

INTRASPECIFIC VARIATIONS OF 16S MITOCHONDRIAL GENE SEQUENCES OF YELLOW RICE STEM BORER, *Scirpophaga incertulas* (LEPIDOPTERA: CRAMBIDAE) FROM WEST JAVA

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ABSTRACT

Yellow rice stem borer (*Scirpophaga incertulas*) is one of the most important rice pest insects in Asia, including Indonesia. However, there is a lack of genetic data for this important agricultural insect. Therefore, this study was conducted to explore intraspecific differentiation of *S. incertulas* partial 16S mitochondrial gene from Bogor, Karawang, Indramayu and Cirebon (West Java, Indonesia). Here, we reported a total of 325 bp of 16S mitochondrial gene of *S. incertulas* from the obtained samples. Among all DNA sequences, three haplotypes of 16S mitochondrial gene were observed and submitted to GenBank under Accession Number of GU191881, GU191882, GU191883, respectively for haplotype 1, 2, and 3. The haplotype 1 was found in all *S. incertulas* surveyed locations, except Bogor. Haplotype 2 and 3 were found only in from Cirebon and Bogor samples. These haplotype variations can be applied as DNA markers for *S. incertulas* early larva detection method among other rice stem borers. Hence, further explorations of the mitochondrial variations of *S. incertulas* in Java and other parts of Indonesia are needed.

Key words: moth, haplotypes, genetic differentiations, molecular identification

INTRODUCTION

Yellow rice stem borer (*Scirpophaga incertulas*) is one of the most important rice pest insects in Asia, including Indonesia, that highly reduces rice yield. They are dominantly spread in the north coast of Java (or *Pantura* region, known as rice production regions), i.e. Karawang, Subang, Indramayu and Cirebon (Hattori & Siwi 1986). Larvae of yellow rice stem borer damage the rice stem, hence disturb nutrient translocation from

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root to leaf (Pathak 1975). As a result, tillers at vegetative stage die, called dead hearth. Larvae of *S. incertulas* also infest the generative stage of rice; therefore producing empty panicles, called white head. Yield loss at the rice generative stage was 1-3% higher than that of vegetative stage.

Several methods were used to control the yellow rice stem borers such as by using pesticide, cleaning the infected area and controlling their eggs. Almost 57 kinds of insecticides were prohibited to be applied for rice plant because of polluting the environment and decreasing natural enemies. White rice stem borer (*S. innotata*) was reported resistant to carbofuran insecticide (Soejitno *et al.* 1994).

Mitochondrial DNA is a suitable tool to examine inter- and intraspecies genetic differences due to higher evolution rate of genes compared to those in nuclear DNA (Li 1997). Moreover, the abundance of mitochondria in the cell provides sufficient materials for the analysis (Crozier 1977). Current study explores 16S mitochondrial gene of *S. incertulas* from *Pantura* regions. However, partial gene of 16S available in GenBank are only from *S. excerptalis*, the sugarcane stem borer from Papua New Guinea (GenBank Acc Num AY32046) and from India Acc Num AY320460). Those two records were published by Lange *et al.* (2004) to clarify the phylogenetic relationship of moth members from Pyralidae and Crambidae in sugarcane stem borers based on 16S and cytochrome oxidase II (COII) mitochondrial genes (Lange *et al.* 2004). They also suggested that many taxonomy data based on morphology need to be re-organized. Yellow rice stem borer was previously classified in the Family Pyralidae (Pathak 1975). Currently, *Scirpophaga* is classified in the Suborder Pyraloidea; Family Crambidae; Subfamily Schoenobiinae (Lange *et al.* 2004). Four species of rice stem borers commonly found in Java are yellow rice stem borer (*S. incertulas*), white rice stem borer (*S. innotata*), stripe rice stem borer (*Chilo suppressalis*), and pink rice stem borer (*Sesamia inferens*). Alteration of species domination was detected in a certain period, i.e. before 1995, in Subang, West Java, the dominant species was white stem borer; but later, yellow stem borer dominates the population (Suharto & Usyati 2005).

In an attempt to build database of mitochondrial DNA of yellow rice stem borers in Indonesia, here we commenced the exploration of intraspecific differences of *S. incertulas* based on 16S mitochondrial gene in West Java (Bogor, Karawang, Indramayu and Cirebon). The results of 16S variations of *S. incertulas* can be applied as DNA markers for early larva detection method among other rice stem borer.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

S. incertulas Collection

Yellow rice stem borer were collected from four localities in West Java, Indonesia. Those were from several subdistricts in Bogor, Karawang, Indramayu and Cirebon (Table 1).

Table 1. Sample locations of moth *S. incertulas* in West Java, Indonesia.

Locations (Subdistrict, District)	Latitude	Longitude
Sindang Barang, Bogor	6°34'24.61"	106°45'50.9"
Pedes, Karawang	6°04'13.26"	107°22'32.61"
Arjawinangun, Cirebon	6°39'08.63"	108°24'40.47"
Lelea, Indramayu	6°24'14.75"	108°11'12.59"

DNA extraction and 16S Mitochondrial DNA amplification

Yellow rice stem borer DNA was extracted by using CTAB extraction and ethanol precipitation, using thoraces as tissue source (Raffiudin & Crozier 2007). The 16S of mitochondrial gene of yellow rice stem borers were amplified by using forward primer 16ScbF: 5'-AAGATTTTAATGATCGAACAG-3' and reverse primer 16ScbR 5'-TGACTGTACAAAGGTAGCATA-3' (Simon *et al.* 1994). Amplifications were carried out in conditions of: initial denaturation at 94°C for 2 min. then 40 cycles at : 92°C for 45s; 50°C for 60s, 72°C for 90s, and final extension at 72°C for 2 min (Lange *et al.* 2004).

DNA sequencing and analysis

Amplicon of *S. incertulas* 16S gene was sequenced by using the same primer as in the amplifications. Homology of the DNA sequences was analysed by using BLAST (<http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi>). DNA alignments were carried out by using Clustal X (Thompson *et al.* 1997) and sugar stem borer 16S gene *S. excerpitalis* Gen Bank Acc. Num AY320460 from India and *S. excerpitalis* AY320461 from Papua Nugini (PNG) were used as the outgroups. All haplotypes obtained from this research were submitted to GenBank. Tamura-Nei distance parameter implemented in MEGA 5.05 (Tamura *et al.* 2011) was used to reveal inter- and intraspecific genetic distance among *S. incertulas* and *S. excerpitalis* 16S mitochondrial gene.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study revealed the first mitochondrial data of yellow rice stem borer 16S mitochondrial gene from West Java, which was approximately 325 bp. The moth *S. incertulas* 16S RNA gene sequences were AT rich with 65% AT. However, the value was lower than that of sugarcane stem borer *S. excerpitalis* 16S gene (79.01% AT) (Lange *et al.* 2004). BLAST analysis of *S. incertulas* 16S gene showed 89% homology with sugarcane stem borer of *S. excerpitalis* 16S mitochondrial gene (e-value: $9e^{-104}$).

Among all *S. incertulas* 16S mitochondrial gene sequences, we observed three haplotypes from Bogor, Karawang, Cirebon and Indramayu samples (Table 2, Fig. 1). The first 16S mitochondrial gene haplotype was the common haplotypes found from *S. incertulas* in three locations (Karawang, Indramayu and Cirebon), i.e samples number Sc14KR, Sc3ID, Sc2CB, respectively (Table 2). The second 16S mitochondrial

Table 2. Haplotype variations of 16S mitochondrial gene of *S. incertulas* from Bogor, Karawang, Indramayu, and Cirebon (West Java)

Haplotypes	Locations	<i>S. incertulas</i> sample code	Nucleotide position (see Figure 1)	Nucleotide variations	GenBank Acc Num
1	Karawang	Sc14KR			GU191881
	Indramayu	Sc3ID			
	Cirebon	Sc2CB			
2	Cirebon	Sc15CB	154	A → G	GU191882
	Cirebon	Sc17CB			
3	Bogor	Sc20BG	129	T → " - " (deletion)	GU191883

Sc: *S. incertulas*; notation followed "Sc" = sample number and sample location, BG = Bogor, KR = Karawang, ID= Indramayu, CB= Cirebon.

Table 3. Genetic distance based on 16S mitochondrial gene among *S. incertulas* and *S. excerptalis* corrected with Tamura-Nei distance

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8]
[1]								
[2]	0.000							
[3]	0.003	0.003						
[4]	0.003	0.003	0.000					
[5]	0.003	0.003	0.000	0.000				
[6]	0.003	0.003	0.000	0.000	0.000			
[7]	0.145	0.145	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.142		
[8]	0.133	0.133	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.021	

Abbreviations in Table 3 refer to Figure 1.

[1] Sc15CB.H2	[5] Sc3ID.H1
[2] Sc17CB.H2	[6] Sc14KR.H1
[3] Sc20BG.H3	[7] Sc.India.AY320460
[4] Sc2CB.H1	[8] Sc.PNG.AY320461

gene haplotype was found in both samples from Cirebon, having transition substitution at the nucleotide number 154 (Fig. 1, Table 2). Compared to 16S mitochondrial gene haplotype 1 and 2, haplotype 3 in *S. incertulas* Sc20Bg sample showed deletion of one nucleotide (number 129) (Fig.1). These three haplotypes were submitted to GenBank under Accession Number GU191881, GU191882, GU191883.

Intraspecific genetic distance among *S. incertulas* in West Java based on 16S mitochondrial gene revealed 0.003. Further analysis of intraspecific genetic distance of 16S gene between *S. incertulas* and *S. excerptalis* from India and PNG showed 0.145 and 0.133, respectively (Table 3). These values were higher than genetic distance between *S. incertulas* and *S. innotata*, i.e. 0.063 (unpublished data).

Result of this study can be used for identification of yellow rice stem borer in the early instar larvae. This is due to the morphology of rice stem borers larvae which show slightly differences between yellow and white rice stem borers, hence careful examination is needed (Amir *et al.* 2004). Phylogenetic analysis frequently establishing inter- and intra specific relationship between taxa and within populations as well. This was shown in several mitochondrial genes i.e. COI, ND1, and 16S that were used

Sc14KR_hap1	GATCGAACAG ATCAAAATTT TAACTTTTG CATTTAAATT TTATTTTAAT CCAACATCGA	[60]
Sc3ID_hap1	.....	[ 60]
Sc2CB_hap1	.....	[ 60]
Sc15CB_hap2	.....	[ 60]
Sc17CB_hap2	.....	[ 60]
Sc20BG_hap3	.....	[ 60]
SeAY320460_India	.....C.....	[60]
SeAY320461_PNG	-----C-----	[60]
Sc14KR_hap1	GGTCGCAAC TTTTCTCTT ATAAGAACTA AAAGAAAAA TTACGCTGTT ATCCCTAAGG	[120]
Sc3ID_hap1	.....	[120]
Sc2CB_hap1	.....	[120]
Sc15CB_hap2	.....	[120]
Sc17CB_hap2	.....	[120]
Sc20BG_hap3	.....	[120]
SeAY320460_India	.....CT.T.....A.....	[120]
SeAY320461_PNG	.....CT.T.....A.....	[120]
Sc14KR_hap1	TAATTTTTTC TTTTATCAT AACCTATGGA TCAATAAAC ACTTATCTAT GTTTAAACTT	[180]
Sc3ID_hap1	.....	[180]
Sc2CB_hap1	.....	[180]
Sc15CB_hap2	.....G.....	[180]
Sc17CB_hap2	.....G.....	[180]
Sc20BG_hap3	.....	[180]
SeAY320460_India	.....C..A.....CT.CT..T...T...T.A..	[180]
SeAY320461_PNG	.....C..A.....T.CT.....T.G.....C..A..	[180]
Sc14KR_hap1	AAAAAAGTT CATCTAATTT TTCTATCACC CCAACAAAAT AATTTATTAT AATTAAATTT	[240]
Sc3ID_hap1	.....	[240]
Sc2CB_hap1	.....	[240]
Sc15CB_hap2	.....	[240]
Sc17CB_hap2	.....	[240]
Sc20BG_hap3	.....	[240]
SeAY320460_India	.....T..T.....T...?..A..T.C.C	[240]
SeAY320461_PNG	.....T..T.....T.....A..T.C.C	[240]
Sc14KR_hap1	AAAATTTATA TATAACTTAA ATTATAATTA TTTATCAAAC TCTATAGGGT CTTCTCGTCT	[300]
Sc3ID_hap1	.....	[300]
Sc2CB_hap1	.....	[300]
Sc15CB_hap2	.....	[300]
Sc17CB_hap2	.....	[300]
Sc20BG_hap3	.....	[300]
SeAY320460_India	...C...A...TC...A...CC...A...	[300]
SeAY320461_PNG	...C...A...TC...A...C...A...	[300]
Sc14KR_hap1	TTTAACTTTA TTTTACTTT TTTAT	[325]
Sc3ID_hap1	.....	[325]
Sc2CB_hap1	.....	[325]
Sc15CB_hap2	.....	[325]
Sc17CB_hap2	.....	[325]
Sc20BG_hap3	.....	[325]
SeAY320460_India	.....TAAC.....C..	[325]
SeAY320461_PNG	.....TAAC.....C..	[325]

Figure 1. DNA alignments of 16S mitochondrial gene of *S. incertulas* from Bogor (BG), Karawang (KR), Indramayu (ID), Cirebon (CB), and *S. excerptalis* from India and PNG; “.” = homology of nucleotides in the same column. Sc: *Scirpophaga incertulas* (yellow rice stem borer), Se: *Scirpophaga excerptalis* (sugar cane stem borer). Notation followed “Sc” = sample number, sample location and haplotype number; AY320460 and AY320461 mentioned after “Se” = GenBank (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov) Acc. Num. for *S. excerptalis* from India and PNG

to construct a molecular phylogeny of butterflies belonging to the genus *Euphydryas* s.l.. *Euphydryas* s.l. has been divided into four genera in an earlier revision. The current results showed three well-supported groups within the genus, corresponding to three of the four proposed genera (Zimmermann *et al.* 2000). Another example was on the basis of 16S ribosomal DNA and COI-COII regions that revealed restriction-site variations in geographically divergent collections of tobacco budworm, *Heliothis virescens* (F.) Tennessee, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas (Roehrdanz *et al.* 1994).

This study explored three haplotypes of *S. incertulas* in several regions in West Java, however, a further exploration is needed to reveal the complete genetic intraspecific variations of this agricultural importance insect. Database of mitochondrial variations from rice stem borer can be applied for further monitoring strategy to examine the dynamic population of the stem borer, to seek both the origin of this pest and the relationships among other species of rice stem borer. Moreover, this result can be used as a basic data to establish environmental safely control method such as by disrupting the mating time of the stem borer (Samudra *et al.* 2002) and characterise the sex pheromone of *S. incertulas* to disrupt the mating behaviour (Tatsuki *et al.* 1985).

CONCLUSIONS

This study was the first report for intraspecific differentiation of *S. incertulas* based on 16S mitochondrial gene obtained from Bogor, Karawang, Indramayu and Cirebon (West Java, Indonesia) samples. Three haplotypes of 16S mitochondrial gene were observed and submitted to GenBank under Accession Number: GU191881, GU191882, GU191883, respectively for *S. incertulas* 16S mitochondrial gene haplotype 1, 2, and 3. Haplotype 1 of 16S mitochondrial gene was found in almost all locations, except Bogor. Haplotype 2 and 3 were found only in *S. incertulas* from Cirebon and Bogor samples. Further explorations of *S. incertulas* 16S mitochondrial gene in Java and other parts of Indonesia are needed to reveal complete 16S gene intraspecific differentiations of this agricultural importance insect.

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