
Methodology	The methods should explain the procedures used in the study. Although some fungal structures have been measured in the present study it is not clear how many of these structures (n) were measured. See annotated manuscript.
Results	Avoid discussion and reference citations in the results section. It is not necessary to provide magnifications for the microscopic images when scale bars are marked on the images.
Discussion and Conclusion	Many part of the discussion are mere repeat of the results. Moreover, the salient results of the study are not adequately discussed.
References	Some of relevant studies were not consulted. The author should thoroughly check the literature for the mycorrhizal association in <i>Phalaenopsis</i> .

PART C: Recommendation (Kindly Mark With An ✓)

Acceptable in its Present Form	
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Reconsidered after Major Revision	✓
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PART D: Additional Comments:

Please add any other additional comments or specific suggestions on the enclosed comments sheet:

This manuscript presents a study on the isolation and characterization of mycorrhizal fungi associated with an epiphytic moon orchid *Phalaenopsis amabilis*. This culture-dependent study resulted in the isolation of one fungus resembling *Ceratobasidium* which was characterized both morphologically and molecularly. Moreover, the presence of fungal pelotons was also observed in the root cortical cells. The study as such lacks novelty as the symbiosis of *Ceratobasidium* and other mycorrhizal fungi with moon orchid is already reported in the literature (see appendix). Further, the presentation is rather poor making reading extremely difficult. The presentation is marred by faulty sentences, spelling errors, etc., spread throughout the manuscript. The fungus is mentioned to control diseases moon orchid. However, this aspect was not examined in the present study. The discussion is unfocused and empty. This should be rectified. I would suggest the author seek the help of a native English speaker while revising the manuscript.

Appendix:

Khaterine, Situmorang, N., & Kasiamdari, R. S. (2011). Isolation and identification of *Rhizoctonia* associated with *Phalaenopsis amabilis* (L.) Blume Roots. Proceeding ICBB (The International Conference on Bioscience and Biotechnology) 1(1): C39-C44.

Mahfut, M., Daryono, BS., Ari, I., & Susanto, S. (2019) Effectiveness test of orchid mycorrhizal isolate (*Ceratophora* and *Trichoderma*) Indonesia and its role as a biofertilizer. Annual Research & Review in Biology 33 (4): 1-7.

Warcup JH(1981) The mycorrhizal relationships of Australian orchids. New Phytologist 87(2):371-381.

Morphological Identification of Orchid Mycorrhiza Fungi From Native Orchids in Indonesia

Mahfut

Department of Biology, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Universitas Lampung, Indonesia

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Abstract

Moth orchid (*Phalaenopsis amabilis* (L.) Blume) is a species native orchid from Indonesia. Its presence in nature to live in symbiosis with endophytic mycorrhiza as biocontrol agent. In a previous study, one *Ceratobasidium* isolate from Yogyakarta, Indonesia was successfully isolated-identified based on rDNA-ITS molecular analysis. This study aims to identify these isolates based on morphological analysis. Verification morphological analysis is carried out by observing macroscopic and microscopic characteristics, as well as observing peloton. The results of the analysis showed that the characterization of Yogyakarta isolates had similarities with *Ceratobasidium*. These character equations include colony color, cell length, core number, and cell width. The results-examination of the induction-of-orchid roots mycorrhiza also showed a-the presence of pelotons structure in the cortex cells-of-orchid-root. This study confirms that the fungal isolates of orchids mycorrhiza from Yogyakarta, Indonesia are were *Ceratobasidium* based on morphological and molecular analysis. This research is a conservation and natural protection effort of native orchids in Indonesia using biocontrol agent. This study is the first to report regarding *Ceratobasidium* isolated from native orchids in Indonesia based on morphological analysis.

Keywords: *Ceratobasidium*; mycorrhiza; morphological analysis; *Phalaenopsis*; Indonesia

1. Introduction

Orchid is a type of ornamental plant that has a high aesthetic value and is most in demand by the community (Mose et al., 2020). The moth orchid (*Phalaenopsis amabilis* (L.) Blume) is one of Indonesia's national flowers, namely the charm that was set through Presidential Indonesia Decree Number 4/1993. Diseases infections are still the main obstacle in the cultivation and development of the-potential-of-natural orchids (Mahfut et al., 2019; Mahfut, 2020; Mahfut et al., 2020^b; Mahfut et al., 2021).

Endophytic mycorrhiza is a form of symbiosis between fungi and plant roots during a certain period of their life cycle, forming colonies in plant tissues without endangering their hosts. In general, endophytic-mycorrhizal fungi help germination of orchid seeds in the presence of ethylene and various vitamins. Another role is to support efforts to provide nutrition for plant growth and development (Haro and Benito, 2019), and to assist in the formation of more buds and flowers. In plant resistance, the role of endophytic mycorrhiza can be said to be a biological agent of control in plant protection against pathogenic infections (Safarini et al., 2020; Song et al., 2020).

In the-a previous study, Mahfut et al. (2020^a) was-reported one *Ceratobasidium* isolate from Yogyakarta, Indonesia was reported-to-have-been-successfully-isolated based on rDNA-ITS molecular analysis. The results show bands-sequences measuring 600-750 bp DNA products located on the ITS1-5.8S-ITS4 region. Reconstruction of phylogenetic trees resulted in Indonesian isolates having undergone speciation and separated from *Ceratobasidium* isolates from other countries. This research is a follow-up study which aims to clarify the identification of these isolates as *Ceratobasidium* based on morphological analysis. Furthermore, this research can be used as a database-benchmark in developing strategy for conserving the-moth orchid conservation-strategy-through protection of-against plants-against-infectious diseases.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Collection of Healthy Orchid Root Samples and Endophytic Mycorrhizal Isolation

Healthy root of *P. amabilis* (L.) Blume collected from Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The sample was taken to the Biotechnology Laboratory of the Faculty of Biology UGM to isolate endophytic mycorrhiza following the Chand et al. (2020) method. Isolation of endophytic fungi was then carried out by cutting the roots and culturing on PDA medium. The isolates-fungal colonies obtained from the isolation were then purified by sub-culturing aseptically and incubating for 7 days at room temperature. It is possible that the isolates obtained are pure isolates that are not contaminated by other fungi.

2.2. Macroscopic Characteristic Observation

To observe the macroscopic characteristics of endophytic-the isolated fungi-isolated, small fragments-portion of isolates ($\pm 1 \text{ mm}^2$) were placed $\pm 1 \text{ mm}^3$ -inoculated in the middle of the PDA medium. Furthermore, the growth of the isolates were observed

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Comment [R1]: Only one was examined in the present study.

Comment [R2]: Not clear. Are you mentioning the association of this orchid with mycorrhizal fungi??

Comment [R3]: What is the need for morphological characterization after a more relevant molecular characterization.

Comment [R4]: Was there any fruiting bodies formed in culture?

Comment [R5]: Not clear.

Comment [R6]: How was this determined?? The genus *Ceratobasidium* also contains plant pathogens.

Comment [R7]: Rewrite for clarity.

Comment [R8]: It is not necessary to cite the authorities at every mention.

Comment [R9]: Provide the coordinates for the sampling site.

Comment [R10]: Specify the room temperature.

Comment [R11]: How was this determined?

and measured ~~the growth of their colonies~~ every day for 7 days. Furthermore, observations of colony morphological characteristics such as colony color, colony base color, and ~~colony characteristics~~ were carried out.

Comment [R12]: Specify the characters.

2.3. Making Slide Culture Preparations

Observation of microscopic characteristics was also carried out using the slide culture method ~~as delivered by~~ (Stoian et al. (2019) with a slight modification. This method ~~is was~~ carried out to monitor microscopic characteristics such as the color of hyphae, bulkhead in hyphae, angle of branching of hyphae, and number of cell nuclei. ~~While for observing~~ The number of nuclei ~~was observed after treating with using~~ safranin and 3% KOH 3%.

Comment [R13]: What is this? Explain.

2.4 Observation of *Endophytic Mycorrhizal Hyphae* (*Peloton* in roots)

Observation of peloton was carried out by making squash preparations on root samples which had been treated with previous endophytic fungal inoculations. Root samples are sliced and soaked in trypan blue dye for 15 minutes. Observations were carried out using a light microscope at 100 x magnification. ~~The peloton will appear in the cell portion of the root cortex.~~

3. Results

3.1. Collection of Healthy Orchid Root Samples and Endophytic Mycorrhizal Isolation

~~The results of isolation were obtained by 1 isolate of~~ One endophytic fungus, namely Yogyakarta ~~was isolated~~ from root samples of *P. amabilis* (~~L.~~) Blume in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in Figure 1.

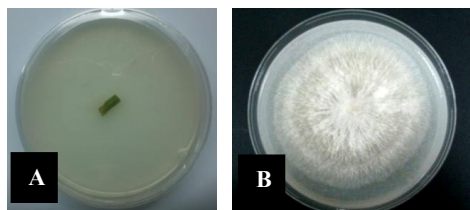


Figure 1. A) Root samples of *P. amabilis* (~~L.~~) cultured on PDA medium, B) Colonies of fungi that grow on 7 days old orchid roots

Comment [R14]: Figures should be self-explanatory. Do not abbreviate the genus name,

Identification results based on macroscopic, microscopic, and molecular characteristics showed that the isolate was *Ceratorhiza* which is one of the types of *Rhizoctonia* endophytic mycorrhiza. According to Chand et al. (2020), *Ceratorhiza* is *Rhizoctonia* grouped by cell hyphae and moniloid, and many are found to be associated with orchid roots.

3.2. Macroscopic Characteristics Observation

Identification of Yogyakarta isolates was carried out by observing colony color, shape of branching hyphae, diameter of hyphae, number of cell nuclei, clamp connection, monoloid cell shape and size.

Comment [R15]: This should be in the methods.

Special characteristics of Yogyakarta isolate was identified as having branching types that formed elbows or 90° angles and hyphae cells with a cell nucleus 2 (binucleate). These two characteristics are special characteristics of endophytic mycorrhiza. Endophytic fungi have 1-3 nuclei (binucleate) nuclei, whereas pathogenic fungi have more than 3 nuclei (multinucleates). This is in accordance with the opinion of Pannecouque & Hofie (2009) that in addition to binucleates, the characteristics of endophytic fungi are branching which forms a 90° or T-shaped branches.

Overall, the results of identification of Yogyakarta isolates showed similarities with the types of *Ceratorhiza* mycorrhiza. The following characteristics of Yogyakarta isolates compared to supporting references are presented in Table 1 and Table 2.

Table 1. Comparison of the characteristics of Yogyakarta isolates and *Cerathoriza* isolates according to Shan et al. (2002)

Characteristics	Yogyakarta Isolate	<i>Cerathoriza</i> Isolate
The surface color of young colonies	White to yellow	Yellow to white
The appearance of colonies	Like cotton	Like cotton
Hyphae color	Hialin Hyaline	Hialin Hyaline
Hyphae diameter (µm)	6,20-6,72	3,8-7,5
Moniloid cell form	Elongated , barrel shaped	Ellipsoidal atau elongate barrel shape
Moniloid cell size (µm)	(12,22-14,56) x (2,39-2,91)	(7,5-15,0) x (10,0-25,0)
The growth rate of the colony (mm / hr)	0,72	0,42-0,52
Number of cell nuclei	Binucleate	Binucleate

Comment [R16]: Change as 6.20-6.72

Comment [R17]: ??

Comment [R18]: Use symbol.

Table 2. Comparison of the characteristics of Yogyakarta isolates and *Cerathoriza* isolates according to Currah and Zelmer (1992)

Characteristics	Yogyakarta Isolate	Cerathoriza Isolate
Colony color	White to yellow	Cream, yellow, or brown
The appearance of colonies	Like cotton	Like cotton
The form of branching hyphae	90°	90°
Air hyphae diameter	<3 µm	<4 µm
Number of nuclei per cell	Binucleate	Binucleate
Clamp connection	-	-
Surface of the colony	Like cotton	Flat and waxy
Cell monilioid form	Elongate barrel shaped	-
Length of cell monilioid	12,22-14,56	-
Cell monilioid width	2,39-2,91	-

Based on observations of hyphae and cells using safranin O-KOH dye (Figure 2) it was found that Yogyakarta isolates were endophytic fungi of *Ceratorhiza* with specific characteristics having branching types that form elbows or 90° angles, the color of vegetative hyphae is hyaline, with diameters of 6.20-6.72 µm, fungal colonies form cell monilioids with elongate barrel shape and monilioid size (12.22-14.56) µm x (2.39-2.91) µm. The number of nuclei in binucleic cells, according to the characteristics reported by Shan et al. (2002) and Currah and Zelmer (1992).

Comment [R19]: Why do you include a discussion when there is a separate section for this?

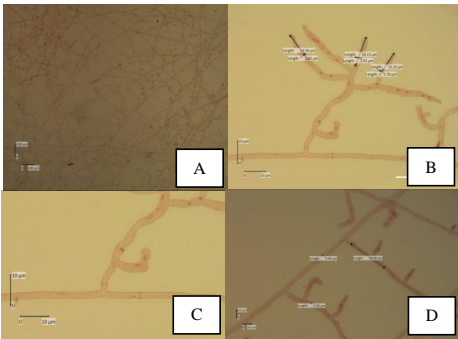
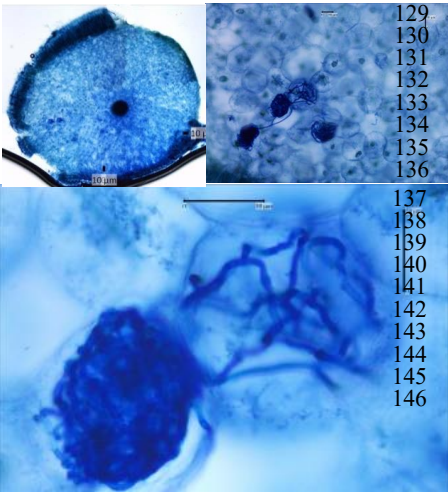


Figure 2. Microscopic observation of hyphae cells and monilioid cells *Ceratorhiza* from Yogyakarta isolates on the 7-day PDA medium using safranin O-KOH staining; (A) Colony, (B) Monilioid cell nucleus, (C) Binucleate, (D) Branching of hyphae 90°. Magnification (A) 10 x, (B, C, D) 40 x. Bar = 10 µm

3.4 Observation of Endophytic Mycorrhizal Hyphae (Peloton)

Observation of the cross section of the root sample found indicated the presence of a pelotons in the root cortex (Figure 3). Currah & Zelmer (1992) explain that the characteristic of endophytic fungal hyphae infecting-colonizing plants will form a mass of dense hyphae in cortical cells called pelotons.



147 | **Figure 3.** Peloton structure in the anatomy of the root cortex cells of *P. amabilis* (L.) Blume with Trypan Blue staining.
148 | Magnification (A) 4 x, (B) 10 x, (C) 40 x. Bar = 10 µm
149 |

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150 4. Discussion

151 | Characteristics of endophytic mycorrhizal analysis were obtained and compared with the reference characteristics (Shan et
152 | al., 2002; Currah and Zelmer, 1992), it was found that Yogyakarta isolates were *Ceratorrhiza* isolates. *Ceratorrhiza* is an
153 | anamorphic phase of *Ceratobasidium*. According to Athipunyakom et al., (2004), the genus *Ceratorrhiza* is a mycorrhizal isolate
154 | which is commonly found associated with orchids, where endophytic fungi of this type are *Rhizoctonia* which are grouped
155 | according to cell hyphae and moniloid. Growth of *Ceratorrhiza* reached a diameter of 9 cm after 4 days after of incubation by
156 | forming a symmetrical zone. The color of the colony will turned yellowish after 7 days with and the colony surface of the
157 | hyphae appeared as clumping-like cottony clumps. The lumps y-hyphae are aerial hyphae, this is known from the hyphae that
158 | grow on the surface of the agar media. These hyphae are fertile hyphae which play a role for reproduction. The length of
159 | moniloid cells is 12.22-14.56 µm, width 2.39-2.91µm and lancet-shaped. If the ratio of length and width is 3.5-4: 1 then it is
160 | called the lancet type.

161 | The peloton structure is evident in the roots of *P. amabilis* (L.) Blume which are associated with endophytic fungi (Figure
162 | 3). One of the parameters for the mechanism of resistance induction can be the formation of a peloton structure which shows that
163 | endophytic fungi penetrate the epidermal finger and into the cortex. In the cortex, the pulp will enter the cell space (intracellular)
164 | and form a peloton.

165 | The presence of peloton proves that the endophytic fungi can penetrate into the root tissue of *P. amabilis* (L.) Blume.
166 | According to Currah and Zelmer (1992), the stage of infection with endophytic fungi begins with the formation of appressorium
167 | which is an thickening-inflated of hyphae. These hyphae originate from spores that germinate or externally hyphae at the root
168 | surface of infected host plants. Hyphae will then penetrate the root surface mechanically and enzymatically into the space
169 | between the root epidermal cells and into the cortex and beyond. Hyphae develop without destroying the cells of the root cortex.
170 | In cortex cells, hyphae form a peloton in the form of dense hyphae. In the platoon, the accumulation of organic materials includes
171 | protein, glycogen, fat, and nutrients produced by absorption from the soil.
172 |

173 5. Conclusion

174 | The results showed that the characterization of endophytic mycorrhizae from the roots of *P. amabilis* (L.) Blume from
175 | Yogyakarta, Indonesia had similarities with the type of endophytic mycorrhizal *Ceratorrhiza*. These character equations include
176 | colony surface color, colony appearance, hyphae color, hyphae diameter (µm), cell moniloid shape, moniloid cell size (µm),
177 | colony growth rate (mm / hour), core number, hyphae branching shape, and clamp connection. The results of mycorrhizal
178 | induction also produce a peloton structure in orchid root cortex cells. The peloton structure is evident in the roots of *P. amabilis*
179 | (L.) Blume which are associated with endophytic fungi. The presence of peloton proves that endophytic fungi can penetrate into
180 | the root tissue.

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184 | endophytic fungi from a wild orchid *Vanda cristata*. *Plant Signaling & Behavior*, **15**(5): 1744294.
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Morphological Identification of Orchid Mycorrhiza Fungi From Native Orchids in Indonesia

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Abstract

Moth orchid (*Phalaenopsis amabilis* (L.) Blume) is an species native orchid from Indonesia. The association of this orchid with mycorrhizal fungi in nature - Its presence in nature to live in symbiosis with endophytic mycorrhiza as biocontrol agent. In a previous study, one *Ceratobasidium* isolate from Yogyakarta, Indonesia was successfully isolated-identified based on rDNA-ITS molecular analysis. This study aims to identify these isolates based on morphological analysis. This study aimed to identify these isolates based on morphological analysis to complement other identification data, namely anatomy and molecular. Verification morphological analysis is carried out by observing macroscopic and microscopic characteristics, as well as observing peloton. The results of the analysis showed that the characterization of Yogyakarta isolates had similarities with *Ceratobasidium*. These character equations include colony color, cell length, core number, and cell width. The results examination of the induction of orchid roots mycorrhiza also showed a the presence of pelotons structure in the corticalex cells of orchid root. This study confirms that the fungal isolates of orchids mycorrhiza from Yogyakarta, Indonesia are-were *Ceratobasidium* based on morphological and molecular analysis. This research is one of the efforts to preserve native orchids in Indonesia using mycorrhiza fungi as a biocontrol agent, a conservation and natural protection effort of native orchids in Indonesia using biocontrol agent. This study is the first to report regarding *Ceratobasidium* isolated from native orchids in Indonesia based on morphological analysis.

Keywords: *Ceratobasidium*; mycorrhiza; morphological analysis; *Phalaenopsis*; Indonesia

1. Introduction

Orchid is a type of ornamental plant that has a high aesthetic value and is most in demand by the community (Mose et al., 2020). The moth orchid (*Phalaenopsis amabilis* (L.) Blume) is one of Indonesia's national flowers, namely the charm that was set through Presidential Indonesia Decree Number 4/1993. Diseases infections are still the main obstacle in the cultivation and development of the potential of natural orchids (Mahfut et al., 2019; Mahfut, 2020; Mahfut et al., 2020^b; Mahfut et al., 2021).

Endophytic mycorrhiza is a form of symbiosis between fungi and plant roots during a certain period of their life cycle, forming colonies in plant tissues without endangering their hosts. In general, endophytic mycorrhizal fungi help germination of orchid seeds in the presence of ethylene and various vitamins. Another role is to support efforts to provide nutrition for plant growth and development (Haro and Benito, 2019), and to assist in the formation of more buds and flowers. In plant resistance, mycorrhiza fungi serve as a biological agent of control in plant protection against pathogenic infections the role of endophytic mycorrhiza can be said to be a biological agent of control in plant protection against pathogenic infections (Safarini et al., 2020; Song et al., 2020).

In the a previous study, Mahfut et al. (2020^a) was reported one *Ceratobasidium* isolate from Yogyakarta, Indonesia was reported to have been successfully isolated based on rDNA-ITS molecular analysis. The results show bands-sequences measuring 600-750 bp DNA products located on the ITS1-5.8S-ITS4 region. Reconstruction of phylogenetic trees resulted in Indonesian isolates having undergone speciation and separated from *Ceratobasidium* isolates from other countries. This research is a follow-up study which aims to clarify the identification of these isolates as *Ceratobasidium* based on morphological analysis. Furthermore, this research can be used as a database-benchmark in developing strategy for conserving the moth orchid conservation strategy through protection of against plants against infectious diseases.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Collection of Healthy Orchid Root Samples and Endophytic Mycorrhizal Isolation

Healthy root of *P. amabilis* (L.) Blume collected from Yogyakarta, Indonesia on coordinates 8° 30' - 7° 20' LS 109° 40' - 111° 0' BT. The sample was taken to the Biotechnology Laboratory of the Faculty of Biology UGM to isolate endophytic mycorrhiza following the Chand et al. (2020) method. Isolation of endophytic fungi was then carried out by cutting the roots and culturing on PDA medium. The isolates-fungal colonies obtained from the isolation were then purified by sub-culturing aseptically and incubating for 7 days at room temperature (20-25°C). It is possible that the isolates obtained are pure and single isolates that are not contaminated by other fungi.

Comment [R1]: What is the need for morphological characterization after a more relevant molecular characterization.

Comment [R2]: How was this determined?? The genus *Ceratobasidium* also contains plant pathogens.

Comment [R3]: It is not necessary to cite the authorities at every mention.

2.2. Macroscopic Characteristic Observation

To observe the macroscopic characteristics of ~~endophytic-the isolated~~ fungi-isolated, small ~~fragments-portion~~ of isolates ($\pm 1 \text{ mm}^2$) were placed ~~$\pm 1 \text{ mm}^2$~~ inoculated in the middle of the PDA medium. Furthermore, ~~the growth of the~~ isolates were observed and measured ~~the growth of their colonies~~ every day for 7 days. Furthermore, observations of colony morphological characteristics such as colony color, colony base color, ~~and the surface color of young colonies, the appearance of colonies, and the growth rate of the colony~~ colony characteristics were carried out.

Comment [R4]: Specify the characters.

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2.3. Making Slide Culture Preparations

Observation of microscopic characteristics was also carried out using the slide culture method ~~as delivered by~~ (Stoian et al. (2019) with a slight modification. This method ~~is was~~ carried out to monitor microscopic characteristics such as the color of hyphae, bulkhead in hyphae, angle of branching of hyphae, and number of cell nuclei. ~~While for observing~~ The number of nuclei was observed after treating with using safranin and 3% KOH 3%.

2.4. Observation of Endophytic Mycorrhizal Hyphae (Pelotons in roots)

Observation of peloton was carried out by making squash preparations on root samples which had been treated with previous endophytic fungal inoculations. Root samples are sliced and soaked in tryphan blue dye for 15 minutes. Observations were carried out using a light microscope at 100 x magnification. ~~The peloton will appear in the cell portion of the root cortex.~~

3. Results

3.1. Collection of Healthy Orchid Root Samples and Endophytic Mycorrhizal Isolation

~~The results of isolation were obtained by 1 isolate of One~~ endophytic fungusi, namely Yogyakarta ~~was isolated~~ from root samples of *P. amabilis* (~~L.~~) Blume in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in Figure 1.

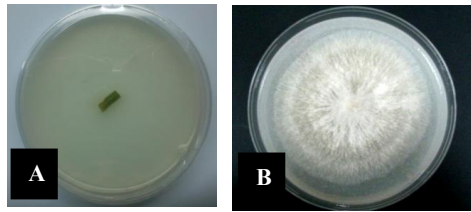


Figure 1. A) Root samples of *MP1-P. amabilis* (~~L.~~) cultured on PDA medium, B) Colonies of fungi that grow on 7 days old orchid roots

Identification results based on macroscopic, microscopic, and molecular- characteristics showed that the isolate was *Ceratorhiza* which is one of the types of *Rhizoctonia* endophytic mycorrhiza. According to Chand et al. (2020), *Ceratorhiza* is *Rhizoctonia* grouped by cell hyphae and moniloid, and many are found to be associated with orchid roots.

3.2. Macroscopic Characteristics Observation

~~Identification of Yogyakarta isolates was carried out by observing colony color, shape of branching hyphae, diameter of hyphae, number of cell nuclei, clamp connection, monoloid cell shape and size.~~

Special characteristics of Yogyakarta isolate was identified as having branching types that formed elbows or 90° angles and hyphae cells with a cell nucleus 2 (binucleate). These two characteristics are special characteristics of endophytic mycorrhiza. Endophytic fungi have 1-3 nuclei (binucleate) nuclei, whereas pathogenic fungi have more than 3 nuclei (multinucleates). This is in accordance with the opinion of Pannecouque & Hofie (2009) that in addition to binucleates, the characteristics of endophytic fungi are branching which forms a 90° or T-shaped branches.

Overall, the results of identification of Yogyakarta isolates showed similarities with the types of *Ceratorhiza* mycorrhiza. The following characteristics of Yogyakarta isolates compared to supporting references are presented in Table 1 and Table 2.

Comment [R5]: This should be in the methods.

Table 1. Comparison of the characteristics of Yogyakarta isolates and *Ceratorhiza* isolates according to Shan et al. (2002)

Characteristics	Yogyakarta Isolate	<i>Ceratorhiza</i> Isolate
The surface color of young colonies	White to yellow	Yellow to white
The appearance of colonies	Like cotton	Like cotton
Hyphae color	Hialin Hyaline	Hialin Hyaline
Hyphae diameter (µm)	6.20-6.72	3.8-7.5
Moniloid cell form	Elongated, barrel shaped	Ellipsoidal oratau elongate barrel shape
Moniloid cell size (µm)	(12.22-14.56) × (2.39-2.91)	(7.5-15.0) × (10.0-25.0)

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Comment [R6]: Use symbol.

The growth rate of the colony (mm / hr)	0.72	0.42-0.52
Number of cell nuclei	Binucleate	Binucleate

Table 2. Comparison of the characteristics of Yogyakarta isolates and *Cerathoriza* isolates according to Currah and Zelmer (1992)

Characteristics	Yogyakarta Isolate	<i>Cerathoriza</i> Isolate
Colony color	White to yellow	Cream, yellow, or brown
The appearance of colonies	Like cotton	Like cotton
The form of branching hyphae	90°	90°
Air hyphae diameter	<3 μm	<4 μm
Number of cell nuclei per cell	Binucleate	Binucleate
Clamp connection	-	-
Surface of the colony	Like cotton	Flat and waxy
Cell monilioid form	Elongate barrel shaped	-
Length of cell monilioid cell lengths	12.22-14.56	-
Cell monilioid cell width	2.39-2.91	-

Based on observations of hyphae and cells using safranin O-KOH dye (Figure 2) it was found that Yogyakarta isolates were endophytic fungi of *Ceratorhiza* with specific characteristics having branching types that form elbows or 90° angles, the color of vegetative hyphae is hyaline, with diameters of 6.20-6.72 μm, fungal colonies form cell monilioids with elongate barrel shape and monilioid size (12,22-14,56) μm x (2.39-2.91) μm. The number of nuclei in binucleic cells, according to the characteristics reported by Shan et al. (2002) and Currah and Zelmer (1992).

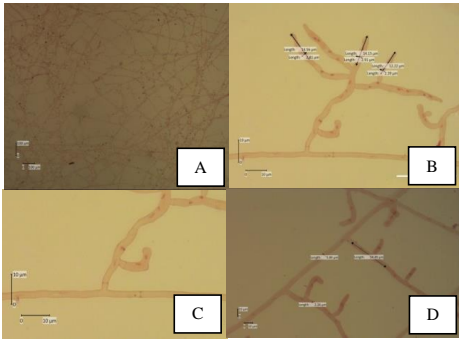


Figure 2. Microscopic observation of hyphae cells and monilioid cells *Ceratorhiza* from Yogyakarta isolates on the 7-day PDA medium using safranin O-KOH staining; (A) Colony, (B) Monilioid cell nucleus, (C) Binucleate, (D) Branching of hyphae 90°. Magnification (A) 10 x, (B, C, D) 40 x. Bar = 10 μm

3.4 Observation of Endophytic Mycorrhizal Hyphae (Peloton)

Observation of the cross section of the root sample found indicated the presence of a pelotons in the root cortex (Figure 3). Currah & Zelmer (1992) explain that the characteristic of endophytic fungal hyphae infecting colonizing plants will form a mass of dense hyphae in cortical cells called pelotons.

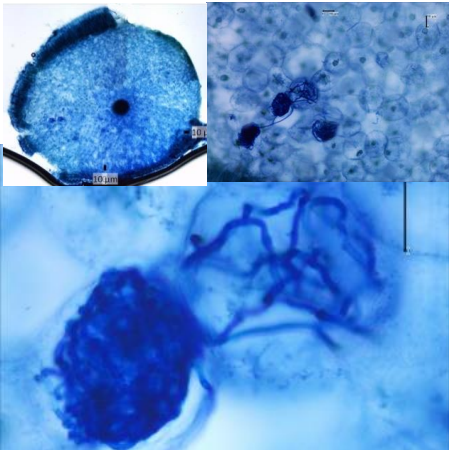


Figure 3. Peloton structure in the anatomy of the root cortex cells of *MP1 P. amabilis (L.) Blume* with Trypan Blue staining. Magnification (A) 4 x, (B) 10 x, (C) 40 x. Bar = 10 µm

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4. Discussion

Characteristics of endophytic mycorrhizal analysis were obtained and compared with the reference characteristics (Shan et al., 2002; Currah and Zelmer, 1992), it was found that Yogyakarta isolates were *Ceratorhiza* isolates. *Ceratorhiza* is an anamorphic phase of *Ceratobasidium*. According to Athipunyakom et al., (2004), the genus *Ceratorhiza* is a mycorrhizal isolate which is commonly found associated with orchids, where endophytic fungi of this type are *Rhizoctonia* which are grouped according to cell hyphae and moniloid. Growth of *Ceratorhiza* reached a diameter of 9 cm after 4 days after incubation by forming a symmetrical zone. The color of the colony will turned yellowish after 7 days with and the colony surface of the hyphae appeared as clumping-like cottony clumps. The lumps y-hyphae are aerial hyphae, this is known from the hyphae that grow on the surface of the agar media. These hyphae are fertile hyphae which play a role for reproduction. The length of moniloid cells is 12.22-14.56 µm, width 2.39-2.91µm and lancet-shaped. If the ratio of length and width is 3.5-4: 1 then it is called the lancet type. The number of nuclei in binucleic cells, according to the characteristics reported by Shan et al. (2002) and Currah and Zelmer (1992).

The peloton structure is evident in the roots of *P. amabilis (L.) Blume* which are associated with endophytic fungi (Figure 3). One of the parameters for the mechanism of resistance induction can be the formation of a peloton structure which shows that endophytic fungi penetrate the epidermal finger and into the cortex. In the cortex, the pulp will enter the cell space (intracellular) and form a peloton.

The presence of peloton proves that the endophytic fungi can penetrate into the root tissue of *P. amabilis (L.) Blume*. According to Currah and Zelmer (1992), the stage of infection with endophytic fungi begins with the formation of an appressorium which is an thickening-inflated of hyphae. These hyphae originate from spores that germinate or externally hyphae at the root surface of infected host plants. Hyphae will then penetrate the root surface mechanically and enzymatically into the space between the root epidermal cells and into the cortex and beyond. Hyphae develop without destroying the cells of the root cortex. In cortex cells, hyphae form a peloton in the form of dense hyphae. In the platoon, the accumulation of organic materials includes protein, glycogen, fat, and nutrients produced by absorption from the soil.

5. Conclusion

The results showed that the characterization of endophytic mycorrhizae from the roots of *P. amabilis (L.) Blume* from Yogyakarta, Indonesia had similarities with the type of endophytic mycorrhizal *Ceratorhiza*. These character equations include colony surface color, colony appearance, hyphae color, hyphae diameter (µm), cell monilioid shape, monilioid cell size (µm), colony growth rate (mm / hour), core number, hyphae branching shape, and clamp connection. The results of mycorrhizal induction also produce a peloton structure in orchid root cortex cells. The peloton structure is evident in the roots of *P. amabilis (L.) Blume* which are associated with endophytic fungi. The presence of peloton proves that endophytic fungi can penetrate into the root tissue.

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Review 2

Manuscript Evaluation Report- Referee 2**Manuscript ID: JJBS 58/21/a8****Due date: April 11, 2021****MS Title: Morphological Identification of Orchid Mycorrhiza Fungi From Native Orchids in Indonesia****Type of Article:** ☐ Review Article ☒ **Research Paper** ☐ Case Report**PART A:**

On a scale of 1 – 5 (1 being lowest and 5 being highest), rate the manuscript based on the following criteria;

NO.	Criteria	Score
1	Is the topic of the manuscript within the scope of the journal?	5
2	Does the title clearly and sufficiently reflect its content?	4
3	Are the keywords and abstract sufficient and informative?	4
4	What is the scholarly quality of the manuscript?	3
5	Is this a new and/ or original contribution?	3
6	Is the research methodology utilized appropriate and properly administered?	4
7	Are the methods of data analysis acceptable?	3
8	Are the results and conclusions clear, adequately presented and organized in relation to rest of manuscript?	3
9	Are the illustrations and tables necessary and in acceptable format?	4
10	Are the interpretations/ conclusions sound and justified by the data?	3
11	Are the References in a proper format according to JJBS author Instruction?	2
12	Is the MS written in correct and satisfactory English?	4

Please rate the priority for publication of this article (10 is the highest priority, 1 is the lowest priority)

7

PART B: Comments per Section of Manuscript:

Abstract	Title should be Morphological identification of orchid mycorrhizal fungi from native orchids in Indonesia.
Introduction	Good
Methodology	Good
Results	Results section should be improved. Fungal morphological characteristics were compared with only 2 references.
Discussion and Conclusion	Good
References	In some references cited journals were not abbreviated. The initials of the some authors names were not indicated.

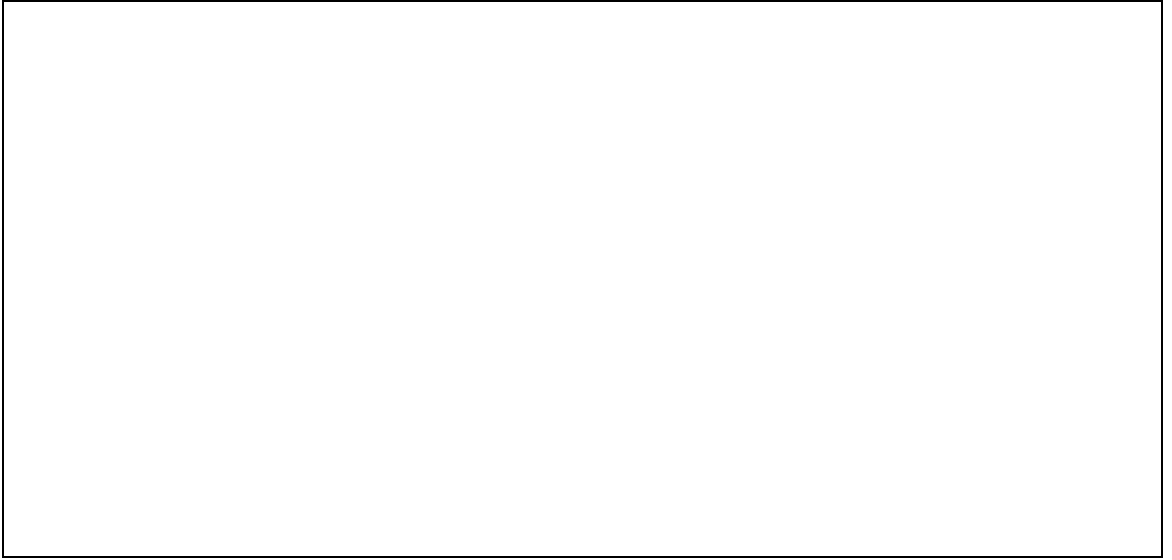
PART C: Recommendation (Kindly Mark With An ✓)

Acceptable in its Present Form	
Acceptable with Minor Revision	X
Reconsidered after Major Revision	
Reject on Ground of (Please be Specific)	

PART D: Additional Comments:

Please add any other additional comments or specific suggestions on the enclosed comments sheet:

The results obtained from morphological studies should confirm from molecular (ITS-rDNA) analysis.



AUTHORS COMMENTS ON REVIEW RESULTS

Article title: **Morphological Identification of Orchid Mycorrhiza Fungi From Native Orchids in Indonesia**

Dear Reviewers,

Many thanks to make a valuable comment, improve and give us constructive inputs. I realized that this article (and experiment) have some weakness. However, the study on the isolation and characterization of mycorrhizal fungi associated with an epiphytic moth orchid *Phalaenopsis amabilis* is now a new emerging issue. Kindly find our comments for your review results. Waiting for your next responses, again we thank you.

First reviewers The corrections in text for 1st Reviewer are written in green			
No	Line No	Review results	Author comments
1	2	Only one was examined in the present study	Its have been corrected
2	12	Not clear. Are you mentioning the association of this orchid with mycorrhizal fungi??	Yes. I have corrected it
3	14	What is the need for morphological characterization after a more relevant molecular characterization	Yes. . This study aims to identify these isolates based on morphological analysis.
4	16	Was there any fruiting bodies formed in culture?	The results of the analysis showed that the characterization of Yogyakarta isolates had similarities with <i>Ceratobasidium</i>
5	19	Not clear.	This research is one of the efforts to preserve native orchids in Indonesia using myccorrhiza fungi as a biocontrol agent.
6	20	How was this determined?? The genus <i>Ceratobasidium</i> also contains plant pathogens.	With morphological characterization can determined it. Mycorrhizal Fungi have binuclei or multinuclei,
7	33	Rewrite for clarity.	In plant resistance, mycorrhiza fungi serve as a biological agent of control in plant protection against pathogenic infections (Safarini et al., 2020; Song et al., 2020).
8	45	It is not necessary to cite the authorities at every mention.	Healthy root of <i>P. amabilis</i> (L.) Blume collected from Yogyakarta, Indonesia on coordinates 8° 30' - 7° 20' LS 109° 40' - 111° 0' BT.
9	45	Provide the coordinates for the sampling site.	Healthy root of <i>P. amabilis</i> (L.) Blume collected from Yogyakarta, Indonesia on coordinates 8° 30' - 7° 20' LS 109° 40' - 111° 0' BT.
10	48	Specify the room temperature.	The fungal colonies obtained from the isolation were then purified by sub-culturing aseptically and incubating for 7 days at room temperature (20-25°C)
11	49	How was this determined?	It rewrite: It is possible that the isolates obtained are pure and single isolates that are not contaminated by other fungi.

12	55	Specify the characters.	It rewrite:the surface color of young colonies, the appearance of colonies, and the growth rate of the colony
13	60	What is this? Explain.	It rewrite:bulk in hyphae
14	83	Figures should be self-explanatory. Do not abbreviate the genus name	It rewrite:MP1
15	91	This should be in the methods.	I was delete this and move to the methods
16	101	Change as 6.20-6.72	It rewrite:6.20-6.72
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7.

Review 3

Morphological Identification of Orchid Mycorrhizal Fungi From Native Orchid in Indonesia

Mahfut

Department of Biology, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Universitas Lampung, Indonesia

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Abstract

Moth orchid [*Phalaenopsis amabilis* (L.) Blume] is a species native orchid from Indonesia. ~~This orchid associates~~ ~~tion of this orchid with mycorrhizal fungi in nature which also act as biocontrol agent.~~ In a previous study, one *Ceratobasidium* isolate ~~was isolated from roots of *P. amabilis* growing in~~ Yogyakarta, Indonesia ~~and~~ was successfully identified based on rDNA-ITS molecular analysis. This study aimed to identify the ~~fungalse~~ isolates ~~associated with *P. amabilis*~~ based on morphological analysis to complement other identification data, namely anatomy and molecular. Verification ~~of morphological analysis is was~~ carried out by ~~observing macroscopic and~~ microscopic ~~characterizationsties,~~ as well as ~~observations of ing-pelotons in roots.~~ The results of the ~~morphological~~ analysis showed that the characterization of Yogyakarta isolates had similarities with *Ceratobasidium*. These ~~characters~~ ~~equations-observed~~ included colony color, ~~hyphal~~ cell length, ~~eore-nucleus~~ number, and cell width. The ~~examination of *P. amabilis*orchid roots~~ also showed the ~~presence of pelotons in the cortical cells.~~ This study confirms that the ~~fungalse~~ isolates of orchid mycorrhiza ~~in roots of *P. amabilis*~~ from Yogyakarta, Indonesia ~~were *Ceratobasidium*~~ based on morphological and molecular analysis. This research is one of the efforts to preserve native orchids in Indonesia using mycorrhizal fungi as a biocontrol agent. This study is the first to report regarding *Ceratobasidium* isolated from native orchids in Indonesia based on morphological analysis.

Keywords: *Ceratobasidium*; mycorrhiza; morphological analysis; *Phalaenopsis*; Indonesia

Comment [R1]: Avoid using words that are already in the title as key words.

1. Introduction

Orchids ~~are is a type of~~ ornamental plants that has a high aesthetic value and is ~~in most in demand by the communityworldwide~~ (Mose et al., 2020). The moth orchid [*Phalaenopsis amabilis* (L.) Blume] is one of Indonesia's national flowers, namely the charm that was set through Presidential Indonesia Decree Number 4/1993. Diseases are still the main obstacle in the cultivation and development of natural orchids ~~in Indonesia~~ (Mahfut et al., 2019; Mahfut, 2020; Mahfut et al., 2020^b; Mahfut et al., 2021).

Endophytic mycorrhiza is a form of symbiosis between fungi and plant roots during a certain period of their life cycle, forming colonies in plant tissues without endangering their hosts. In general, mycorrhizal fungi help germination of orchid seeds in the presence of ethylene and various vitamins ~~under in vitro conditions and essential for seedling development in nature.~~ Another role is to ~~support efforts~~ to provide nutrition for plant growth and development (Haro and Benito, 2019), and to assist in the formation of more buds and flowers. In plant resistance, mycorrhiza fungi serve as a biological agent ~~of in improving control in plant's resistance protection against pathogenic infections~~ (Safarini et al., 2020; Song et al., 2020).

In a previous study, Mahfut et al. (2020) reported one *Ceratobasidium* isolate from Yogyakarta, Indonesia based on rDNA-ITS molecular analysis. The results ~~of that study were based on show sequences~~ measuring 600-750 bp DNA products located on the ITS1-5.8S-ITS4 region. Reconstruction of phylogenetic trees resulted in Indonesian isolates having undergone speciation and ~~separated were distinct~~ from *Ceratobasidium* isolates from other countries. This research is a follow-up study which aims to clarify the identification of these isolates as *Ceratobasidium* ~~associated with roots of *P. amabilis*~~ based on morphological analysis. Furthermore, this research can be used as a benchmark in ~~developing strategy for conserving~~ moth orchid through protection ~~against~~ plant diseases.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. ~~Collection of Healthy~~Sampling of Orchid Roots ~~Samples~~ and Endophytic Mycorrhizal Fungal Isolation

Healthy root of *P. amabilis* ~~were~~ collected from Yogyakarta, Indonesia ~~on coordinates (8° 30' - 7° 20' LS 109° 40' - 111° 0' BT).~~ The sample was ~~taken transferred~~ to the Biotechnology Laboratory of the Faculty of Biology UGM to isolate endophytic mycorrhizal fungi following the ~~protocol of~~ Chand et al. (2020) ~~method.~~ Isolation of endophytic fungi was then carried out by ~~cutting sectioning~~ the roots and culturing ~~then~~ on potato dextrose agar (PDA) medium ~~at xxx°C for xxx days.~~ The fungal colonies obtained ~~from the isolation~~ were then purified by sub-culturing aseptically and incubating ~~for 7-seven~~ days at room temperature (20-25°C). It ~~is was thus~~ possible ~~that the isolates obtained are to obtain pure and single~~ isolates that are not contaminated by other fungi.

Comment [R2]: Provide these details.

2.2. Macroscopic Characteristic Observation

To observe the macroscopic characteristics of the isolated fungi, small portion of isolates actively growing fungal colonies ($\pm 1 \text{ mm}^2$) were placed in the middle of the PDA medium. Furthermore, the growth of the isolates were observed and measured every day for 7 days. Furthermore, observations of colony morphological characteristics such as colony color, colony base color, the surface color of young colonies, the appearance of colonies, and the growth rate of the colony were carried out.

2.3. Making Slide Culture Preparations

Observation of microscopic characteristics was also carried out using the slide culture method (Stoian et al. 2019) with a slight modification. This method was carried out to monitor microscopic characteristics such as the color of hyphae, bulk in hyphae, angle of branching of hyphae, and number of cell nuclei. The number of nuclei was observed after treating with safranin and 3% KOH.

2.4 Observation of Pelotons in roots

Observation of peloton was carried out by making squash preparations on root samples which had been treated with previous endophytic fungal inoculations. Root samples are sliced and soaked in trypan blue dye for 15 minutes. Observations were carried out using a light microscope at 100 x magnification.

3. Results

3.1. Collection of Healthy Orchid Root Samples and Endophytic Mycorrhizal Isolation

One endophytic fungus, namely Yogyakarta was isolated from root samples of *P. amabilis* in Yogyakarta, Indonesia (Figure 1).

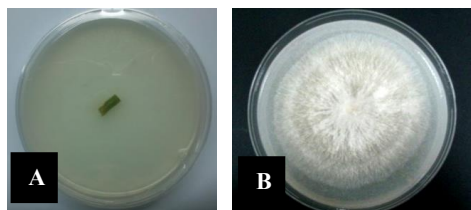


Figure 1. A) Root samples of MP1 cultured on PDA medium, B) Colonies of fungi that grow on 7 days old orchid roots

Identification results based on macroscopic, microscopic, and molecular characteristics showed that the isolate was *Ceratorhiza* which is one of the types of *Rhizoctonia* endophytic mycorrhiza. According to Chand et al. (2020), *Ceratorhiza* is *Rhizoctonia* grouped by cell hyphae and moniloid, and many are found to be associated with orchid roots.

3.2. Macroscopic Characteristics

Special characteristics of Yogyakarta isolate was identified as having branching types that formed elbows or 90° angles and hyphae cells with a cell nucleus 2 (that were binucleate). These two characteristics are special characteristics of endophytic mycorrhiza. Endophytic fungi have 1-3 nuclei (binucleate) nuclei, whereas pathogenic fungi have more than 3-three nuclei (multinucleate). This is in accordance with the opinion of Pannecouque & Hofie (2009) who suggested that in addition to binucleate conditions, the other characteristics of an endophytic fungus are the hyphal branching which forms a at 90°C or the occurrence of T-shaped branches.

Overall, the results of identification of Yogyakarta orchid mycorrhizal fungal isolates showed similarities with the types of *Ceratorhiza mycorrhizafungi*. The following characteristics of A comparison of Yogyakarta mycorrhizal fungal isolates compared to other isolated reported in literature supporting references are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Comparison of the characteristics of Yogyakarta *Cerathoriza* isolate isolates from roots of *Phalaenopsis amabilis* and *Cerathoriza* isolates according to Shan et al. (2002)

Characteristics	Yogyakarta Isolate	<i>Cerathoriza</i> Isolate
The surface color of young colonies	White to yellow	Yellow to white
The appearance of colonies	Like cotton	Like cotton
Hyphae color	Hyaline	Hyaline
Hyphae diameter (μm)	6.20-6.72	3.8-7.5
Moniloid cell form	Elongated, barrel shaped	Ellipsoidal or elongate barrel shaped
Moniloid cell size (μm)	(12.22-14.56) \times (2.39-2.91)	(7.5-15.0) \times (10.0-25.0)
The growth rate of the colony (mm / hr)	0.72	0.42-0.52
Number of cell nuclei	Binucleate	Binucleate

Comment [R3]: What is this??

Comment [R4]: Safranin is not a nuclear stain.

Comment [R5]: Provide the method that was used to prepare root squashes.

Comment [R6]: Please be clear. Were the observations made on root squashes or sections??

Comment [R7]: Insert scale bars in the images.

Comment [R8]: Combine Tables 1 and 2 into a single table.

Table 2. Comparison of the characteristics of Yogyakarta *Cerathoriza* isolate from roots of *Phalaenopsis amabilis* isolate and *Cerathoriza* isolates ~~according to~~ reported by Currah and Zelmer (1992)

Characteristics	Yogyakarta Isolate	<i>Cerathoriza</i> Isolate
Colony color	White to yellow	Cream, yellow, or brown
The appearance of colonies Colony appearance	Like cotton	Like cotton
The form of branching hyphae Hyphal branching	90°	90°
Aerial hyphae hyphal diameter	<3 µm	<4 µm
Number of nuclei per cell	Binucleate	Binucleate
Clamp connection	-	-
Surface of the colony Colony surface	Like cotton Cottony	Flat and waxy
Monilioid cells	Elongate and barrel shaped	-
Monilioid cell length	12.22-14.56	-
Monilioid cell width	2.39-2.91	-

Based on observations of ~~the~~ hyphae and cells using safranin O-KOH dye (Figure 2) it was found that Yogyakarta isolates were endophytic fungi of *Cerathoriza* with specific characteristics having branching types that form elbows or 90° angles, the color of vegetative hyphae is hyaline, with diameters of 6.20-6.72 µm, fungal colonies form ~~cell~~-monilioids ~~cell with that are~~ elongate ~~and~~ barrel shape and ~~monilioid-size measured~~ (12,22-14,56 } µm x (2.39-2.91 } µm (length × width).

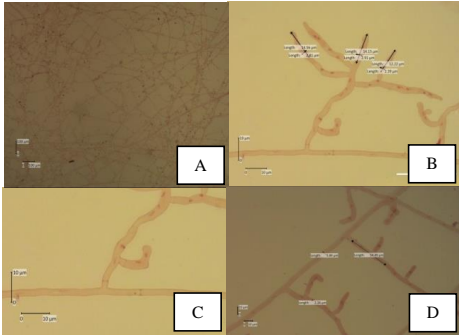
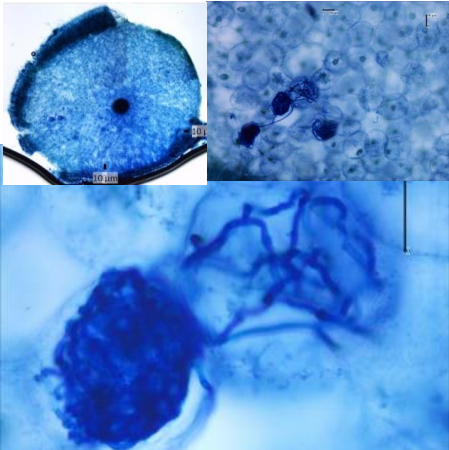


Figure 2. Microscopic observation of hyphal ~~cells~~ and monilioid cells of *Cerathoriza* isolated from roots of *Phalaenopsis amabilis* growing in Yogyakarta isolates on the 7th-day in potato dextrose agar PDA medium and stained with using safranin O-KOH staining; (A) Colony, (B) Monilioid cell nucleus, (C) Binucleate, (D) Branching of hyphae 90°. Magnification (A) 10 x, (B, C, D) 40 x. Bar = 10 µm

3.4 Observation of Endophytic Mycorrhizal ~~Hyphae-Structures in Roots (Peloton)~~

Observation of the cross section of the root sample indicated the presence of pelotons in the root cortex (Figure 3). Currah & Zelmer (1992) explain that the characteristic of endophytic fungal hyphae colonizing plants will form a mass of dense hyphae in cortical cells called pelotons.



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Comment [R9]: This is not a fungal stain. Fungi are generally stained with trypan blue, acid fuchisine, etc.

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Figure 3. Peloton structure in the anatomy of the root cortex cells of MPI with Trypan Blue staining. Magnification (A) 4 x, (B) 10 x, (C) 40 x. Bar = 10 µm

Comment [R12]: What is this?? Explain??

4. Discussion

Morphological characteristics of endophytic mycorrhizal fungi isolated from roots of *P. amabilis* analysis were obtained observed and compared with the characteristics of mycorrhizal fungi reported in the literature reference characteristics (Shan et al., 2002; Currah and Zelmer, 1992). This indicated, it was found that the Yogyakarta fungal isolates were obtained from the roots of *P. amabilis* belonged to *Ceratophthora* isolates. *Ceratophthora* is an anamorphic phase of *Ceratobasidium*. According to Athipunya et al. (2004), the genus *Ceratophthora* is a mycorrhizal isolate which is commonly found associated with the roots of orchids. Previously these were endophytic fungi of this type were termed *Rhizoctonia* which are and were grouped according to cell-the hyphae and moniloid cell characteristics. Growth of *Ceratophthora* reached a diameter of 9 cm after 4-four days of incubation by forming a symmetrical zone. The colony turned yellowish after 7 days and the colony surface appeared as cottony clumps. The clumps are of aerial hyphae, this is known from the hyphae that grow on the surface of the agar media. These hyphae are fertile hyphae which that play a role for in reproduction. The average length of moniloid cells is was 12.22-14.56 µm, and the width of the cells was 2.39-2.91 µm and lancet-shaped. If the ratio of length and width is 3.5-4: 1 then it is called the lancet type. The cells were number of nuclei in binucleic cells, according to the characteristics similar to those reported by Shan et al. (2002) and Currah and Zelmer (1992).

Comment [R13]: Was conidia or other structures found in culture?

The presence of pelotons structure is was evident in the roots of *P. amabilis* which are that were associated with endophytic fungi (Figure 3). One of the parameters for the mechanism of resistance induction by the fungus in the orchid host can be the formation of a pelotons structure which shows that the endophytic fungi penetrated the epidermal finger-velamen and entered into the cortex. In the cortex, the pulp hyphae will transverse the intercellular spaces enters the cell space (intracellular) and forming a pelotons.

The presence of peloton proves that the endophytic fungi can penetrate-intecolonize the root tissue of *P. amabilis*. According to Currah and Zelmer (1992), the stage of infection-colonization with endophytic fungi begins with the formation of appressorium which is an inflated hyphae on the root surface. The infecting hyphae could be the germinal se hyphae originating from the germinating spores that germinate or an externally hyphae at the root surface of originating from an infected host plants. Hyphae will then penetrate the root surface mechanically and enzymatically into the space between the root epidermal cells and enter into the cortex and beyond. The Hyphae development of the fungal structures happens without destroying the cells of the root cortex. In cortex cells, hyphae form a peloton in the form of dense hyphae. In the peloton latoon, the accumulation of organic materials includes like proteins, glycogen, and fat, and synthesized from the nutrients produced by absorption from the soil that is absorbed and translocated by the mycorrhizal fungi.

Comment [R14]: Stele is not colonized by mycorrhizal fungi.

5. Conclusion

The results showed that the characterization of endophytic mycorrhizae from the roots of *P. amabilis* from Yogyakarta, Indonesia had similarities with the type of endophytic mycorrhizal fungi *Ceratophthora*. These character equations-similarity include colony surface color, colony appearance, hyphae color, hyphae diameter (µm), cell moniloid shape, moniloid cell size (µm), colony growth rate (mm / hour), core number, hyphae branching shape, and clamp connection. The results of mycorrhizal induction also produce a peloton structure in orchid in the root cortex cells. The peloton structure is evident in the roots of *P. amabilis* which are associated with endophytic fungi. The presence of peloton proves that endophytic fungi can penetrate-into colonize the root tissue.

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Morphological Identification of Orchid Mycorrhizal Fungi from Native Orchid in Indonesia

Mahfut*

Department of Biology, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Universitas Lampung, Indonesia

NODATE

Abstract

Moth orchid [*Phalaenopsis amabilis* (L.) Blume] is a species native orchid from Indonesia. The association of this orchid with mycorrhizal fungi in nature as biocontrol agent. In a previous study, one *Ceratobasidium* isolate from Yogyakarta, Indonesia was successfully identified based on rDNA-ITS molecular analysis. This study aimed to identify these isolates based on morphological analysis to complement other identification data, namely anatomy and molecular. Verification morphological analysis is carried out by observing macroscopic and microscopic characteristics, as well as observing peloton. The results of the analysis showed that the characterization of Yogyakarta isolates had similarities with *Ceratobasidium*. These character equations include colony color, cell length, core number, and cell width. The examination of orchid roots also showed the presence of pelotons in the cortical cells. This study confirms that the fungal isolates of orchid mycorrhiza from Yogyakarta, Indonesia were *Ceratobasidium* based on morphological and molecular analysis. This research is one of the efforts to preserve native orchids in Indonesia using mycorrhiza fungi as a biocontrol agent. This study is the first to report regarding *Ceratobasidium* isolated from native orchids in Indonesia based on morphological analysis.

Keywords: *Ceratobasidium*; mycorrhiza; morphological analysis; *Phalaenopsis*; Indonesia

1. Introduction

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Endophytic mycorrhiza is a form of symbiosis between fungi and plant roots during a certain period of their life cycle, forming colonies in plant tissues without endangering their hosts. In general, mycorrhizal fungi help germination of orchid seeds in the presence of ethylene and various vitamins. Another role is to support efforts to provide nutrition for plant growth and development (Haro and Benito, 2019), and to assist in the formation of more buds and flowers. In plant resistance, mycorrhiza fungi serve as a biological agent of control in plant protection against pathogenic infections (Safarini et al., 2020; Song et al., 2020).

In a previous study, Mahfut et al. (2020) reported one *Ceratobasidium* isolate from Yogyakarta, Indonesia based on rDNA-ITS molecular analysis. The results show sequences measuring 600-750 bp DNA products located on the ITS1-5.8S-ITS4 region. Reconstruction of phylogenetic trees resulted in Indonesian isolates having undergone speciation and separated from *Ceratobasidium*

isolates from other countries. This research is a follow-up study which aims to clarify the identification of these isolates as *Ceratobasidium* based on morphological analysis. Furthermore, this research can be used as a benchmark in developing strategy for conserving moth orchid through protection against plant diseases.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Collection of Healthy Orchid Root Samples and Endophytic Mycorrhizal Isolation

Healthy root of *P. amabilis* collected from Yogyakarta, Indonesia on coordinates 8° 30' - 7° 20' LS 109° 40' - 111° 0' BT. The sample was taken to the Biotechnology Laboratory of the Faculty of Biology UGM to isolate endophytic mycorrhiza following the Chand et al. (2020) method. Isolation of endophytic fungi was then carried out by cutting the roots and culturing on PDA medium. The fungal colonies obtained from the isolation were then purified by sub-culturing aseptically and incubating for 7 days at room temperature (20-25°C). It is possible that the isolates obtained are pure and single isolates that are not contaminated by other fungi.

2.2. Macroscopic Characteristic Observation

To observe the macroscopic characteristics of the isolated fungi, small portion of isolates ($\pm 1 \text{ mm}^2$) were placed in the middle of the PDA medium. Furthermore, the growth of the isolates was observed and measured every day for 7 days. Furthermore, observations of colony morphological characteristics such as colony color, colony

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Observation of microscopic characteristics was also carried out using the slide culture method (Stoian et al. 2019) with a slight modification. This method was carried out to monitor microscopic characteristics such as the color of hyphae, bulk in hyphae, angle of branching of hyphae, and number of cell nuclei. The number of nuclei was observed after treating with safranin and 3% KOH.

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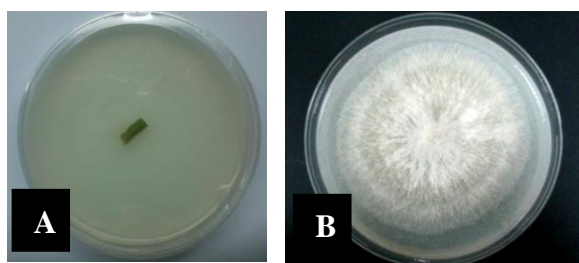


Figure 1. A) Root samples of MPI cultured on PDA medium, B) Colonies of fungi that grow on 7 days old orchid roots

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Overall, the results of identification of Yogyakarta isolates showed similarities with the types of *Ceratorhiza* mycorrhiza. The following characteristics of Yogyakarta isolates compared to supporting references are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

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Monilioid cell size (μm)	(12.22-14.56) × (2.39-2.91)	(7.5-15.0) × (10.0-25.0)
The growth rate of the colony (mm / hr)	0.72	0.42-0.52
Number of cell nuclei	Binucleate	Binucleate

Table 2. Comparison of the characteristics of Yogyakarta isolate and *Ceratorhiza* isolates according to Currah and Zelmer (1992)

Characteristics	Yogyakarta Isolate	<i>Ceratorhiza</i> Isolate
Colony color	White to yellow	Cream, yellow, or brown
The appearance of colonies	Like cotton	Like cotton
The form of branching hyphae	90°	90°
Air hyphae diameter	<3 μm	<4 μm
Number of nuclei per cell	Binucleate	Binucleate
Clamp connection	-	-
Surface of the colony	Like cotton	Flat and waxy
Monilioid cells	Elongate barrel shaped	-
Monilioid cell length	12.22-14.56	-
Monilioid cell width	2.39-2.91	-

Based on observations of hyphae and cells using safranin O-KOH dye (Figure 2), it was found that Yogyakarta isolates were endophytic fungi of *Ceratorhiza* with specific characteristics having branching types that form elbows or 90° angles, the color of vegetative hyphae is hyaline, with diameters of 6.20-6.72 μm, fungal colonies form cell monilioids with elongate barrel shape and monilioid size (12,22-14,56) μm x (2.39-2.91) μm.

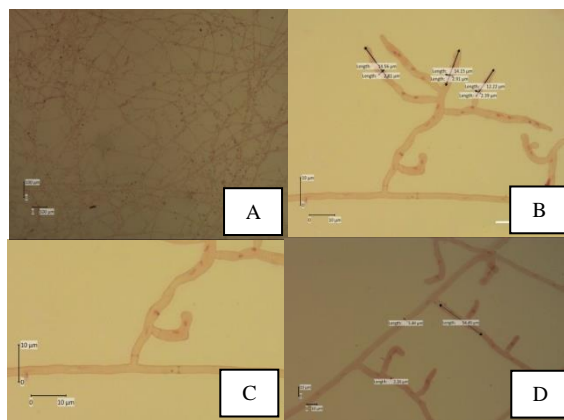


Figure 2. Microscopic observation of hyphae cells and monilioid cells *Ceratorhiza* from Yogyakarta isolates on the 7-day PDA medium using safranin O-KOH staining; (A) Colony, (B) Monilioid cell nucleus, (C) Binucleate, (D) Branching of hyphae 90°. Magnification (A) 10 x, (B, C, D) 40 x. Bar = 10 μm

3.3. Observation of Endophytic Mycorrhizal Hyphae (Peloton)

Observation of the cross section of the root sample indicated the presence of pelotons in the root cortex (Figure 3). Currah & Zelmer (1992) explain that the characteristic of endophytic fungal hyphae colonizing plants will form a mass of dense hyphae in cortical cells called pelotons.

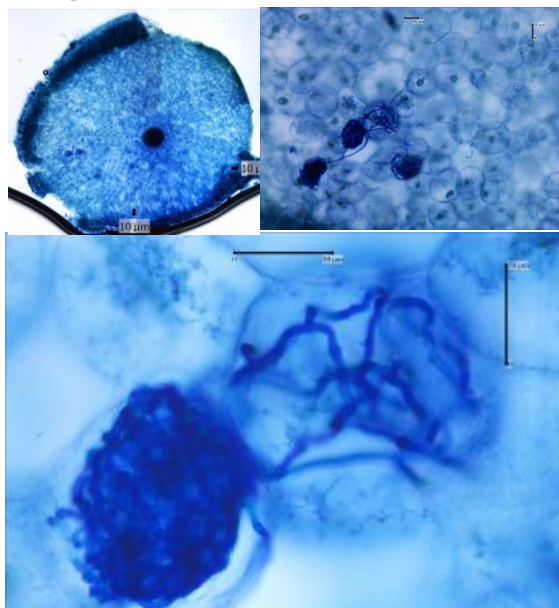


Figure 3. Peloton structure in the anatomy of the root cortex cells of MPI with Trypan Blue staining. Magnification (A) 4 x, (B) 10 x, (C) 40 x. Bar = 10 µm

4. Discussion

Characteristics of endophytic mycorrhizal analysis were obtained and compared with the reference characteristics (Shan et al., 2002; Currah and Zelmer, 1992); it was found that Yogyakarta isolates were *Ceratorhiza* isolates. *Ceratorhiza* is an anamorphic phase of *Ceratobasidium*. According to Athipunya et al. (2004), the genus *Ceratorhiza* is a mycorrhizal isolate which is commonly found associated with orchids, where endophytic fungi of this type are *Rhizoctonia* which are grouped according to cell hyphae and moniloid. Growth of *Ceratorhiza* reached a diameter of 9 cm after 4 days of incubation by forming a symmetrical zone. The colony turned yellowish after 7 days, and the colony surface appeared as cottony clumps. The lumps are aerial hyphae; this is known from the hyphae that grow on the surface of the agar media. These hyphae are fertile hyphae which play a role for reproduction. The length of moniloid cells is 12.22-14.56 µm, width 2.39-2.91 µm and lancet-shaped. If the ratio of length and width is 3.5-4: 1 then it is called the lancet type. The number of nuclei in binucleic cells, according to the characteristics reported by Shan et al. (2002) and Currah and Zelmer (1992).

The peloton structure is evident in the roots of *P. amabilis* which are associated with endophytic fungi (Figure 3). One of the parameters for the mechanism of resistance induction can be the formation of a peloton structure which shows that endophytic fungi penetrate the epidermal finger and into the cortex. In the cortex, the pulp will enter the cell space (intracellular) and form a peloton.

The presence of peloton proves that the endophytic fungi can penetrate into the root tissue of *P. amabilis*. According to Currah and Zelmer (1992), the stage of infection with endophytic fungi begins with the formation of appressorium which is an inflated hyphae. These hyphae originate from spores that germinate or externally hyphae at the root surface of infected host plants. Hyphae will then penetrate the root surface mechanically and enzymatically into the space between the root epidermal cells and into the cortex and beyond. Hyphae develop without destroying the cells of the root cortex. In cortex cells, hyphae form a peloton in the form of dense hyphae. In the peloton, the accumulation of organic materials includes protein, glycogen, fat, and nutrients produced by absorption from the soil.

5. Conclusion

The results showed that the characterization of endophytic mycorrhizae from the roots of *P. amabilis* from Yogyakarta, Indonesia had similarities with the type of endophytic mycorrhizal *Ceratorhiza*. These character equations include colony surface color, colony appearance, hyphae color, hyphae diameter (µm), cell moniloid shape, moniloid cell size (µm), colony growth rate (mm / hour), core number, hyphae branching shape, and clamp connection. The results of mycorrhizal induction also produce a peloton structure in orchid root cortex cells. The peloton structure is evident in the roots of *P. amabilis* which are associated with endophytic fungi. The presence of peloton proves that endophytic fungi can penetrate into the root tissue.

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