

The Kinship Of Three *Lactuca* Species Based On Their Molecular Profiles On RAPD-PCR Markers

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ABSTRACT

Lactuca spp., Asteraceae, like: Green lettuce (*L. sativa*) is the most common type of lettuce grown, while the spiny lettuce (*L. serriola*) and wild lettuce (*L. virosa*) have not been being cultivated yet. The current study explores those three species in morphological and molecular characters. The data are then used to cluster the kinship of them which never been reported so far. Sampling was done in a composite sampling method, and analyzed by RAPD-PCR (Random Amplified Polymorphic DNA) applying 8 primers as follows: (OPF-1, OPF-2, OPF-3, OPF-4, OPC-11, OPAE-5, OPA-2, OPAM-7). Before PCR, the genomic DNA was extracted from each sample, following the DNA kit protocol and measured for their qualities and quantities. The total number of DNA bands were calculated for polymorphic or monomorphic patterns. The polymorphic bands were analyzed by the MEGA 6 software (Molecular Evolutionary Genetics Analysis) applying a maximum parsimony method to obtain the cladogram of the samples. The RAPD-PCR obtained a total of 91 amplicons where 84 of them are polymorphic (86,597%) and the rest were monomorphic. Primers which produced the highest polymorphism are OPF-1, OPF-4, OPC-11, OPAE-5, dan OPA-2 (100%), and the OPAM-7 produced the ost amplicons 20 DNA bands. The kinship among these three species showed that *L. serriola* and *L. virosa* have the closest distance. The cladogram following the maximum parsimony analysis grouped them into two clad i.e; clad I and clad II. Clad I consists of *L. serriola* and *L. virosa*, clad II consists of *L. sativa* only.

Keywords: Asteraceae; Genetic Diversity; *Lactuca*; Lettuce; RAPD

INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia, horticulture, play significant roles because of their high economic value in both local market and so export. In the mean time, the demand of lettuce (*Lactuca spp.*) in country, for example, is growing fast parallel with the growth of International/ chain restaurants in the country that serve this crop in their menus (Prasetyo & Lazuardi, 2019). On the hand, Indonesia, also exported this crop to some countries as as many as 47.920 tones in year 2018 and increased to 55.710 year after, and so classified as need to developed seriously for its high economic value (Samadi, 2019). Green lettuce, so far, has been cultivated quite massively (*L. sativa*), which is different from the (*L. serriola*) and (*L. virosa*) (Abdul-Jalil, 2020).

Most of the Indonesian farmers cultivate green lettuce to fulfill the market demands though this crop was originally come from west Asia and America (Prasetyo, 2013).

In traditional medicament, some species of the genus *Lactuca* like the spiny lettuce (*L. serriola*) and wild lettuce (*Lactuca virosa*) are known to have medicinal compound and, therefore, were applied to cure some diseases (Mieslerova *et al.*, 2013; Lebeda *et al.*, 2021).

The genetic diversity of *Lactuca* genus might be detected through a *Polymerase Chain Reaction* (PCR) method, applying short primers called as *Random Amplified Polymorphic DNA* (RAPD) (Purnaningsih, 2013). This technique has proven to be a good molecular marker for analyses of genetic variability among the unknown



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plants (Istiqomah *et al.*, 2016). However, this method is known as low reproducible method thought it still be able to be solved by setting a consistent PCR condition (Wijaya *et al.*, 2009).

Information on genetic diversity between the green lettuce and its wild kinship is important in developing this plant for any purposes like vegetable crop and medicament sources and further domestication of the wild lettuce ones (Yu *et al.*, 2001; Khan *et al.*, 2019); as well as ex situ conservation (El-Esawi *et al.*, 2017; van Herwijnen & Manning 2017).

The current study was aimed to profiling the genetic diversity of the green lettuce (*L. sativa*), spiny lettuce (*L. serriola*), and wild lettuce (*L. virosa*) following the morphological and molecular approaches.

Material and Methods

The lettuce plants being studied were green lettuce (*L. sativa*), spiny lettuce (*L. serriola*) and wild lettuce (*L. virosa*). The genetic diversity among them then was compared with the out group plant *Chrysanthemum morifolium*. Initially these three different species were observed for their morphological characters which was done in the Laboratory of Plant Taxonomy, but, the molecular analysis was run in the Genetics and Molecular laboratory > Both laboratories belong t the Faculty of Biology University of Jenderal Soedirman from September to October 2022

The RAPD used 8 different primers namely: OPA-02, OPAM-07, OPC-11, OPF-1, OPF-2, OPF-3, OPF-4, and OPAM-5. For the PCR, the DNA os Lettuce were isolated using a GeneAid™ Plant DNA isolation mini kit. Following to this, the PCR was applied by mixing the solution of MyTaq PCR master mix, primer and nuclease-free water. The last

step, visualization, was done in an agarose powder, mixed with TAE 1x buffer to make up a slab then added with lpadding dye and a 1 Kb DNA ladder of Thermofischer.

Some tools like 1.5 mL microtubes , micro pipettes with their tips, micro centrifuge, autoclaved, analytical balance , a thermocycler machine, ultra-low -80°C, Freezer -20°C, UV Transiluminator, abd electrophoreses set.

The morphological characters of *Lactuca* were observed in the Plant Taxonomy Laboratory but eh molecular profiling was done in the Genetics and Molecular Biology Laboratory, bith are in the Faculty of Biology Unsoed from August to October 2022.

B. Design of the study

A random sampling technique was applied to obtain the samples of *Lactuca* spp., than taken to the laboratory ofor validation and identification. Following to this, the samples were subjected for molecular analysis using a PCR technique which based on the FNA concentration and so purity, then the appearance of DNA fragments on the agar gel.

a. Isolation of DNA genome

DNA genome of *Lactuca* spp., was done following the protocol of GeneAid™ plant DNA isolation mini kit as follows: ca. 1 cm leaf was cut from each plant species then cleanse with 70% alcohol and dried in an open air before being grind. Add 400 µL GPX1 buffer and transfer the sample into 1.5 mL microtube then 5 µL RNase to hogenize in 30 seconds and incubated for 15 minutes at 60°C.and incubated for 3 minutes over the ice block. 100 µL GP2 buffer was also added to the tube containing the sample and homogenized. Sample was then transferred into 2 mL collection tube which completed with a filter column and centrifuged at 1000 x g for 8 minutes. Put the supernatant into a



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new 1.5 mL microtube. Add the GP3 buffer as much as 1.5 times the supernatant volume then transferred into a GD column to be centrifuged at 15000 x g for 2 minutes. Add 400 μ L W1 buffer and centrifuged at 15000 x g for 30 seconds then throw the supernatant. Add 600 μ L washing buffer into the GD column and centrifuged at 15000 x g for 30 seconds. After supernatant was thrown out, dry the GD column by centrifuging at 15000 x g for 3 minutes.

GD column was set to a 2 mL collection tube, then add 100 μ L warmed elution buffer and left for 5 minutes and centrifuged at 15000 x g for 30 seconds.

b. Quantitative and qualitative measurement of the DNA genome

For qualitative analysis, the DNA genome was visualized using a UV transilluminator over the agarose gel following the electrophoresis step. The DNA was measured at λ 260 nm, with a purity ratio of λ 260 - λ 280 nm. The measured DNA genome was then subjected for further study by dissolving it as much as it is needed for PCR and amplification using an RAPD primers.

c. RAPD-PCR

The total volume for PCR reaction was 12.5 μ L, consisting of 6.25 μ L MyTaq PCR mix, 1 μ L DNA template, 1 μ L primer, and 4.25 μ L *nuclease-free water*. The DNA amplification was run in a thermal cycler peqlab primus 250, which set as the following: 1 cycle pre denaturation at 95° for 2 minutes, After this step, the cycler runs for 35 cycles of denaturation at 95°C for 15 seconds and elongation for 15 seconds. The annealing temperature was set up at 38°C for 15 seconds and elongation at 72°C for 10 seconds plus final elongation 1 cycle at 72°C for 5 minutes.

d. Electrophoresis

Visualization of the DNA genome and the PCR products were done in an agarose gel and UV Transilluminator. The gel agarose for those two matters were different on their thickness, a 1.0% thick was used to check the qualitative of the DNA genome, and 2% for all PCR products. The visualization pattern was captured by the camera and calculated for their polymorphic bands and analyzed by the MEGA-6 software (Molecular Evolutionary Genetics Analysis) with a *maximum parsimony* method.

Data analyses

The appeared DNA fragments on the agar gel of a particular primer were used to determine the polymorphisms pattern. The fragments are called as polymorphic when they have more than 95% fragments at the same distance. For analysis of the plant's kinship, the presence or absence of the fragment was then scored using a binary score (0/1). Score 1 is used when the DNA fragment present on the agar gel while score 0 is oppositely, and further the data are used to determine genetic diversity among those three different samples of *L. sativa*, *L. serriola*, dan *L. virosa* by applying a *maximum parsimony* method in the MEGA 6 (*Molecular Evolutionary Genetics Analysis*) software. Plants grouping which based on the kinship can be seen on the cladogram.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Morphological Character of the *Lactuca* spp.

Observation on the morphological characteristic of the Lettuce plants became a prerequisite before identification processes, analyzes of genetic diversity, and scoring the accession numbers (Bermawie, 2005). Table 1. shows the

results of the morphological diversity among the three lettuce plants.

Table 1. Morphological differences of *Lactuca sativa*., *L. serriola*, and *L. virosa*.

Spesies	<i>Lactuca sativa</i>	<i>L. serriola</i>	<i>L. virosa</i>
Bud number on stem base	Many	Many	Many
Leaf petiole	<i>sessile</i>	<i>sessile</i>	<i>sessile</i>
Leaf shape	<i>orbicular</i>	<i>oblongeolate</i>	<i>spathulate</i>
Leaf shape	White	White	Purple
Costa lower surface	Rough	Smooth	Rough
Leaf surface	<i>rugose</i>	<i>rugose</i>	<i>rugose</i>
Leaf apex	<i>rounded</i>	<i>acute</i>	<i>acuminate</i>
Leaf margin	Smooth-Dentate	Lobed	Dentate
Leaf hairs	None	Long	Short
Leaf upper surface	Light green	Yellowish-light green	Greenish-Blue
Leaf under surface	Light green	Light green	White

Table 1 shows some similarities and dissimilarities of the three lettuce (*Lactuca spp.*) Of these morphological characters we could drawn the kinship of them, however, these morphological characters much depend on their

geographical distribution which are different from molecular characters. The current study, therefore, applied RAPD markers in dividing the cluster of the Lettuce plants instead

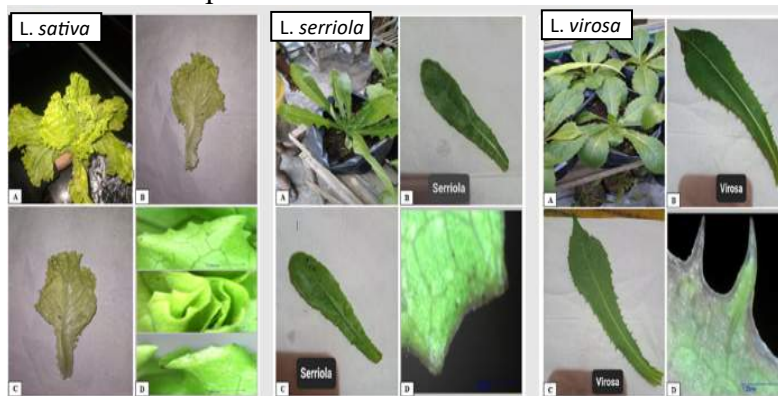


Figure 1. Morphological characters of three different species of Lettuce (*Lctuca spp.*)

Remark: (A) Lettuce Plant, (B) The Upper Surface Leaf, (C) The Lower Surface Leaf, and (D) Leaf Margin.

Figure 1. visualize the morphological characters as noted in the Table 1, mainly on the leaf shape, apex, margins, hairs, and both surfaces upper and under .

A. Molecular Characteristic

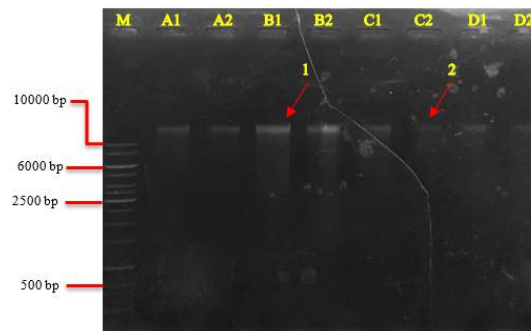
Molecular analyzes was done by applying an RAPD-PCR method, the total numbers of DNA fragments were then used to be

applied as binary numbers to develop a cladogram of the three lettuce plants kinship according to the following steps.

1. Isolation of the genome DNA of *Lactuca* spp..

To ensure the quality of the isolated DNA genome, they were treated for an electrophoresis and visualized on the agar gel. This step revealed some clear and thick DNA fragments except for the *L. sativa*

Following to the checking step for the DNA genome quality, the isolated DNA genome were measured for their quantity and purity by using a nanodropspectrometer at λ 260/ λ 280 nm wavelengths for their ratio (Prayogo *et al.*, 2020). Table 2. Shows the ratio of the isolated DNA genome vary between 1.755



(Figure 2) because of its low quality (Millah *et al.*, 2012). Nugroho *et al.* (2016) reminded there area some factors night affect the isolated DNA genome quality like how to keep the fresh material before being isolated, the types of the organism tissue, the solution compositions, and the homogenization technique along the isolation processes.

and 1.796 which according to Tiwari *et al.* (2017), these ratio are lower than ideal for PCR. Furthermore, Prayogo *et al.* (2020), stated that the pure DNA genome supposed to have ratio between 1.8 and 2.0. The ratio lower than 1.8 indicating that the DNA genome is contaminated by either, carbohydrate, protein, opr phenolic compounds; but when the ratio is over 2.0 the DNA genome is contaminated by RNA

Gambar 2. Visualisasi DNA Genom *Lactuca* spp. dan *Chrysanthemum morifolium*.

Remarks: (M = 1 kb DNA ladder, 1= Hasil Visualisasi Pita DNA Yang Cukup Jelas, 2= Hasil Visualisasi Pita DNA Yang Kurang Jelas, A1 = *L. serriola*, A2 = *L. serriola* Duplo, B1 = *L. virosa*, B2 = *L. virosa* Duplo, C1 = *L. sativa*, C2 = *L. sativa* Duplo, D1 = *C. morifolium*, D2 = *C. morifolium* Duplo).

These contamination might due to practical errors as stated by Sari *et al.* (2014), the treatment of the samples during isolation processes will strongly affect the resulting of isolated DNA genome. This study noted that the DNA genome of those three samples *L. serriola*, *L. virosa*, and *L. sativa* vary between 33,4

and 103 ng/ μ L. Hutami *et al.* (2017), the concentration of DNA genome lower than 50 ng/ μ L is classified as poor that might be affected by some factors like temperature and time during the incubation period Triani (2020). Table 2 shows a variation of the DNA genome concentrations of the samples

Table 2. Quality and quantity of the DNA genome of *Lactuca serriola.*, *L. virosa*, and *L. sativa*.

Sample	Duplo	λ 260/ λ 280 Absorbance ratio	Concentration (ng/ μ L)
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<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	1	1.766	41.5
	2	1.755	43
Average	=	1.760	42.25
<i>Lactuca virosa</i>	1	1.796	102
	2	1.793	104
Average	=	1.794	103
<i>Lactuca sativa</i>	1	1.763	33.5
	2	1.795	35
Average	=	1.779	34.25

2. The RAPD profiles of *Lactuca* spp.

8 different RAPD primers (Table 3) used in this study generated 91 amplicons sized of 90 to 1150 bp, and polymorphism pattern between 66.6 and 100% indicating that the genome DNA samples have complementary sequences to these primers (Sulistiyawati & Widyatmoko, 2017). The OPAM-7 primer, however, generated the most DNA fragments with a total of 20 bands where 16

bands of them were polymorphic and the rest 4 were monomorphic followed by the OPC-11 which produced 28 bands and the least band was showed by the OPF-2 primer (3 bands). In the case of the OPF-2 primer, Herman *et al.* (2018) reminded that some factors like annealing temperature, the PCR mix composition, the purity of the DNA genome and the total cycles during the PCR might affect the appearance of the DNA bands on the agar gel.

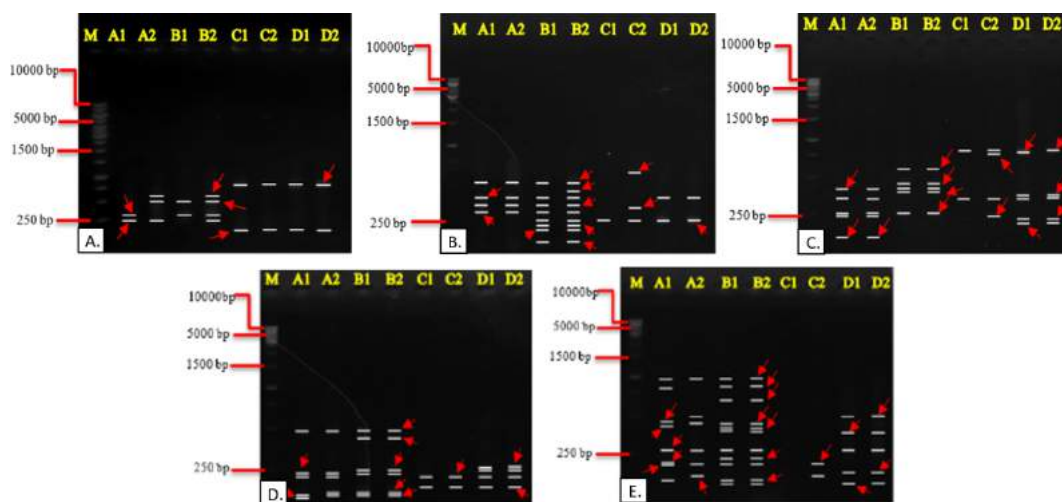


Figure 3. Amplification of the RAPD-PCR of the *Lactuca* spp. and *Chrysanthemum morifolium* with their polymorphism pattern values 100% shown by (A) OPF-1, (B) OPA-2, (C) OPF-4, (D) OPAE-5, (E) OPC-11.

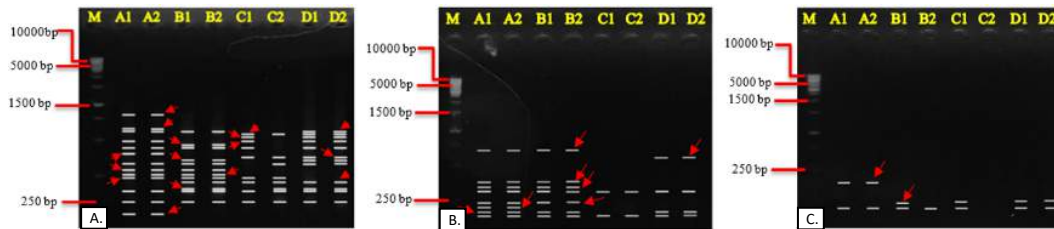


Figure 4. Amplification of the RAPD-PCR of the *Lactuca* spp. and *Chrysanthemum morifolium* with their polymorphism pattern values vary between 66.6 and 80% (A) OPAM-7 (B) OPF-3, (C) OPF-2.

Tabel 4.3. Total numbers of DNA bands produced by the 8 Primers.

Primer	Jumlah Total Pita	Pita Monomorpik	Pita Polimorpik	Persentase Polimorpik (%)
OPA-2	11	0	11	100
OPAM-7	20	4	16	80
OPC-11	18	0	18	100
OPF-1	6	0	6	100
OPF-2	3	1	2	66,6
OPF-3	9	2	7	77,7
OPF-4	14	0	14	100
OPAE-5	10	0	10	100
Total	91	7	84	86,597

3. Phylogenetic relationship between *Lactuca* spp. and *Chrysanthemum morifolium*.

The obtained molecular markers were then set as binary numbers before being analyzed by the MEGA 6 (*Molecular Evolutionary Genetics Analysis*) software to see the kinship of the samples and the out group species.

The *maximum parsimony* showed that the *Consistency Index* (CI) of these samples and outgroup was 0.83; and *Retention Index* (RI) of 0.8; and *Retention Consistency* (RC) of 0.73 at the *Bootstrap* 1000X. Hidayanti (2021), stated that the value which is closed to 1 was quite high to determine the resolution and consistency of the phylogenetic tree. Furthermore, Sari *et al.* (2014), aid that the *Consistency Index* (CI) of ca. 1 shows a

character changes in the DNA bases pair with a parsimony character, meanwhile the *Retention Index* (RI) around 1 shows a complete and consistent character with the phylogeny. Thus the high *CI* and *RI* values determine the high parsimony (Hidayanti, 2021).

The strength of the phylogenetic tree nodes were checked with the *Bootstrap* 1000X, where the higher interval confidence of the *bootstrap* means the higher confidence of the phylogenetic tree (Bousquet *et al.*, 1992). The *Bootstrap* value between 70 and 100 means the cladogram might have a change on its node but when the score is < 70 means the possibility of nodes change is extremely high, and the nodes position could change quite often (Rosdiani *et al.*, 2013).



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The *maximum parsimony* analyzes done in the current study produced two different main clads called as clad I consisting of *L. serriola* and *L. virosa*, with the *Bootstrap* score 100%, and clad II has a monophyletic of *L. sativa* (Figure 3). Hidayanti, (2021) stated that the *Bootstrap* score of 100% determines that the possibility of node changes is very low. It might then concluded that the *L. serriola* and *L. virosa* are sister plants. Rosidiani *et al.* (2013), the monophyletic clad has a very close relationship and came from the common ancestor. Furthermore, Hidayat *et al.* (2008), stated the formation monophyletic clad noted in this study suggested that the three samples of *Lactuca* spp., have similar material genetic and so biochemical compounds from the ancestor. Grouping the *L. serriola* and *L. virosa* in one clad was due to those two species have very close relationship as revealed also in the RAPD-PCR results (Figure 4).

CONCLUSIONS

The RAPD-PCR profile of three *Lactuca* spp. Consisting of *L. serriola*, *L. virosa*, and *L. sativa*, and *Chrysanthemum morifolium* an out group plant applying 8 different primers was able to generate 91 amplicons and 84 of them are polymorphic while the rest 7 bands are monomorphic.

The genetic diversity among the green lettuce (*L. sativa*), spiny lettuce (*L. serriola*), and wild lettuce (*L. virosa*) show that they have different morphological characteristics on their leaves, leaf's edges, leaf's hair, and the color of leaf's upper surface. However, the *maximum parsimony* analyzes with the *Bootstrap* score of 100% of the three species show that they are having a close relationship.

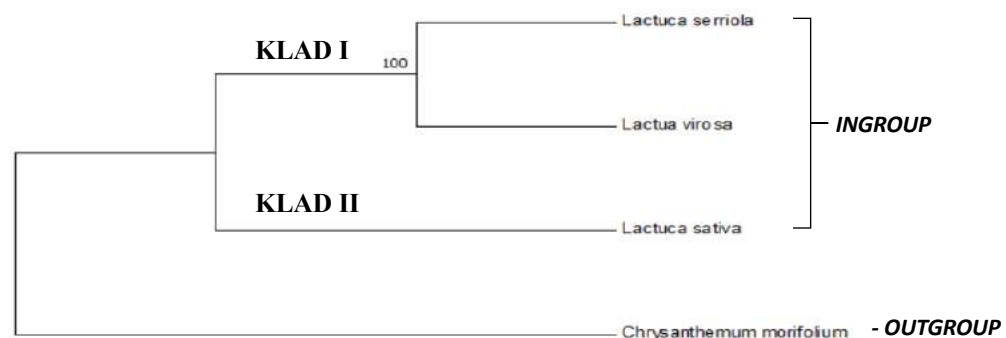


Figure 4. The phylogenetic relationship among the *Lactuca* spp. and *Chrysanthemum morifolium* using a *Maximum parsimony*.

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