

**PRODUCTION OF NOVEL RECOMBINANT ANTI-
PFHRP2 V_{NAR}-G1 PROTEIN USING *ESCHERICHIA*
COLI BL21(DE3) EXPRESSION SYSTEM**

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COLI* BL21(DE3) EXPRESSION SYSTEM**

by

KOK BOON HUI

A dissertation submitted in the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Bachelor of Technology (B. Tech) in the field of Bioprocess
Technology
School of Industrial Technology
Universiti Sains Malaysia

June 2020

DECLARATION BY AUTHOR

This dissertation is composed of my original work, and contains no material previously published or written by another person except where due reference has been made in the text. The content of my dissertation is the result of work I have carried out since the commencement of my research project and does not include a substantial part of work that has been submitted to qualify for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Acknowledgements	iii
Table of Contents	v
List of Tables	x
List of Figures	xii
List of Symbols and Abbreviations	xv
Abstrak	xx
Abstract	xxi
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Research background	1
1.2 Problem statement	3
1.3 Research objectives	4
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Malaria	5
2.1.1 An introduction to malaria	5
2.1.2 <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> infection	6
2.1.3 Malaria rapid diagnostic tests	8
2.2 Antibody	11
2.2.1 Antibody structure	11
2.2.2 Monoclonal antibody and its limitations	12
2.3 Single domain antibody (sdAb) as an alternative to mAb	13
2.3.1 The unique characteristics of sdAbs	13
2.3.2 Discoveries on shark variable new antigen receptor (V_{NAR})	14
2.4 Bacteria expression system	18

2.4.1	Types of expression system	18
2.4.2	<i>Escherichia coli</i> strain as expression host	20
2.4.3	<i>Escherichia coli</i> strain as cloning host	21
2.4.4	pET system in protein expression	22
2.5	Factors affecting protein expression	23
2.5.1	Temperature	24
2.5.2	Inducer concentration	26
CHAPTER 3 MATERIALS AND METHODS		
3.1	Preparation of media	27
3.1.1	Luria-Bertani medium (LB medium)	27
3.1.2	LB agar medium	27
3.1.3	LB kanamycin medium	27
3.1.4	LB kanamycin agar medium	28
3.1.5	LB ampicillin medium	28
3.2	Preparation of stock solutions	28
3.2.1	Calcium chloride (CaCl ₂) solution	28
3.2.2	Magnesium chloride (MgCl ₂) solution	28
3.2.3	Sodium chloride (NaCl) solution at 5 M	29
3.2.4	Monosodium phosphate (NaH ₂ PO ₄) solution at 1 M	29
3.2.5	Disodium phosphate (Na ₂ HPO ₄) solution at 1 M	29
3.2.6	2-(<i>N</i> -Morpholino)ethanesulfonic acid (MES free acid) solution at 0.5 M	29
3.2.7	2-(<i>N</i> -Morpholino)ethanesulfonic acid sodium salt (MES sodium salt) solution at 0.5 M	29
3.2.8	Ammonium persulphate (APS) solution at 10% (w/v)	29

3.2.9 Sodium dodecyl sulphate (SDS) solution at 10% (w/v)	30
3.2.10 Bovine serum albumin (BSA) solution	30
3.3 Preparation of buffers	30
3.3.1 Wash buffer for purification (pH 7.4)	30
3.3.2 Elution buffer for purification (pH 7.4)	30
3.3.3 MES buffer for resin regeneration (pH 5.0)	31
3.3.4 Phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) solution (10x)	31
3.3.5 Tris buffer at 1.5 M (pH 8.8)	31
3.3.6 Tris buffer at 1.0 M (pH 6.8)	31
3.3.7 SDS sample buffer (6x)	32
3.3.8 Tris-glycine running buffer (10x, pH 8.3)	32
3.3.9 Tris-buffered saline (TBS) solution (10x, pH 7.6)	32
3.3.10 Transfer buffer (10x)	33
3.3.11 TBST buffer (1x)	33
3.3.12 Blocking buffer	33
3.4 Activation of recombinant <i>E. coli</i> DH5 α cells in starter culture	33
3.5 Isolation of recombinant <i>E. coli</i> DH5 α cells	34
3.6 Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)	35
3.7 Agarose gel electrophoresis	36
3.8 Plasmid purification and plasmid extraction	37
3.9 Determination of DNA concentration	39
3.10 Transformation of pET28a (+)-anti-PfHRP2 V _{NAR} -G1 plasmid into DH5 α and BL21(DE3) competent cells	39
3.11 Expression of recombinant anti-PfHRP2 V _{NAR} G1 protein	40
3.12 Statistical analysis on the expression factors	41

3.13 Cell lysis and extraction of anti-PfHRP2 V _{NAR} G1	42
3.14 Purification of anti-PfHRP2 V _{NAR} G1	43
3.15 Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate-Polyacrylamide Gel Electrophoresis (SDS- PAGE)	44
3.15.1 Gel preparation	44
3.15.2 Sample preparation	45
3.15.3 Running the gel	46
3.15.4 Gel staining and destaining	46
3.15.5 Gel imaging	47
3.16 Western blot	47
3.17 Bradford assay for protein quantification	49
 CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	
4.1 Activation of recombinant <i>E. coli</i> DH5 α cells in starter culture	52
4.2 Isolation of recombinant <i>E. coli</i> DH5 α cells	54
4.3 Determination of DNA concentration	56
4.4 Gel imaging on PCR product	57
4.5 Transformation of pET28a (+1-anti-PfHRP2 V _{NAR} -G1 plasmid into DH5 α and BL21(DE3) competent cells	61
4.6 Expression of recombinant anti-PfHRP2 V _{NAR} G1 protein	66
4.7 Statistical analysis on the effects of expression factors	70
4.7.1 Effects of expression factors on pellet weights	71
4.7.2 Effects of expression factors on absorbance reading	77
4.8 Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate-Polyacrylamide Gel Electrophoresis (SDS- PAGE)	87
4.9 Western blot	92

4.10 Bradford assay for protein quantification	93
CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH	
5.1 Conclusions	95
5.2 Recommendations for future research	97
REFERENCES	98
APPENDICES	120

LIST OF TABLES

Table Caption	Page
2.1 V_{HH} expression in E. coli BL21(DE3) with different expression vectors.	20
3.1 The list of primers with its sequences.	35
3.2 PCR mixture for one reaction.	35
3.3 Thermocycling conditions for anti-PfHRP2 V_{NAR-G1} gene amplification.	36
3.4 Induced expression conditions for transformed BL21(DE3) subculture cultivation.	41
3.5 The volumes of DNase I and B-PER reagent required to add into per gram of pellet.	43
3.6 Components of 5% stacking gel.	45
3.7 Components of 14% stacking gel.	45
3.8 Components of 12% resolving gel.	45
3.9 The volumes of protein samples and sample buffer required for sample loading.	46
4.1 Statistical analysis of absorbance readings of recombinant DH5 α cells cultivated in different antibiotic supplemented medium after 24 hours incubation.	54
4.2 Statistical analysis of absorbance readings of recombinant DH5 α cells cultivated in 5 tubes of LB kanamycin medium after 24 hours incubation.	56
4.3 The statistical analysis of purified plasmid samples on their nucleic acid concentration (ng/ μ L) and A_{260}/A_{280} ratio.	57

4.4	Means and summary statistics by group for dependent factor pellet weight.	71
4.5	Analysis of temperature and IPTG concentration on the pellet weights using two-way ANOVA.	73
4.6	Coefficient of multi regression model (Appendix P).	76
4.7	Means and summary statistics by group for dependent factor absorbance reading.	78
4.8	Analysis of temperature and IPTG concentration on the absorbance reading using two-way ANOVA.	80
4.9	Coefficient of multi regression model (Appendix P).	82
4.10	The correlation between independent variables and dependent variables (N = 12).	85

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure Caption	Page
2.1 Development stages of PfHRP2 in human and mosquito.	8
2.2 The Y-shaped basic structure of antibody.	12
2.3 The schematic diagram of human IgG (left), shark IgNAR (middle) and V _{NAR} (right).	16
4.1 The turbidity in different types of antibiotic supplemented medium at 0 hour (A) and after 24 hours (B).	53
4.2 Colonies of recombinant <i>E. coli</i> DH5 α cells observed on LB kanamycin plate after 24 hours of incubation at 37°C.	55
4.3 The cultivation of recombinant DH5 α cells in 10 tubes of 5.0 mL LB kanamycin medium with initial turbidity conditions at 37°C with 200 rpm shaking at 0 hour.	55
4.4 The turbidity in the first five tubes of cultivation medium with recombinant DH5 α cells after 24 hours.	56
4.5 Agarose gel electrophoresis of samples with recombinant DH5 α cells grown in LB kanamycin medium.	58
4.6 Agarose gel electrophoresis of samples with recombinant DH5 α cells grown in LB kanamycin medium and plasmid samples.	60
4.7 Agarose gel electrophoresis of samples from recombinant DH5 α cells grown in LB kanamycin medium, recombinant DH5 α cells grown in LB ampicillin medium and plasmid samples.	61
4.8 Colonies of transformed DH5 α and BL21(DE3) cells successfully grown on LB kanamycin plate after 24 hours incubation at 37°C.	62

4.9	Agarose gel electrophoresis of colony PCR samples from transformed DH5 α and BL21(DE3) cells grown in LB kanamycin.	63
4.10	Turbidity in cultivation of transformed BL21(DE3) and DH5 α cells in different antibiotic supplemented medium after 24 hours of incubation at 37°C with 200 rpm shaking	65
4.11	Mean of absorbance readings obtained in LB ampicillin and LB kanamycin medium cultivation of transformed BL21(DE3) cells after 24 hours of incubation at 37°C with 200 rpm shaking.	65
4.12	Mean of absorbance readings obtained in LB ampicillin and LB kanamycin medium cultivation of transformed DH5 α cells after 24 hours of incubation at 37°C with 200 rpm shaking.	66
4.13	Turbidity in subculture cultivation of transformed BL21(DE3) in 100 mL LB kanamycin at 0 hour incubation with 200 rpm shaking.	69
4.14	Turbidity in subculture cultivation of transformed BL21(DE3) in 100 mL LB kanamycin after 24 hours incubation with 200 rpm shaking.	70
4.15	Plot of average pellet weight (g) against IPTG concentration (mM).	72
4.16	Scatterplot of residuals against fitted values.	74
4.17	Normal probability plot for pellet weight (response).	74
4.18	Plot of multi variable regression with interaction between temperature and IPTG concentration.	77
4.19	Plot of average absorbance reading against IPTG concentration (mM).	79
4.20	Scatterplot of residuals against fitted values.	81
4.21	Normal probability plot for absorbance reading (response).	81

4.22	Plot of multi variable regression with interaction between temperature and IPTG concentration.	83
4.23	SDS-PAGE of the expressed recombinant anti-PfHRP2 VNAR-G1 protein samples on 10% polyacrylamide pre-cast gel.	88
4.24	SDS-PAGE of the expressed recombinant anti-PfHRP2 VNAR-G1 protein samples on 14% polyacrylamide gel.	91
4.25	SDS-PAGE of the expressed recombinant anti-PfHRP2 VNAR-G1 protein samples on 12% polyacrylamide gel.	92
4.26	Western blot analysis of purified recombinant anti-PfHRP2 VNAR-G1 protein immunodetected using TMB substrate (a) and ECL substrate (b).	93

LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Symbol	Caption
+	Positive/plus
-	Negative/minus
±	Plus-minus
×	Times
>	More than
<	Less than
%	Percentage
∞	Infinity
°C	Degree Celsius
× g	Relative centrifugal force
K	Potassium
Na	Sodium
Abbreviation	Caption
A ₂₆₀ /A ₂₈₀	Ratio of absorbance 260 nm to absorbance 280 nm
Aldolase	Fructose 1,6-biphosphate aldolase
ANOVA	Analysis of variance
APS	Ammonium persulphate
bp	Base pair
BSA	Bovine serum albumin
Ca	Calcium

CaCl ₂	Calcium chloride
CBB	Coomassie Brilliant Blue
cDNA	Complementary DNA
CDRs	Complementary determining regions
CFU/mL	Colony forming unit per millilitre
C _{NAR}	Constant new antigen receptor
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>
EB	Elution buffer
<i>ECL</i>	Enhanced chemiluminescence
ELISA	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
Fab	Antigen-binding fragment
Fc	Crystallizable fragment
FR	Framework region
Fv	Variable fragment
g	Gram
g/L	Gram per litre
HC	Heavy chains
HCAbs	Heavy-chain-only antibodies
HCl	Hydrochloric acid
His-tag	Histidine-tag
HRP	Horseradish peroxidase
Ig	Immunoglobulin
IgNAR	Immunoglobulin new antigen receptor
IMAC	Immobilized metal affinity

	chromatography
IPTG	Isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactoside
KCl	Potassium chloride
kDa	Kilodalton
KH ₂ PO ₄	Monopotassium phosphate
L	Litre
LB	Luria-Bertani
LC	Light chains
M	Molar
mA	Milliampere
mAbs	Monoclonal antibodies
Mean Sq	Mean of square
MES free acid	2-(<i>N</i> -Morpholino)ethanesulfonic acid
MES sodium salt	2-(<i>N</i> -Morpholino)ethanesulfonic acid sodium salt
Mg	Magnesium
mg	Milligram
mg/L	Milligram per litre
mg/mL	Milligram per millilitre
MgCl ₂	Magnesium chloride
mL	Millilitre
μ g	Microgram
μ g/mL	Microgram per millilitre
μ L	Microlitre
μ m	Micrometer

mM	Millimolar
MWCO	Molecular weight cut-off
N	Number of samples
Na ₂ HPO ₄	Disodium phosphate
NaCl	Sodium chloride
NaH ₂ PO ₄	Monosodium phosphate
NaH ₂ PO ₄ ·H ₂ O	Sodium dihydrogen phosphate monohydrate
ng/μL	Nanogram per microlitre
nm	Nanometer
OD	Optical density
Omp T	Outer membrane protein T
<i>P. falciparum</i>	<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i>
PBS	Phosphate-buffered saline
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
PfHRP2	<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> histidine-rich protein 2
pLDH	<i>Plasmodium</i> lactate dehydrogenase
PMSF	Phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride
Pr	Probability
R ²	R-squared
RDTs	Rapid diagnostic tests
RNA	Ribonucleic acid
RNase	Ribonuclease
rpm	Rounds per minute

RSE	Relative standard error
SB	Super broth
scFv	Single chain variable fragment
sdAbs	Single-domain antibodies
SDS	Sodium dodecyl sulphate
SDS-PAGE	Sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis
SOC	Super optimal broth with catabolite repression
Sum Sq	Sum of square
TAE	Tris-acetate-EDTA
TB	Terrific broth
TBS	Tris-buffered saline
<i>TEMED</i>	Tetramethylethylenediamine
TMB	3,3',5,5'-Tetramethylbenzidine
V	Volt
v/v	Volume to volume
VBNC	Viable but non-culturable
V _H	Heavy chain
V _{HH}	Heavy chain single variable domain
V _L	Light chain
V _{NAR}	Variable domain of new antigen receptor
WB	Washing buffer

PENGHASILAN ANTI-PFHRP2 V_{NAR} -G1 PROTEIN REKOMBINAN NOVEL MENGUNAKAN SISTEM EKSPRESI *ESCHERICHIA COLI* BL21(DE3)

ABSTRAK

Ujian diagnostik segera malaria (RDT) bertindak sebagai immunoassay berasaskan antibodi penting untuk diagnosis segera malaria. Antibodi monoklonal konvensional (mAbs) digunakan secara meluas dalam RDT tetapi ia mudah merosot pada suhu persekitaran tinggi. Oleh itu, V_{NARS} dari ikan yu mungkin merupakan alternatif yang baik untuk mAbs kerana kestabilan haba dan kekuatan gabungan dengan antigen yang lebih tinggi. Dalam kajian ini, anti-PfHRP2 V_{NAR} -G1 protein rekombinan akan dihasilkan dalam sistem ekspresi *E. coli* BL21(DE3) melalui pelbagai langkah seperti pengasingan sel rekombinan, PCR, elektroforesis gel agarosa, pengekstrakan plasmid, transformasi dan ekspresi protein. Selain itu, kesan gabungan suhu dan kepekatan IPTG terhadap kepadatan sel rekombinan BL21(DE3) berdasarkan bacaan serapan dan berat basah sel dianalisis menggunakan perisian R. Berdasarkan analisis statistik ANOVA 2-arah dan regresi berbilang pemboleh ubah, kedua-dua faktor ekspresi mempunyai interaksi gabungan yang sangat signifikan ($p < 0.05$) terhadap bacaan serapan dan berat basah sel. Analisis korelasi antara kepekatan IPTG dan bacaan serapan adalah signifikan ($p < 0.05$) dengan pekali korelasi Pearson yang tinggi (0.9512). Kemunculan anti-PfHRP2 V_{NAR} -G1 protein rekombinan dengan ukuran molekul sekitar 12 kDa dikesan dan disahkan melalui analisis SDS-PAGE dan western blot. Kepekatan protein ditentukan sebagai 0.209 mg/mL dari 0.406 g ekstrak sel kasar. Kesimpulannya, semua objektif dalam kajian ini tercapai dan sdAb rekombinan dari V_{NAR} ikan yu khusus untuk gabungan PfHRP2 berjaya dihasilkan dalam *E. coli* BL21(DE3) sebagai sumber ekspresi.

PRODUCTION OF NOVEL RECOMBINANT ANTI-PFHRP2 V_{NAR}-G1 PROTEIN USING ESCHERICHIA COLI BL21(DE3) EXPRESSION SYSTEM

ABSTRACT

Malaria rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) act as important antibody-based immunoassays for prompt malaria diagnosis. Conventional monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) are widely used in RDTs but it can be easily degraded at high ambient temperatures. Hence, the shark V_{NARS} might be good alternatives to mAbs due to its higher thermal stability and binding affinity with antigens. In this study, the recombinant anti-PfHRP2 V_{NAR}-G1 protein was produced in *E. coli* expression system through various steps such as recombinant cell isolation, PCR, agarose gel electrophoresis, plasmid extraction, transformation and protein expression. Besides, the combinatorial effects of temperature and IPTG concentration towards the cell density of recombinant BL21(DE3) based on the absorbance readings and cell wet weights were investigated using software R. Based on the statistical analysis of 2-way ANOVA and multi-variable regression, both expression variables had highly significant combined interactions ($p < 0.05$) towards absorbance readings and cell wet weights. There was significant and strong positive correlation between IPTG concentrations and absorbance readings ($p < 0.05$, $r = 0.9512$). The presence of recombinant anti-PfHRP2 V_{NAR}-G1 protein with a molecular size of about 12 kDa was detected and confirmed through SDS-PAGE and western blot analysis. The protein concentration was determined as 0.209 mg/mL from 0.406 g of crude cell extract. In conclusion, all the objectives in this study were achieved and the recombinant sdAb from shark V_{NAR} specific for PfHRP2 binding was successfully produced in *E. coli* BL21(DE3) as the expression host.