

A new *Aureobasidium* species isolated from litter samples in Kupang, Indonesia

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Purpose: Fungal strain BioMCC.f.PL.142 was isolated from leaf litter sample obtained from Kupang, Indonesia. This strain has antimalarial activity based on enzymatic and cell based assay against *Plasmodium falciparum*, therefore characterization of this strain is very important to do.

Methods: BioMCC.f.PL.142 was isolated using moist chamber method. The mycelia on the leaf litter were observed under microscope, transferred into agar medium and incubated at 25° C for 7 days. The strain was preserved as freezing glycerol stock.

Results and conclusions: The result of molecular identification using LSU (d1/d2 region) showed 96% similarity with *Selenophoma australiensis* and *Aureobasidium thailandense*. The phylogenetic analysis was inferred using Neighbor-Joining method (NJ) and the result showed the strain BioMCC.f.PL.142 was closely relative to *S.australiensis*. Morphological and physiological observation revealed a similar colony shape of BioMCC.f.PL.142 with *Aureobasidium sp.*, which resembled one of yeast. Meanwhile, the conidia from this strain were different from those of *S.australiensis* and *A.thailandense*. The conidia of BioMCC.f.PL.142 were crescent shaped, hyaline, conidial stage allantoides and fulcatus-like. Based on those features, we would like to propose the strain of BioMCC.f.PL.142 as a new species of the genus *Aureobasidium*.