RESEARCH PAPER

Molecular identification of oomycetes related to horticultural crops in Southern Sumatera and Java, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Indonesia is an agricultural country with more than 30 million farmers nationwide most of it with poor disease management. An identification of a pathogen is the first step to establish efficient management strategies for disease control. In this study, we survey the diversity of oomycetes in horticulture. Samples were collected from 19 sites around Lampung, Sumatera and Java Islands. The oomycetes were isolated from rhizosphere soils sample and from symptomatic plants tissues. One hundred and twelve isolates belonging to two *Phytophthora* spp., three *Pythium* spp., and one *Phytophythium* sp. were identified. *Phytophthora nicotianae* was a predominant species from pineapple but also found in cabbage, chilli, and chrysanthemum. *P. colocasiae* were isolated from taro in central java, *Phytopythium vexans* were isolated from potato in Central Java, while *Pythium acanthophoron*, *Py. myriotylum*, *Py. splendens*, and *Py. catenulatum* were isolated from soil in pineapple farms.

Key words: DNA barcoding, Phytophthora, Pythium, Phytopythium, soil-borne pathogen

INTRODUCTION

Identification is one of the first steps and plays a crucial role in disease management strategies. Giving the proper identity for the right plant pathogen could improve the disease management strategy and prevent further loss. However, identification of oomycetes morphologically is challenging due to the broad range of host and highly similar morphology.

Oomycetes were reported to cause some of the most devastating plant diseases affecting horticultural plants, ornamental plants, and trees (Derevnina et al., 2016). The most notable species are members of the genus Phytophthora, such as Phytophthora palmivora causing cocoa black pod (Vanegtern et al., 2015), P. nicotianae causing black shank in tobacco (Gallup et al., 2006), P. infestans known for triggering the Irish potato famine (Goss et al., 2014) and P. ramorum, which caused sudden oak death (Grünwald et al., 2012). Previous study in identification of oomycetes in Indonesia were mostly related to estate crops such as durian (Santoso et al., 2015), cocoa (Umayah & Purwantara, 2006), coconut (Blaha et al., 1994), rubber (Berlian & Setyawan, 2017), and black pepper (Manohara et al., 2004). This research was focused on the horticultural plants as it is more vulnerable of oomycetes infection.

Several genes have been widely studied as barcoding region to identify oomycetes species such as internal transcribed spacer ribosomal nucleotide (Lévesque & De Cock, 2004), cytochrome c oxidase (Martin & Tooley, 2003), and beta tubulin (Villa et al., 2006). Each of the genes has its own advantages and disadvantages. As for internal transcribed spacer (ITS), it has been observed that 16 species of *Phytophthora* in clade 1 have identical ITS sequence. The cytochrome c oxidase subunit 1 (COI) has the highest genus-wide resolution for identification of

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oomycetes. However, the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) success rate was lower than ITS. The beta tubulin gene is easy to amplify but can not distinguish 22 species of *Phytophthora* in clades 2, and 6-9 (Yang & Hong, 2018). Considering that, this study used COI gene for molecular identification of oomycetes. This study was aim to identify oomycetes that infected horticultural crops as a base for further development of disease management strategy.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Site. The sampling areas for this study were several horticultural farms in the Southern Sumatera and Java Island. Sample was collected from infected plant tissues, both healthy and infested soil in the area, and nearby water resources. Sample collections were made at five Provinces in Indonesia: Lampung, West Java, Central Java, Special Region of Yogyakarta, and East Java.

Oomycete Isolation Procedure. The oomycetes were isolated from infected plant, soil and healthy soil the near infected area using NARM media (Morita & Tojo, 2007). The media contained four types of antibiotics: nystatin, ampicillin, rifampicin, and miconazole that only allowed *Phytophthora* and *Pythium* to grow.

Isolation of the pathogen from soil was done by direct isolation and baiting methods.

Direct isolation from soil was conducted by the protocols of Shew & Gallup (2015). First, the soil was diluted in sterile water, poured over the NARM media, and incubated for 48 hours. The incubated soil on the media then rinsed with tap water, any sign of hyphae that grows inside the media then transfer to the NARM media for purification and stored in the corn meal agar (CMA) media (Figure 1). The soil collection method was conducted as described in the protocol of isolation of *Phytophthora* from soil by Shew & Gallup (2015). On each field, 10 individual soil samples from infested fields and 10 soil samples from different sections of the fields were collected. Soil collection samples will be conducted by digging 6–8 inches right next to the plants that showed disease symptoms.

The soil baiting methods were done by placing the bait leaf on the soil and putting the leaves showing infected signs on the NARM media. After couple days, the hyphae that grow inside the media then will be transferred to another NARM media for purification and stored in the CMA media (Figure 2).

The isolation from infected tissue was done by putting the infected tissue directly on NARM media. The hyphae that grown then store in the CMA media (Figure 3).



Figure 1. Methods for direct isolation of oomycetes from soil.



Figure 2. Methods of isolation of oomycets using bait leaf.

Molecular Identification. The isolates for DNA extraction was grown in the V8 media for higher production of mycelia. The DNA from mycelia then extracted using Prepman Ultra Reagent (Applied Biosystem) by following the procedure from the manufacture. A 100 μ L of the reagent was put in an 1.5 mL microtube then small loopfull of hyphae was suspended in to the reagent. After that, the suspension was vortex for 10 s and incubated at 100 °C in a heat block for 10 min. Then centrifuged the tube for 2 min at 14,000 rpm. A 50 μ L of the supernatant then transferred to a new tube and stored in -20 °C.

To obtain the identity of the species, the DNA was identified at a molecular level by sequencing of the COI gene (Robideau et al., 2011). The COI genes were amplified by PCR using primers OomCoxI-Levup (5'-TCAWCWMGATGGCTTTTTTCAAC-3') and Fm85mod (5'-RRHWACKTGACTDATRATACC AAA-3') modified from Martin & Tooley (2003). The 25 µl reaction mixtures contained 1 µL DNA, 2 µM of each primer, 0.4 mg/mL BSA, 0.4 mM dNTPs, 0.125 U of TaKaRa Taq DNA polymerase (Takara Bio, Kusatsu, Japan), and PCR buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.3, 50 mM KCl, and 1.5 mM MgCl2). The PCR reactions were carried out in a T100 DNA Thermal Cycler (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA, USA). The amplification conditions were: 94 °C for 2 min followed by 35 cycles of 94 °C for 1 min, 55 °C for 30 min, and 72 °C for 1 min, with a final extension at 72 °C for 10 min.

All PCR products were checked for successful amplification by electrophoresis in 2% (w/v) agarose gels (TAKARA L03 agarose, Takara Bio). The PCR products were purified using the ExoSAP-IT PCR Product Cleanup Reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and sequencing was performed using the BigDye Terminator v3.1 cycle sequencing kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and the manufacturer's instructions. The sequencing products were purified by ethanol precipitation and analyzed using an ABI 3100 DNA sequencer (Thermo Fisher Scientifc). The sequences were then edited using Bioedit. All obtained sequences were compared to other nucleotide sequences deposited in the NCBI database (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov) using BLAST (http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi). To determine the phylogenetic relationships of sampled isolates and their relationships to the reference species, COI regions were aligned and phylogenetic analysis was performed. Sequence alignment and phylogenetic tree of maximum likelihood then constructed using MEGA 11 (Tamura et al., 2021).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Oomycetes are important pathogens in a wide variety of crops. Some of these are facultative biotrophs, such as most of *Phytophthora* and *Pythium*. The facultative biotroph or hemibiotroph were characterised by an initial biotrophic infection, followed by necrotrophy on killed host tissue. Many horticultural plants are affected by oomycetes. As soil and water-borne pathogens, it can easily spread due to trade or transporting the planting materials (Afandi et al., 2018). However, the report on the pathogen infection in horticultural plants in Indonesia was still limited.

This study collected 112 isolates from 13 locations at 5 provinces in Java and Southern Sumatera (Table 1). Most of the isolates were collected from infected plant tissue and soil surrounding the plant showing infection symptoms (Figure 4). In total, 98 isolates were collected from pineapple, while the rest were collected from orchid, chili, tobacco, taro, cabbage, and potato (Table 1).

Identification by BLAST search against worldwide database showed identity with reference sequences of representative isolates. Out of 112 isolates, 102 isolates were identified as *Phytophthora nicotianae*, 4 isolates was identified as *Py. periilum*, 1 isolate of *Py. splendends*, 2 isolates of *Py. acantophoron*, 1 isolate of *Py. sp. cal* 2011, 1 isolate of *Py. ultimum*, and 1 isolate of *Phy. vexans*.



Figure 3. Methods for direct isolation of oomycetes from infected tissue.

The phylogenetic analysis was constructed in MEGA X using maximum parsimony algorithm using reference strains including the ex-type culture to assure the identity of the species. The phylogenetic tree was showed 4 major clusters (Figure 5). The first cluster consisted of members of *Phytophthora* species clade 1 (Martin & Tooley, 2003), including collected *P. nicotianae* isolates obtained from the horticultural plants used in this study. Clade 1 contains *Phytophthora* species that has papillate or semipapilate sporangia. Most of the species in clade 1 has multiple host and heterothallic (Kroon et al., 2012). In Indonesia, *P. nicotianae* was previously reported in tobacco (Agustina et al., 2013) and citrus (Marpaung et al., 2010).

On the second cluster, the isolate TAROKDT L was grouped with other clade 2 *Phytophthora* species (Martin & Tooley, 2003) and shared the same branch with *P. colocasiae* P6290 from World Phytophthora Genetic Resource Collection indicating same identity.

The third cluster consisted of *Pythium* clade B species (Lévesque & de Cock, 2004) including 7 isolates collected from soils in pineapple farms. The clade B consists almost entirely of species with

Table 1. BLAST search results of isolates collected in this study

No.	Isolate	Collection Site	Host	Species	Strain	Ident (%)
1	AA 129D 2	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
2	AA 129D 1	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
3	AA 129D4	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
4	AA 71A S1	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
5	AA 71A S2	L	Pineapple	Pythium periilum		
6	AA71A 3	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
7	aa 71 a 2 b	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
8	AA 71A 2	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
9	AA 71A 3	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
10	AA 114K HS 2	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
11	AA 114K HS 1	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
12	AA 114K HS 3	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
13	AA 114K HS 4	L	Pineapple	Pythium periilum	CBS16968	
14	AA 114K S1	L	Pineapple	Pythium acanthophoro	CBS 337.29	
15	AA 114K S3	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
16	AA 114K S2	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
17	AA 114 K	L	Pineapple	Pythium splendens	CBS 462.48	99
18	AA 35A1	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
19	AA 35AS1	L	Pineapple	Pythium catenulatum	CBS46175	
20	AA 35A S3	L	Pineapple	Pythium myriotylum		
21	AA NIA S	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
22	AA 36G 1A	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
23	ORC GOD	SRY	Orchid	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
24	CHL KDT A	CJ	Chili	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
25	CHL S A2	CJ	Chili	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
26	AA 51402R01	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
27	CS GH2 2	SRY	Chrysanthemum	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
28	CS GH3 1	SRY	Chrysanthemum	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
29	CBG DIENG 1-1	CJ	Cabbage	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
30	51402R2b	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99

L= Lampung; WJ= West Java; CJ= Central Java; SRY: Special Region of Yogyakarta; EJ: East Java.

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No.	Isolate	Collection Site	Host	Species	Strain	Ident (%)
31	AA83607 HS	L	Pineapple	Pythium acanthophoron	CBS 337.29	
32	aa 25a06 pt1	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
33	AA 36G 2A	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
34	AA 36G 2B	L	Pineapple	Pythium periilum	CBS16968	94
35	31423	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
36	155A 3	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
37	B156 C3	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
38	P31C	CJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
39	155 A 2	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
40	PUNG 36 2	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
41	B 151 B3	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
42	B 156 B2	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
43	B 159 C	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
44	S 69	WJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
45	B 156 C	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
46	S 63	WJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
47	PUNG 152 2	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
48	B 150 A	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
49	B 154 B1	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
50	B 156 A2	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
51	B 157 A 2	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
52	PUNG 182 N	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
53	B 156 C2	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
54	1725A3	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
55	17124C3	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
56	1725A06	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
57	17114K2	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
58	1736G2	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
59	129D1	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
60	17124D2	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
61	17514042	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
62	P32B	CJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
63	B156B3	EJ	Pineapple	<i>Phytophthora nicotianae</i>	P10381	99
64	159C2	EJ	Pineapple	<i>Phytophthora nicotianae</i>	P10381	99
65	B156C2	EJ	Pineapple	<i>Phytophthora nicotianae</i>	P10381	99
66	151A1	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
67	155A1	EJ	Pineapple	<i>Phytophthora nicotianae</i>	P10381	99
68	B157B3	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
69	153B1	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
70	159C2	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
71	153A2	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
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Table 1. Continued. BLAST search results of isolates collected in this study

L= Lampung; WJ= West Java; CJ= Central Java; SRY: Special Region of Yogyakarta; EJ: East Java.

No.	Isolate	Collection Site	Host	Species	Strain	Ident (%)
72	159A1	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
73	151C	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
74	157A1	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
75	156C3	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
76	155A1	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
77	B154C2	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
78	B156C1	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
79	157A2	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
80	155A3	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
81	B157B2	EJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
82	1771A1	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
83	P3B2	CJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
84	1736G3	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
85	S51	WJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
86	1736G1B	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
87	1725A062	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
88	P31B	CJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
89	S33A	WJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
90	S1R2	WJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
91	P31E	CJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
92	1710A7	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
93	S1R1	WJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
94	P34E	CJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
95	P33F	CJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
96	S71	WJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
97	S63	WJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
98	P33C	CJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
99	S62	WJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
100	1736B	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
101	S1R3	WJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
102	1710A1	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
103	AA 36G PT 1	L	Pineapple	Pythium sp. Cal 2011c	ADC9966	
104	AA 36G	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
105	AA 36G HS A-2	L	Pineapple	Pythium sp. CAL-2011c	ADC9966	
106	TBC GTS	CJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
107	TBC GTS 4	CJ	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	100
108	AA 10A 1	L	Pineapple	Phytophthora nicotianae	P10381	99
109	AA 10A HS 1	L	Pineapple	Pythium periilum	CBS16968	
110	TARO KDT L	CJ	Taro	Phytophthora colocasiae	P6290	
111	TOM GH 1	CJ	Tomato	Pythium ultimum		
112	POTO2 STEM	CJ	Potato	Phytopythium vexans		

Table 1. Continued. BLAST search results of isolates collected in this study

L= Lampung; WJ= West Java; CJ= Central Java; SRY: Special Region of Yogyakarta; EJ: East Java.



Figure 4. Plants showing symptoms of infection. (A) Pineapple; (B) Chrysantemum; (C) Chili; (D) Tobacco; (E) Taro; (F) Tomato; (G) Potato.

filamentous-inflated sporangia. The isolate AA114K were identified as Py. splendens. It was collected from infected pineapple tissue in Central Lampung. The pathogen was previously reported as a root parasite or pseudomycorrhizal on a wide variety of plants including pineapple (Waterhouse & Waterson, 1966). In Indonesia, Py. splendens was reported as a causal agent of wilt and root rot in Chinese cabbage (Vermeulen & Bustamam, 1977) and dying off of apple tree (Lestari et al., 2013). The other isolates grouped in cluster 3 were AA114KHS4 and AA83607 identified as Py. acanthophoron. These isolates were collected from healthy soil around the pineapple farms in Central Lampung. The Py. acanthophoron report in Indonesia was still limited and further exploration was needed to study the pathogen. Another Pythium isolates collected from soil around pineapple farms were Py. myriotylum (Isolate AA35AS3), Py. catenulatum (isolate AA35AS1), and Py. periilum (Isolate AA36G2 and AA71S2).

The last cluster was genus *Phytopythium*. The genera was previously classified as *Pythium* clade K (Lévesque & de Cock, 2004) and described as a new genera with *Phy. sindhum* as type species by Bala et al. (2010). The *Phytopythium* can produce papillate, internally proliferating sporangia that make it distinct from *Phytophthora* and *Pythium*. This study collected a species of *Phy. vexans* from infected potato tissue in Dieng, Central Java. Previously *Phy. vexans* was reported causing dying off of durian (Santoso et al., 2015).

CONCLUSION

Overall, this study has shown that eight different species of oomycetes were isolated from horticultural farms around Southern Sumatera and Java. The isolates were identified as *P. nicotianae*, *P. colocasiae*, *Py. splendens*, *Py. myriotylum*, *Py. catenulatum*, *Py. periilum*, *Py. sp. cal* 2011, and *Phy. vexans*.



Figure 5. Phylogenetic tree showing the genetic relationship among different oomycetes isolates based on COI sequences constructed in MEGA X using maximum likelihood algorithm. Numbers on the branches represent bootstrap value (percentage of 1000 replications). Branch lengths are proportional to genetic distance which is indicated by a bar at the lower left.

Results from this study can be referenced for further pathogenicity investigation.

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AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

AA was the main contributor for this manuscript. AA, SS, and KK was concepting the experiment. AA, M, AW, SL, and A, was carried out the isolation and pathogen sampling. AA, AH, and KO was performed the molecular analysis. AA prepared the manuscript. All authors provided response and comments on the research flow. All authors was read and approved the final manuscript.

COMPETING INTEREST

Authors declare that there is no competing interest regarding the publication of this manuscript.

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