

## ISOLATION OF PARTIAL LACCASE GENE OF *GANODERMA* IN OIL PALM USING PRIMER DESIGNED FROM COPPER-BINDING REGION

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### ABSTRACT

A primer pair designed from the consensus sequences of the copper-binding regions in the N-terminal domain of known basidiomycete laccases were used to isolate laccase-gene from *Ganoderma* isolated from oil palm. Primer Lac 2a-Lac 2r gave the PCR product of about 1617 bp. Computer searches of the databases identified the sequence of the PCR product analyzed as laccase gene sequence, suggesting the specificity of the primers. PCR product of *Ganoderma* showed 44.5 to 76.7 % nucleotide sequence similarity to other basidiomycete fungi and cluster to *Tremetes villosa* laccase gene.

Keywords: *partial laccase gene, oil palm, Ganoderma*

### ABSTRAK

Sepasang primer yang dirancang dari sekuen konsensus yang berasal dari daerah "copper-binding" pada domain N-terminal dari gen-gen laccase jamur dari kelas basidiomycet digunakan untuk mengisolasi gen laccase yang berasal dari *Ganoderma* pada kelapa sawit. Pasangan primer Lac 2a-Lac 2r menghasilkan produk PCR berukuran kira-kira 1617 bp. Pencarian identitas berdasarkan komputer pada bankdata dari produk PCR menunjukkan bahwa produk PCR tersebut adalah benar gen laccase. Sekuen dari gen laccase dari *Ganoderma* asal kelapa sawit menunjukkan homologi sekuen sebesar 44,5-76,7% dengan gen laccase dari jamur basidiomycet lain dan mengelompok pada jamur *Tremetes villosa* pada pohon filogenetik.

Kata kunci : *gen laccase partial, kelapa sawit, Ganoderma*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis* Jacq.) is one of the most important estate crops in Indonesia. Onwards from the second and subsequent planting cycles, oil palm is threatened by fungal pathogens, especially by *Ganoderma* spp.

(Aphylllophorales, Basidiomycota), the causal agent of basal stem rot (BSR) disease that attacks the root system of oil palm. In basidiomycete fungi, the gene encoding the laccase enzyme (benzenediol: O<sub>2</sub> oxidoreductase; E C 1.10.3.2) has been widely studied, apart from its role in delignification of plant

material. Laccase appears to be involved also in different cellular processes such as sporulation, pigment production, fruiting body formation, rhizomorph induction and also in plant pathogenesis.

An intensive research concerning the role of laccase enzyme involved in plant pathogenesis for various fungi such as *Botrytis cinerea* and *Cryphoneria parasitica* have been conducted. *B. cinerea* causes soft rot infections in many horticultural crops and this fungus produces extracellular laccases that involved in the pathogenic process because cucurbitacins, tetracyclic triterpinoids produced by the cucumber, protect the plant from infection (3,4) and this protection is mediated by specific repression of laccase synthesis by the fungus (19). Evidence of a role for laccase in pathogenesis has also been obtained in the chestnut blight fungus *C. parasitica* (17). There are hypovirulent strains of this fungus in which the diminution of virulence is associated with the presence of a double-stranded RNA of viral origin. These strains are repressed for laccase synthesis by prevention of accumulation of laccase mRNA.

The aim of the future research is to study the role of the laccase gene of *Ganoderma* in oil palm pathogenesis.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1. Fungal isolates and DNA extraction

*Ganoderma* isolates from oil palm (from Bukit Sentang estate/BS) were grown in malt-yeast medium (6) for a

month at 30 °C. Mycelia were harvested from liquid cultures by filtration onto Whatman No.1 filter paper and rinsed two times with double distilled water. Mycelia were freeze-dried for two days, ground to a fine powder in a pestle and mortar and then stored at -20 °C until use. Total genomic DNA of each *Ganoderma* isolate was extracted according to the method of Möller *et al.* (16) with an additional phenol/chloroform extraction. The extracted DNA was quantified by UV spectrophotometry (Beckman DU-50 Spectrophotometer, Germany) and checked by agarose gel electrophoresis.

### 2.2. Primer design and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) conditions

Primers were designed based on the conserved amino acid sequence in copper-binding region I and copper-binding region IV of six laccase genes of published basidiomycete fungi. Six amino acid sequences of the laccase genes were derived from National Centre for Biotechnology Information/NCBI. The following basidiomycete fungi were used: *Trametes villosa* (accession number AAC41686), *T. villosa* (L49377), *T. villosa* (L78077), Basidiomycete CECT 20197 (AAB63443), Basidiomycete PM 1 (CAA78144), *Trametes versicolor* (CAA59161). Two 17- or 18-base sequences designed from DNA sequences of the conserved amino acid sequences of copper-binding region are primers Lac 2a (5'TGGCACGGCTTCTTCCAG 3') and Lac 2r (5'CACTGCCACATCGACTTC

3'). For PCR amplification, 5 µl of the extracted DNA (100 ng) was added to 20 µl reaction mix. The thermocycler was programmed, as followed: after 5 min heating at 95 °C, the DNA amplification was carried out in 40 cycles of 35 sec denaturation at 94 °C, 45 sec annealing at 65 °C and 60 sec extension at 72 °C. The 40 cycles were ended after 10 min extension at 72 °C and cooled to 4 °C. The PCR products were either analysed immediately or stored at -20 °C. The PCR products were analyzed by electrophoresis on a 1.5 % agarose gel and stained with ethidium bromide to visualize the amplicons under UV light.

### 2.3. Cloning and Sequencing

PCR products derived from PCR amplification of primer Lac 2a and Lac 2r were purified using QIAquick PCR purification kit (Qiagen, Germany)

according to the manufacturer's instructions. After purification, PCR products were cloned in plasmid vector of pCR<sup>R</sup> 2.1-TOPO from TOPO TA cloning kit (Invitrogen, Netherlands) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The cloned DNA fragments were sequenced on both strands using forward and reverse universal primers M13. Ready Reaction BigDye Terminator Cycle Sequencing kit (Perkin Elmer Corp., USA) was used to sequence laccase gene. The sequence was determined using an ABI prism 310 DNA sequencer (Applied Biosystem Inc., USA).

### 2.4. Data analysis and phylogeny

For the laccase gene, computer-assisted comparisons of the nucleotide sequences were made to find the similarities of nucleotide sequences in

Table 1. Laccase amino acid sequences of various basidiomycete fungi used for comparison with the laccase gene from oil palm *Ganoderma* BS

Fungi and gene	Laccase amino acid sequence
	GenBank accession numbers
1. <i>Agaricus bisporus</i> Lac 1	AAC18877
2. Basidiomycete CECT 20197 Lac pox 1	AAB63443
3. Basidiomycete PM 1 Lac	CAA78144
4. <i>Coprinus cinereus</i> Lac 1	AAD30964
5. <i>Ceriporiopsis subvermispora</i> Lac	AAC97074
6. <i>Lentinula edodes</i> Lac 1	AAF13037
7. <i>Marasmius quercophilus</i> Lac 1	AAF06967
8. <i>Pycnoporus cinnabarinus</i> Lac 1	AAF13052
9. <i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> Lac	CAA06291
10. <i>Phlebia radiata</i> Lac	CAA36379
11. <i>Schizophyllum commune</i> Lac (mRNA)	BAA31217
12. <i>Trametes versicolor</i> Lac 1	CAA59161
13. <i>Trametes villosa</i> Lac 1	AAC41686



# Isolation of partial laccase gene of *Ganoderma* in oil palm using primer designed from copper binding region

NCBI/GenBank, using BLASTN program (1). Nucleotide sequences that encoded amino acid (exons) for the laccase gene were translated to the (deduced) amino acid sequences by using EditSeq (DNASTar, Madison, USA). To compare the laccase gene of oil palm *Ganoderma* with other laccase genes, several laccase genes of basidiomycete fungi were used as described in Table 1. Alignments of sequences were done using Clustal V algorithm method (MegAlign; DNASTar, Madison, USA). Phylogenetic tree of the laccase gene was calculated and constructed using MegAlign program (DNASTar, Madison, USA).

produced a single PCR product of about 1,650 bp as shown in Figure 1. To confirm the identity of nucleotide sequences of oil palm *Ganoderma* amplified by the primer pair Lac2a-Lac 2r, a computer-assisted comparison of the nucleotide sequences with the existing nucleotide sequences in gene databases was performed by using the BLASTN program (1). By sending a partial nucleotide sequence of 300-500-bp to the gene databases, the identity of the sequenced DNA fragment could be determined. Similarity report of the nucleotide sequence amplified by primer pair Lac 2a-Lac 2r with nucleotide sequence in GenBank (here only one similarity report is presented as an example):

## 3. RESULTS

By using the primer pair Lac 2a-Lac 2r, *Ganoderma* isolated from oil palm

L49376.1 TMTLCCA *Trametes villosa* (clone LCC1) laccase gene, exons 1-9, complete cds.Length = 2417

Score = 111 bits (56), Expect = 3e-22Identities = 193/239 (80%)  
Strand = Plus / Minus

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Query: 236  ccgtgcaagtgnaacgggtgctgggggtgccggggcgctggcggtcgcggggaaggtgagc 295
          ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| |||||
Sbjct: 1925  ccgtgcaagtggaagggtggggcgcccgggggcgcgcggtggcggggaaggagatc 1866

Query: 296  tcgatggaggagttcattgggagctcgtagacgctgccggaggggaggagctcctgcgcg 355
          ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| |||||
Sbjct: 1865  tcgatgtcggcggttcgaggaagcgagtagacgctaccggagggcaggaggtcctgcgcg 1806

Query: 356  gtctgtgcgcgcgctgaggatctgcaggagcacgggcacggtggcggggacgaaggtgtcg 415
          ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| |||||
Sbjct: 1805  ttctgcgcgcgcgctgatgatctggagcaggacaggcacggtcgggggcgtaagacgtg 1746

Query: 416  ccgttgatgaagaagcgggagccgttgaagttgaacgctaagttgatcgccagggtcgac 474
          ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| |||||
Sbjct: 1745  ccgttgatgaagaagttggtgccgttgaagttgaacgccatgttgatggccagggtcgac 1687
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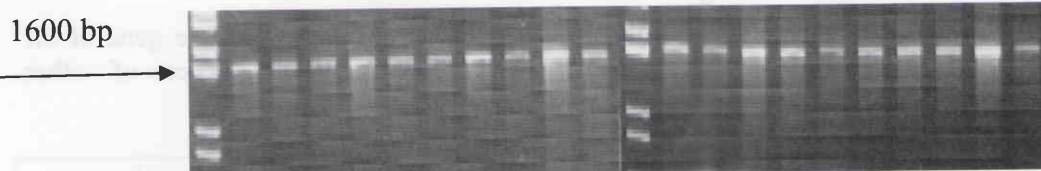


Figure 1: Results of PCR amplification of *Ganoderma* isolated from oil palm using primer pair Lac 2a-Lac 2r

Based on nucleotide comparison with the published nucleotide sequence in GenBank, it could be shown that the sequenced DNA fragment of the *Ganoderma* isolated from oil palm (isolate BS) had similarity with the laccase genes of other basidiomycete fungi. Therefore, the PCR product amplified by these primers was confirmed as DNA fragments of the laccase gene.

The total length of nucleotide sequence of oil palm *Ganoderma* amplified by the primer pair Lac 2a-Lac 2r is (about 1650 bp). To completely sequence this fragment, internal sequencing primer P1: 5' TTGGGA AAACGCAGGCTT 3', P2: 5' GGGCTTGTTA TCCGAAGG 3' and P3: 5' GGGAGGG GTGTGGTCAGC 3' were used. Deduced intron sequences were based on the comparison with the published laccase gene sequences from other basidiomycete fungi such as *Trametes villosa* (20), Basidiomycete CECT 20197 (12) and *Pycnoporus cinnabarinus* (8) and consensus sequence

for 5' splicing GT(AG)(AT)GT and 3' splicing (CT)AG junctions present in filamentous fungi (2,10). For better visualisation, the deduced exon and intron sequences are presented as capital and lowercase characters, respectively as shown in Figure 2. The deduced exon sequences were translated to the predicted amino acid sequences by using EditSeq program (DNASTar, Madison, USA). Based on the consensus introns, oil palm *Ganoderma* has seven putative introns ranging from 55 to 71 bp in size.

The deduced amino acid sequences of the laccase gene of *Ganoderma* (BS) had identities to laccase genes of other basidiomycete fungi ranging from 44.5 to 76.7 % (Table 2). Amino acid sequence of the laccase gene of oil palm *Ganoderma* was aligned with those of published sequences of other basidio-mycete fungi to infer phylogenetic trees. The phylogenetic trees are shown in Figure 3. The laccase gene of oil palm *Ganoderma* clustered to *T. villosa* Lac1.

Isolation of partial laccase gene of *Ganoderma* in oil palm using primer designed from copper binding region

Table 2: Percent amino acid identities of the partial sequenced laccase gene of oil palm *Ganoderma* compared to published laccase genes of other basidiomycete fungi

Fungi	% Identity of laccase amino acid sequence	
	<i>Ganoderma</i> isolated from oil palm	
<i>A. bisporus</i> Lac 1		44.5
Basidiomycete CECT 20197		71.4
Basidiomycete PM1		72.8
<i>C. cinereus</i> Lac 1		57.8
<i>C. subvermispora</i> Lac		63.4
<i>L. edodes</i> Lac 1		54.4
<i>M. quercophilus</i> Lac 1		72.8
<i>P. cinnabarinus</i> Lac 1		73.7
<i>P. ostreatus</i> Lac		56.5
<i>Ph. radiata</i> Lac		66.2
<i>Sh. commune</i> Lac (mRNA)		55.8
<i>T. versicolor</i> Lac 1		65.0
<i>T. villosa</i> Lac 1		76.7
<i>Ganoderma</i> Lac 1.8		63.9

Percent identities of amino acid sequences of the laccase genes among other basidiomycete fungi are not shown.

TGGCACGGCTTCTTCCAGAAGGGCACGAAGTGGGCGGACGGCGTTGCCTTCGTCAACCAGTGCCCGATC 69  
W H G F F Q K G T N W A D G V A F V N Q C P I  
I  
TCCAGTGGCAACTCCTTCTGTACGACTTCCAAGTCCTGGCCAGGCCGgtaagcatcgccccccttcggcctgac 149  
S S G N S F L Y D F Q V P G Q A  
atcagatgatgctcatgtagttgctgcagGCACCTATTGGTATCACAGCCATCTGTCCACTCAGTACTGCGATGGTCTC 228  
G T Y W Y H S H L S T Q Y C D G L  
II  
AGGGGCCCCGTTTCGTCTATACGACCCTGAAGACCCGCTGTTGTCCATGTATGACGTCGATGATG gtgagat 298  
R G P F V V Y D P E D P L L S M Y D V D D D  
tttccccgaggttctccactgacscatgagtgaactttgtgcttattgccctatacagACTCTACGGTGATCACCT GACCGACTGGT 386  
S T V I T L T D W Y  
ACCACACTGCCGCTAAACTTGGGCCGGCCTTCCCgtgagcttcgcgtgcctctttcaagggtccaggtacagcagccgctgac 471  
H T A A K L G P A F P  
gcattgggaaaacgcagGCTTGGCGCGGACGCGACCCTTATCAACGGGCTGGGGCGGAGCCCCGCTACGTCC 543  
L G A D A T L I N G L G R S P A T S  
ACGGCTGAGCTCGCTGTCAACGTCACGCAGGGCAAGCGgtacgcacacgtgcgaaggcctccaagacaagcggtgta 621  
T A E L A V I N V T Q G K R

CTACCGCTTCCGCTCTGATCTCCATGTCTTGC	ATCCGAA	CTACACCTTCAGTGTGG	697																			
Y	R	F	R	L	I	S	M	S	C	D	P	N	Y	T	F	S	V	D				
ACGGCCACGACATGA	CTGTCATTGAGGCGGA	CGGTATTGAGACGCAGCCC	GTCACGGTGAACGCCATC	765																		
G	H	D	M	T	V	I	E	A	D	G	I	E	T	Q	P	V	T	V	N	A	I	
CAGATCTTCGCCGTCAACGTTACTCCTTTGTG	gtgagtcctgtagtgtagtctgtgtgctctagaagctaaacccccctcac	853																				
Q	I	F	A	A	Q	R	Y	S	F	V												
CTCACCCTGACACGAGGACGTCGATAACTACTGGGTCCGCGCAA	CCCCA	ACTTCGGTAACGTCGGCTT	923																			
L	T	A	D	Q	D	V	D	N	Y	W	V	R	A	N	P	N	F	G	N	V	G	F
CACGGACGGCATCAACTCTGCCATCTCTGCGC	TATGACGGCGCGGACCCCGTCG	AGCCCACGACCTCG	989																			
T	D	G	I	N	S	A	I	L	R	Y	D	G	A	D	P	V	E	P	T	T	S	
CAGCAGACGACGAGAACCTCCTGAACGAGGTCGATCTCCACCCAT	ACGTCGCAAT	CCCCACGGTACg	1057																			
Q	Q	T	T	Q	N	L	L	N	E	V	D	L	H	P	Y	V	A	I	P	T	V	P
tcgtctgctctatctccgagtcgccattgaatgctcactgctgtcccttcggataacag	CCGGCAGCCCGACCCCGGAGGCGTC	1146																				
	G	S	P	T	P	G	G	V														
GACCTGGCGATCAACTTCGCGTTCAACTTCAACGGCTCCC	GCTTCTTCATCAACGGCGACACCTTCGTC	1215																				
D	L	A	I	N	F	A	F	N	F	N	G	S	R	F	F	I	N	G	D	T	F	V
CCGCCCACCGTGCCCGTGCTCCTGCAGATCCTCA	GCGGGCGCACAGACCGCGCAGGAGCTCCTCCCTT	1282																				
P	P	T	V	P	V	L	L	Q	I	L	S	G	A	Q	T	A	Q	E	L	L	P	S
CCGGCAGCGTCTACGAGCTCCCAATGAACTCCTCCATCGAGCTACCTT	CCCCGCGACCGCCAGCGC	1349																				
G	S	V	Y	E	L	P	M	N	S	S	I	E	L	T	F	P	A	T	A	S	A	
CCCCGGCACCCCGCACCCGTTCCACTTGACAGGT	gtaagtctccccctattccctcctcccctgtccgatgccgacgtgacca	1433																				
P	G	T	P	H	P	F	H	L	H	G												
III																						
caacccctccgctgcgtgcag	CACGAGTTCGCGGTGATCCGACGCGGGG	CTCGACCGAGTACA	ACTACGA	C	1505																	
	H	E	F	A	V	I	R	S	A	G	S	T	E	Y	N	Y	D					
AACCTCCGTGTGCGCGACGTCGTGTCGACGGGCGTGGCGGGCGACA	ACGTGACGATCCGGTTCAG	1571																				
N	L	R	V	R	D	V	V	S	T	G	V	A	G	D	N	V	T	I	R	F	Q	
ACGAACAACCCGGGGCCGTGGATCCTCCA	CTGCCACATCGACTTC	1617																				
T	N	N	P	G	P	W	I	L	H	C	H	I	D	F								
IV																						

**Figure 2:** Partial nucleotide sequence of the laccase gene of oil palm *Ganoderma* BS. Copper-binding regions are indicated by roman numerals (I to IV).



# Isolation of partial laccase gene of *Ganoderma* in oil palm using primer designed from copper binding region

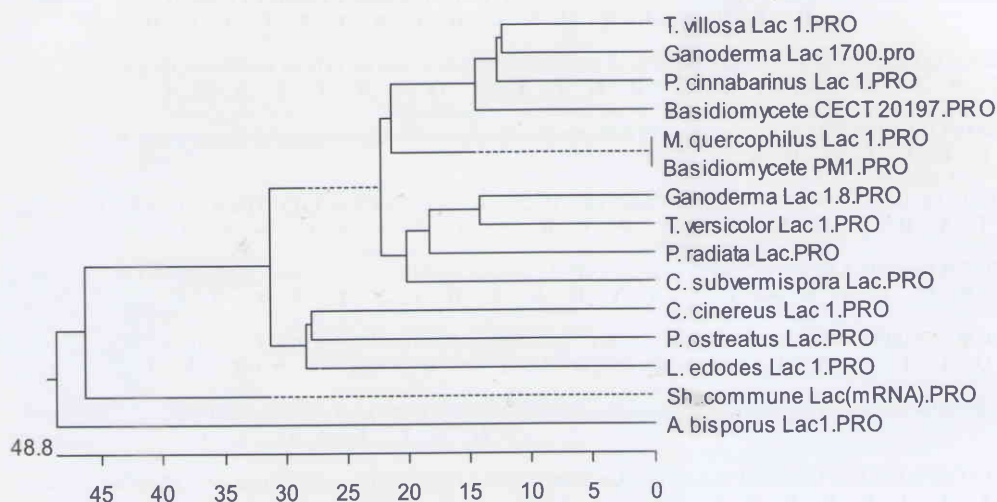


Figure 3: A phylogenetic tree of the partial amino acid sequences of laccases was constructed using the Clustal method with the PAM 250 residue weight table. Multiple alignment parameters used were: gap penalty = 10 and gap length penalty = 10. Pairwise alignment parameters were: ktuple = 2, gap penalty = 5, window = 4 and diagonals = 4. The length of each pair of branches represents the distance between sequence pairs. The units at the bottom of the tree indicate the number of substitution events.

## 4. DISCUSSION

During recent years, laccase genes have been isolated from several basidiomycete fungi. The sequences of these genes display a common pattern in that they encode polypeptides of approximately 520-550 amino acids residues or 2100-2500 nucleotide sequences including introns (8). It is in the copper-binding amino acid residues and their general distribution in the polypeptide chain the laccases are all similar (7), this region is suitable to design primer in order to amplify laccase gene. By using primer pair Lac 2a-Lac 2r designed from the copper-binding region

this primer pair amplified a single PCR product of 1617 bp or the primer could amplify approximately 77 % of the complete laccase gene of *Ganoderma* from oil palm. This *Ganoderma* laccase gene has similarity 44.5 to 76.7 % compare to other basidiomycete fungi and cluster to *T. villosa* Lac1.

In fungi, besides lignin degradation (5), laccase has been involved in different biological process such as sporulation (12), pigment production during fruit body development (18), and plant pathogenesis (9,15) in which laccase could potentially contribute to pathogen-mediated degradation of lignified zones (13). With regard to



lignification as a defense reaction of chestnut bark attacked by *C. parasitica* (11), laccase perhaps interferes with this process or participates in the penetration of mycelial fan through lignified zones. It also was suggested that laccase plays a role during the infection process by detoxifying host phenolics, therefore studies in the future for *Ganoderma* isolated from oil palm are focusing on the structure and regulation of laccase-coding genes may help in the elucidation of the role and enzymatic mechanism in the pathogenesis process in oil palm.

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