

## Expression of oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) polyisoprenoids in response to *Ganoderma boninense* infection

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**Abstract.** Afandi D, Basyuni M, Putri LAP, Chalil D, Syahputra I. 2019. Expression of oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) polyisoprenoids in response to *Ganoderma boninense* infection. *Biodiversitas* 20: 68-76. Currently, oil palm is an important economic crop and has become one of the world's major vegetable oils as well as a potential source of biodiesel. Unfortunately, oil palm plantations in Asia, particularly in Indonesia and Malaysia face the threat of basal stem root diseases caused by *Ganoderma* sp. Various methods and approaches have been made to select the oil palm that is tolerant to *Ganoderma boninense*, among others using biochemical selection. This research aimed to analyze polyisoprenoids expression of oil palm tolerant to *G. boninense* using two-dimensional thin layer chromatography (2D-TLC). The plant material used in this trial were two cross-series of genetic materials belonging to PT Socfindo, that were known to have certain level of tolerance to *G. boninense*. The first was a cross-series of 15-year-old oil palm in the field, and the second was a new cross-series for an early detection in the nursery stage. The results showed that there were diversities in the expression of polyisoprenoids between tissues, treatments, and level of tolerance. Polyisoprenoids with a chain length of C<sub>45</sub>-C<sub>65</sub> and dolichols of C<sub>45</sub>-C<sub>55</sub> were detected in the leaf tissue but not found in the root tissue. Polyisoprenoids with a carbon chain length of C<sub>80</sub>-C<sub>100</sub> occurred in infected palm root tissue but did not in the healthy oil palm. The increase of polyisoprenoid (polyisoprenol and dolichol) in infected and inoculated root tissues is presumably due to the plant biochemical response to the presence of *G. boninense* attack. Cluster analysis demonstrated distinct groups of polyisoprenoid carbon-chains between root and leaf tissues of oil palm mature and seedling. Interestingly, in the absence of *G. boninense* infection, the polyisoprenoid carbon chain pattern in the tolerant oil palm seedling root tissue is different from that in the susceptible seedlings. Thus, the polyisoprenoid carbon chain pattern can be considered as a potential biochemical marker for the screening of oil palm tolerance to *G. boninense*.

**Keywords:** Biochemical marker, dolichol, *Ganoderma*, oil palm, polyisoprenoid, polyisoprenol

### INTRODUCTION

Oil palm is an important economic crop and currently has become one of the world's major vegetable oils as well as a potential source of biodiesel. Indonesia is now the world's number one palm oil producer with 36.5 million metric tons production per year or nearly 70% of world palm oil production (USDA 2017). Unfortunately, oil palm plantations in Asia, particularly in Indonesia and Malaysia face the threat of basal stem root (BSR) diseases caused by *Ganoderma boninense* (Mohammed et al. 2014). The economic losses due to this disease in both countries amount to 500 million USD per year (Hushiarian et al. 2013). In Indonesia, losses incurred from every 1% of *G. boninense* attacks is about 256 million USD per year (Morel et al. 2016).

The *G. boninense* control using tolerant plants is widely studied and developed nowadays. Various methods and approaches have been made to select oil palm that is tolerant to *G. boninense*. A number of observation studies

of oil palm infected in the field (commercial plantation, progeny trial, parental gardens, seed garden, and specific *G. boninense* field trial), early screening test in the nursery stage, and selection at biochemical and molecular levels have been described (de Franqueville et al. 2010; Tee et al. 2013; Muniroh et al. 2014).

Polyisoprenoids are secondary metabolite compounds that play a role in plant defence systems against biotic and abiotic stresses (Bajda 2005; Zhang et al. 2008; Basyuni et al. 2009, 2017a; Baczewska et al. 2014). Two main groups of polyisoprenoids are polyisoprenols and dolichols that can be distinguished by the presence of an unsaturated (polyisoprenols) or saturated (dolichols)  $\alpha$ -isoprene subunit (Chang et al. 2015; Basyuni et al. 2016). Polyisoprenols typically range in size from C<sub>45</sub>-C<sub>60</sub> as shorter polyisoprenols, medium (C<sub>65</sub>-C<sub>85</sub>), and longer polyisoprenols (C<sub>90</sub>-C<sub>140</sub>). Dolichol is present in nearly all plant tissues, particularly in the roots (Tateyama et al. 1999; Basyuni et al. 2016, 2017a, b, 2018a), from the shorter (C<sub>25</sub>-C<sub>40</sub>), medium-chain (C<sub>65</sub>-C<sub>85</sub>), and longer chain length (C<sub>90</sub>-C<sub>140</sub>). Polyisoprenols are

primarily associated with photosynthetic tissues (Brasher et al. 2015; Basyuni et al. 2016, 2017a,b, 2108a,b). Polyisoprenols in oil palm leaf tissue occur in C<sub>45</sub>-C<sub>65</sub> and C<sub>90</sub>-C<sub>105</sub> length chain, while dolichols occur in C<sub>85</sub>-C<sub>105</sub> (Arifiyanto 2017; Basyuni et al. 2018b).

Several studies have been reported that the profile and occurrence of polyisoprenoids can be used as chemotaxonomic markers (Sun et al. 2010; Basyuni et al. 2016, 2017b, 2018b; Arifiyanto et al. 2017). These results provide an opportunity to get more insight into the effect of the differences of polyisoprenoid expression on the level of resistance of plants to different pathogens. Furthermore, those findings enable us to investigate the polyisoprenoids expression of oil palm that is tolerant to *G. boninense*. In this study, characterization of polyisoprenoid in palm oil plant was classified as tolerant, moderate and susceptible to BSR disease caused by *G. boninense*. The present study therefore aimed to describe differences in the expression of polyisoprenoid in oil palm and its potential as biochemical markers for the selection of oil palm that is resistant or tolerant against *G. boninense*.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Plant materials

The plant material used in this trial were two cross-series of genetic material belonging to PT Socfindo, that were known to have certain levels of resistance to *G. boninense*. The oil palm materials are of tenera, hybrid between dura and pisifera as previously reported (Basyuni et al. 2017c). The first material is a cross-series of 15-year-old oil palm in the field, henceforth referred to as mature palms. The second one is a new cross-series used for early detection in the nursery stage, henceforth referred to as seedlings. Both cross-series consist of three levels of tolerance group, i.e. tolerant, moderate and susceptible. Samples of mature palm were collected from healthy and infected palms from each group. Furthermore, samples from *G. boninense*-inoculated and control seedlings (uninoculated) were collected as well. *G. boninense* inoculation was performed at two-months-old seedlings and then collected for sampling at four months of age. Samplings were taken from leaves and roots tissues and in triplicate from three individual oil palms for each growth stage groups (seedlings and mature), levels of tolerance (tolerant, moderate, and susceptible), and fungal treatment (infected and healthy plants). The classification of the tolerance level of those oil palms are based on the index as used in the research of PT Socfindo which has released the first Ganoderma-resistant oil palm variety in Indonesia in 2013 (Breton et al. 2009).

### Oil palm infection with *G. boninense*

*Ganoderma boninense* culture was obtained from Pathology Laboratory, Socfindo seed Production & Laboratories (SSPL) of PT Socfindo Medan. Dikaryotic isolate “J” of *G. boninense* used in this research was obtained from a basidiocarp and was previously isolated from Bangun Bandar Estate, North Sumatera, Indonesia in

2007 and characterised as an aggressive isolate by Breton et al. (2006). For oil palm infection in the seedling stage treatment, *G. boninense* inoculum was prepared according to Breton et al. 2009. The fungal culture was maintained on potato dextrose agar (PDA) in petri dishes in dark conditions. The inoculum source was based on artificial inoculation using Rubber wood blocks (RWBs) as a substrate. The RWB incubation time used in this work was at 12 weeks. The colonized RWB source was inoculated in the 2 month-old seedling with the distance between the palm and the RWB inoculum at 5 cm according to the recommendations of Breton et al. (2006).

Meanwhile the *G. boninense* infection in the mature palm was by natural infection. The planting material are used in this trial was planted in the area with very high *G. boninense* attack previously. Determination of healthy and infected palms based on the symptoms of an identified *G. boninense* attack.

### Chemicals

The dolichol (C<sub>90</sub>-C<sub>105</sub>) and polyisoprenol (C<sub>90</sub>-C<sub>100</sub>) standards were used as previously reported (Basyuni et al. 2016, 2017a) to identify the pattern of polyisoprenoid alcohol in the plant materials. Silica gel 60 TLC plates and reverse-phase silica RP-18 HPTLC plates were purchased from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany). All of other chemicals and solvents were reagent grade (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany).

### Isolation of polyisoprenoid alcohols

Separation of polyisoprenoids was carried out following to the previously procedure by Sagami et al. (1992); Basyuni et al. (2016, 2017b). The green leaves and roots tissue were incubated at 60°C for 24-48 h. The dried tissue was crushed into fine powder using 5 g of each were submerged in 30 ml of chloroform/methanol (CM 2/1, v/v) solvent and then incubated in a water bath for 2 days. The supernatant was filtered, then dried using a rotary evaporator. The lipid extract of the leaves and roots was saponified at 65 °C for 24 h in 86% ethanol containing 2 M KOH. The non-saponifiable lipids of each tissue were evaporated and re-dissolved in hexane. All the samples extracted (50-100 mg) were developed to each TLC plate.

First-dimension TLC was performed on a silica-gel glass plate (20 × 3 cm) with a solvent system of toluene-ethyl acetate (9:1) for 45 minutes as previously reported (Basyuni et al. 2016; 2017d, 2018a). The second-dimension reversed-phase C-18 silica gel HPTLC was carried out with acetone as the solvent for about 30-40 minutes to transfer all compounds that has been separated in the first-dimension into concentration zone of the reverse-phase TLC plate. To determine the family of a compound and its concentration, dolichols or polyisoprenols standards were added to the sample line and developed with a solvent system as previously termed (Basyuni et al. 2016). The position of polyisoprenoid alcohol spots that had been developed using 2D-TLC were identified and visualized using iodine vapor. The chromatographic images were obtained and digitally scanned with an Epson perfection V33 series. The polyisoprenoid families pattern were

determined by comparing the standard of dolichol or/and polyprenol with the occurrence of polyisoprenoid pattern in TLC samples plate. The quantification of polyisoprenoid content in samples was carried out by comparing with dolichol and polyprenol standards. The amount of polyprenols and dolichols that were detected on RP-18 HPTLC glass plates were quantified using ImageJ 1.46r (Schneider et al. 2012), with dolichol and polyprenol standards as references.

#### Cluster analysis

Cluster analysis was carried out on selected subsets of all parameter data comprising of 23 variables, together with polyprenols and dolichols from 32 treatments. The data were  $\log(10)$  transformed as previously reported (Basyuni et al. 2018b). Cluster analysis also was performed on each treatment to grouping the oil palm tolerance. From these data, dendrograms representing all parameter were drawn by clustering analysis using the un-weighted-pair group method with arithmetic mean (UPGMA) in MVSP (multivariate statistical package) 3.22 software (Kovach Computing Service). Euclidean distance was chosen as the criterion for cluster combination.

#### Statistical analysis

The data were analyzed by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Duncan test for comparisons of all treatments against the control. The value of  $P < 0.05$  was selected as the threshold of statistical significance was carried out using the SPSS version 17 statistical software program.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Total lipid content and polyisoprenoid distribution

The identification of oil palm tolerance to *G. boninense* was performed by 2D-TLC to discrete the polyisoprenoids into polyprenol and dolichol families with different chain lengths. The summaries of the analytical results of the distribution of polyisoprenoids in each treatment of oil palm tolerance are given in Table 1.

The weight of total lipid in leaf was higher than in root of the mature and the seedling stage. The weight of total lipid within leaves and roots tissue of the seedlings was higher than that of the mature palm ranging from 55.1 to 73.7  $\text{mg g}^{-1}$  dw (dry weight) and from 38.0 to 45.8  $\text{mg g}^{-1}$ , respectively. Total lipid content in leaves and roots tissue of mature palm ranges from 32.0 to 43.2  $\text{mg g}^{-1}$  dw and from 4.9 to 8.4  $\text{mg g}^{-1}$  dw respectively. There was no difference in lipids concentration between the tolerant and susceptible palms, but the total lipids content in seedlings treated with *Ganoderma* was lower than that of the untreated one (not inoculated) (Figure 1 and 2). Furthermore, the total lipid in the root tissue of mature palms infected with *Ganoderma* was higher than that of the healthy palms.

The distribution of polyprenols and dolichols in the plant tissue were classified into three types as previously reported (Basyuni et al. 2016, 2017a). In type-I

distribution, dolichol predominates over polyprenol (more than 90%); type-II displays a comparable occurrence of both polyprenol and dolichol; type III, polyprenol predominates over dolichol by more than 90%. We found that both polyprenol and dolichol in the plant tissues were on a level with each other or a type II-distribution (Table 1), except or that in the root tissue of the healthy palm and the un-inoculated one which showed a type-I distribution. The Type-II lipid distribution pattern in oil palm leaves tissue found in this study is in accordance with previous reports (Arifiyanto et al. 2017; Basyuni et al. 2018b).

A type-I lipid distribution pattern is found in healthy palm root tissues in which dolichols constitute 100% of the lipid content. The percentage of polyisoprenoid (especially polyprenol) of the total lipid in all tissues is higher in infected palms and inoculated seedling compared with that of the non-treated palms. High polyprenol content (2.5 times) has been also reported on tobacco plant leaves inoculated with tobacco mosaic virus (TMV) (Bajda et al. 2009). This result reinforces the idea of polyisoprenoid involvement in plant resistance to pathogens.

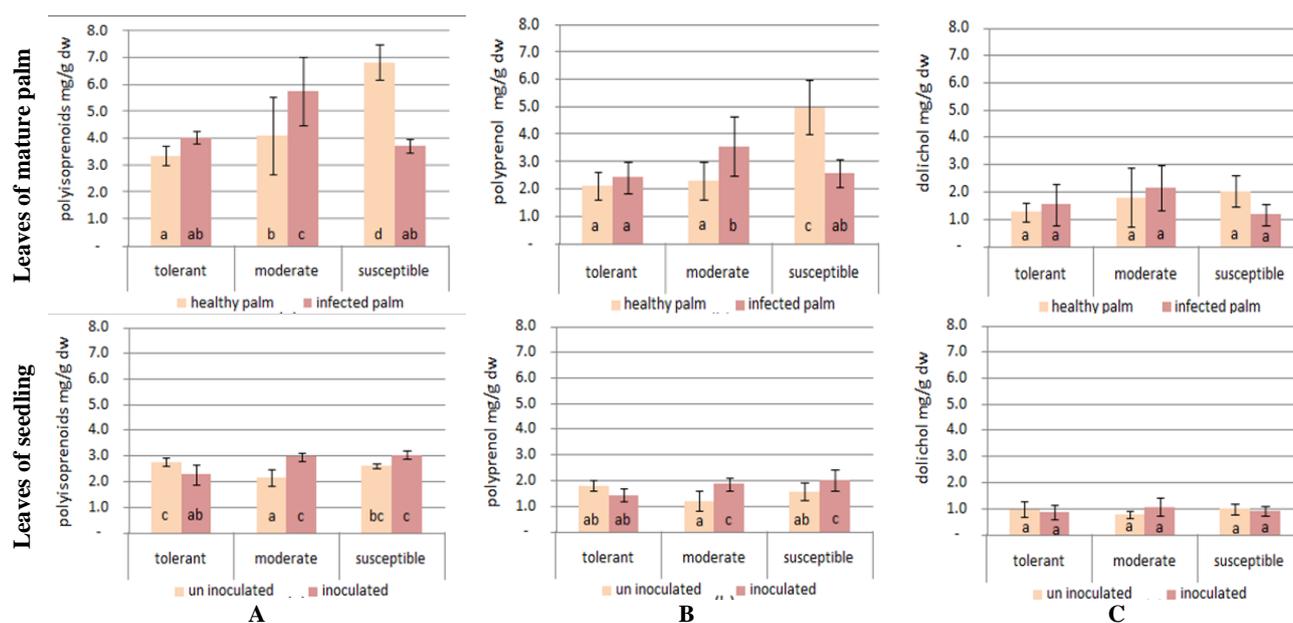
Polyprenol is commonly found in the photosynthetic plant tissues (Strzalka et al. 2009; Basyuni et al. 2016). Akhtar et al. (2017) reported impaired efficiency of photosystem II in plants lacking polyprenol. Another possible mechanism of polyisoprenoids in protecting biological membranes is by shielding of other lipids and integral membrane proteins (Bajda et al. 2009). Upon an external pathogen attack (*G. boninense*), the plants responded by synthesizing more polyprenols or dolichols as sugar carriers in the biosynthesis of cellulose and hemicellulose (Zhang et al. 2008; Guam and Eicher 2011), which are components of cell wall damaged by *G. boninense* attack. Several reports have suggested that volatile isoprenoids confer additional plant protection via cooperation with carotene and tocopherols as antioxidant or serve as alternative defense system when the former mechanism is not sufficient in quenching oxidative stress (Penuelas and Munne-Bosch 2005). In this context, the increased polyprenols in infected palms may be a plant response to maintain normal metabolic system.

The polyisoprenoid in leaf tissue is higher than in root tissue, especially the polyprenol content. Different polyprenols expression between plant tissues have been reported in *Coluria geoides* (Skorupińska-Tudek et al. 2003), *Philesia magellanica*, *Fuchsia magellanica* (Strzalka et al. 2009), mangrove plants (Basyuni et al. 2016, 2017a, b), coastal plants (Basyuni et al. 2018a), rambutan (Basyuni and Wati 2017) and oil palm (Arifiyanto et al. 2017; Basyuni et al. 2018b). It is note worthy that polyprenols and dolichols level in leaves tissue of mature plant was higher than that of the seedlings. Increased polyprenol in leaves with increasing age has also been reported in *Kandelia obovata* and *Bruguiera gymnorhiza* yellow leaf (Basyuni et al. 2016), old leaves of ginkgo (Tateyama et al. 1999), old rubber leaf (Tateyama et al. 1999) and senescing leaves (Swiezewska et al. 1994).

**Table 1.** Distribution of polyprenol and dolichol in oil palm matures and seedlingstolerance to *Ganoderma boninense*

Stage	Tissue	Level	Treatment	TL (mg/g dw)	PI (mg/g dw)	Pol (mg/g)	Dol (mg/g)	% in TL			% in PI	
								PI	Pol	Dol	Pol	Dol
Mature	Leaf	Tolerant	Infected	37.2 ± 5.3	4.0	2.4	1.5	10.7	6.6	4.2	61.2	38.8
Mature	Leaf	Tolerant	Healthy	37.7 ± 2.0	3.4	2.1	1.3	9.0	5.5	3.5	61.3	38.7
Mature	Leaf	Susceptible	Infected	33.7 ± 4.9	3.7	2.6	1.2	11.1	7.7	3.4	69.2	30.8
Mature	Leaf	Susceptible	Healthy	38.8 ± 5.2	7.0	5.0	2.0	18.1	12.8	5.3	70.8	29.2
Mature	Leaf	Moderate	Infected	36.8 ± 2.7	6.8	4.7	2.2	18.6	12.7	5.9	68.4	31.6
Mature	Leaf	Moderate	Healthy	32.0 ± 4.3	2.8	1.9	0.9	8.8	6.0	2.8	67.8	32.2
Mature	Leaf	Moderate	Infected	38.7 ± 5.5	4.7	2.7	2.1	12.3	6.9	5.3	56.6	43.4
Mature	Leaf	Moderate	Healthy	43.2 ± 0.3	5.4	2.7	2.7	12.6	6.2	6.4	49.5	50.5
Mature	Root	Tolerant	Infected	8.4 ± 1.7	1.4	0.6	0.7	16.4	7.7	8.7	46.8	53.2
Mature	Root	Tolerant	Healthy	4.9 ± 2.5	0.7	nd	0.7	14.8	nd	14.8	0.0	100.0
Mature	Root	Susceptible	Infected	6.6 ± 0.5	2.6	1.2	1.4	39.3	18.7	20.6	47.5	52.5
Mature	Root	Susceptible	Healthy	6.7 ± 1.8	1.1	0.3	0.8	16.9	4.5	12.4	26.8	73.2
Mature	Root	Moderate	Infected	5.8 ± 0.5	0.7	0.2	0.5	12.7	3.8	8.8	30.3	69.7
Mature	Root	Moderate	Healthy	5.8 ± 2.0	0.6	nd	0.6	10.8	nd	10.8	0.0	100.0
Mature	Root	Moderate	Infected	7.5 ± 0.7	1.8	0.7	1.1	23.9	9.7	14.2	40.6	59.4
Mature	Root	Moderate	Healthy	7.7 ± 1.8	0.6	nd	0.6	7.8	Nd	7.8	0.0	100.0
Seedling	Leaf	Tolerant	Uninoculated	73.3 ± 13.1	2.8	1.8	1.0	3.8	2.4	1.4	63.5	36.5
Seedling	Leaf	Tolerant	Inoculated	55.1 ± 31.2	2.3	1.4	0.9	4.2	2.5	1.6	61.3	38.7
Seedling	Leaf	Susceptible	Uninoculated	69.8 ± 25.7	2.6	1.6	1.0	3.7	2.3	1.4	63.0	37.0
Seedling	Leaf	Susceptible	Inoculated	62.5 ± 23.8	3.0	2.0	0.9	4.7	3.2	1.5	68.0	32.0
Seedling	Leaf	Moderate	Uninoculated	67.3 ± 16.8	2.1	1.2	0.8	3.1	1.9	1.2	59.9	40.1
Seedling	Leaf	Moderate	Inoculated	65.2 ± 13.4	3.0	1.9	1.1	4.5	2.9	1.6	63.8	36.2
Seedling	Leaf	Tolerant	Uninoculated	43.8 ± 16.5	1.0	0.7	0.3	2.4	1.6	0.7	69.4	30.6
Seedling	Leaf	Tolerant	Inoculated	43.6 ± 12.1	1.2	0.8	0.4	2.9	1.9	1.0	65.1	34.9
Seedling	Root	Susceptible	Uninoculated	45.8 ± 25.4	0.3	0.3	nd	0.6	0.6	nd	100.0	0.0
Seedling	Root	Susceptible	Inoculated	41.9 ± 13.5	1.0	0.7	0.4	2.5	1.6	0.9	62.5	37.5
Seedling	Root	Moderate	Uninoculated	39.4 ± 13.2	1.0	0.6	0.4	2.6	1.5	1.1	56.9	43.1
Seedling	Root	Moderate	Inoculated	38.0 ± 15.0	1.7	0.9	0.8	4.5	2.5	2.1	54.5	45.5

Note: Total lipids are represented as the mean ± SD ( $n = 3$ ), TL: total lipid, PI: polyisoprenoids, Pol: polyprenol, Dol: dolichol, nd: not detected

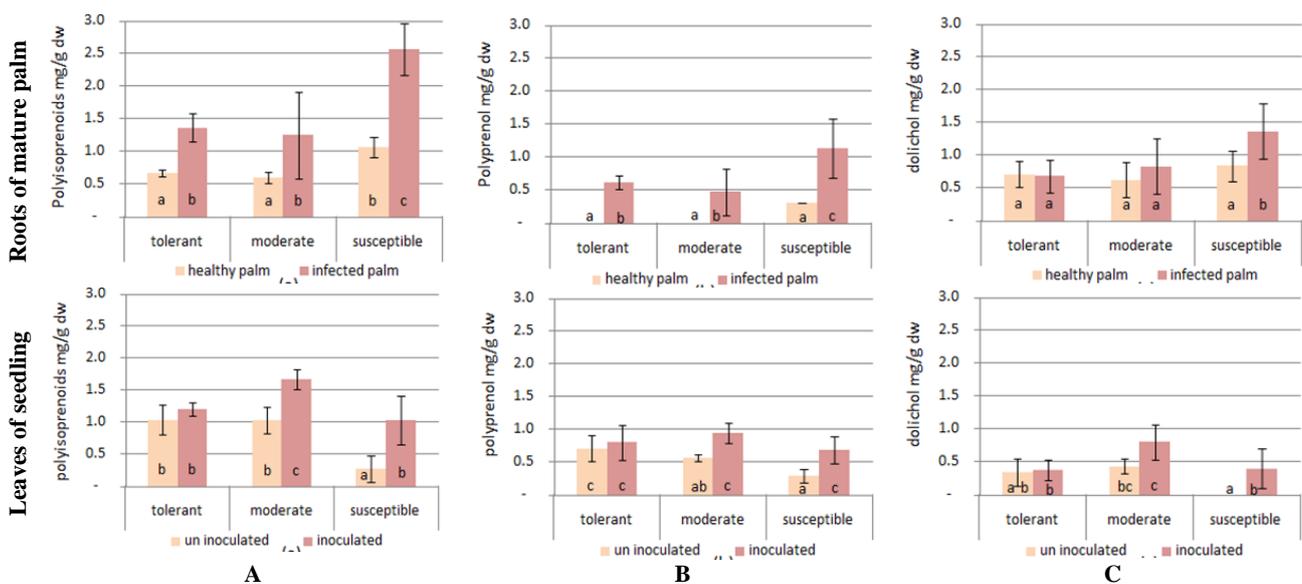


**Figure 1.** Content of polyisoprenoids (A), polyprenol (B), and dolichol (C) of oil palm leaves tissue. Data are represented as the mean ± SD ( $n = 3$ ). Different letter showing statistically significant differences  $P < 0.05$  by Duncan test

**Table 2.** Carbon-chain length of polyprenol and dolichol in oil palm tolerance to *Ganoderma boninense*

Stage	Tissue	Level	Treatment	Polyprenol*	Dolichol*
Mature	Leaf	Tolerant	Infected	45 <b>50 55 60</b> 65 .....80 85 90 95	45 <b>50 55</b> ..... <b>80 85 90 95</b> 100
Mature	Leaf	Tolerant	Healthy	45 <b>50 55 60</b> ..... 85 90	<b>50 55</b> ..... <b>80 85 90 95</b> 100
Mature	Leaf	Susceptible	Infected	45 <b>50 55 60</b> 65 .....80 85 90 95	<b>50 55</b> ..... <b>80 85 90 95</b> 100
Mature	Leaf	Susceptible	Healthy	45 <b>50 55 60</b> 65 .....85 90 95	<b>50 55</b> ..... <b>80 85 90 95</b> 100
Mature	Leaf	Moderate	Infected	45 <b>50 55 60</b> 65 ..... 90 95	<b>50 55</b> ..... <b>80 85 90 95</b> 100
Mature	Leaf	Moderate	Healthy	<b>50 55 60</b> 65 ..... 90 95	..... <b>80 85 90 95</b>
Mature	Leaf	Moderate	Infected	45 <b>50 55 60</b> 65 .....80 85 90 95 100	<b>50 55</b> ..... <b>80 85 90 95</b> 100 105
Mature	Leaf	Moderate	Healthy	45 <b>50 55 60</b> 65 .....80 85 90 95	<b>50 55 60</b> ..... <b>80 85 90 95</b> 100
Mature	Root	Tolerant	Infected	.....80 85 90 95 100	...75 <b>80 85 90 95</b> 100 105
Mature	Root	Tolerant	Healthy	nd	... <b>80 85 90 95</b> 100
Mature	Root	Susceptible	Infected	.....80 85 90 95 100	...75 <b>80 85 90 95</b> 100
Mature	Root	Susceptible	Healthy	nd	... <b>80 85 90 95</b>
Mature	Root	Moderate	Infected	.....90 95 100	... <b>80 85 90 95</b> 100
Mature	Root	Moderate	Healthy	nd	... <b>80 85 90 95</b> 100
Mature	Root	Moderate	Infected	.....85 90 95 100	...75 <b>80 85 90 95</b> 100 105
Mature	Root	Moderate	Healthy	nd	... <b>80 85 90 95</b> 100
Seedling	Leaf	Tolerant	Uninoculated	<b>45 50 55 60</b> .....85 90 95 100	<b>45 50 55</b> ..... <b>80 85 90 95</b> 100
Seedling	Leaf	Tolerant	Inoculated	<b>45 50 55 60</b> .....85 90 95 100	<b>45 50 55</b> ..... <b>80 85 90 95</b> 100
Seedling	Leaf	Susceptible	Uninoculated	<b>45 50 55 60</b> .....80 85 90 95	<b>45 50 55</b> .....75 <b>80 85 90 95</b>
Seedling	Leaf	Susceptible	Inoculated	<b>45 50 55 60</b> .....80 85 90 95	<b>45 50 55</b> ..... <b>80 85 90 95</b> 100
Seedling	Leaf	Moderate	Uninoculated	<b>45 50 55 60</b> .....85 90 95 100	<b>45 50 55</b> ..... <b>80 85 90 95</b> 100
Seedling	Leaf	Moderate	Inoculated	<b>45 50 55 60</b> .....85 90 95 100	<b>45 50 55</b> ..... <b>85 90 95</b> 100
Seedling	Leaf	Moderate	Uninoculated	<b>45 50 55 60</b> .....80 85 90 95	<b>45 50</b> ..... <b>85 90 95</b>
Seedling	Leaf	Moderate	Inoculated	<b>45 50 55 60</b> .....	<b>45 50 55</b> ..... <b>85 90 95</b>
Seedling	Root	Tolerant	Uninoculated	<b>65 70</b> .....90 95	...80 85 90
Seedling	Root	Tolerant	Inoculated	<b>65 70</b> .....90 95	...80 85 90
Seedling	Root	Susceptible	Uninoculated	.....90 95	nd
Seedling	Root	Susceptible	Inoculated	<b>65 70</b> .....90 95	...80 85 90 95
Seedling	Root	Moderate	Uninoculated	<b>65 70</b> .....90 95	...80 85 90
Seedling	Root	Moderate	Inoculated	<b>65 70</b> .....90 95 100	...80 85 90
Seedling	Root	Moderate	Uninoculated	<b>65 70</b> ...	nd
Seedling	Root	Moderate	Inoculated	<b>65 70</b> ...	nd

Note: \*The numbers refer to the carbon-chain length of the polyisoprenoid alcohols. The chain length of the primary polyisoprenoidalcohols in each tissue are indicated in bold. Data are represented as three independent experiments. nd: not detected



**Figure 2.** The content of Polyisoprenoids (A), polyprenol (B), and dolichol (C) of oil palm root tissue. Data are represented as the mean ± SD (n = 3). Different letter showing statistically significant differences  $P < 0.05$  by Duncan test

### Carbon-chain length of polyisoprenoid in oil palm

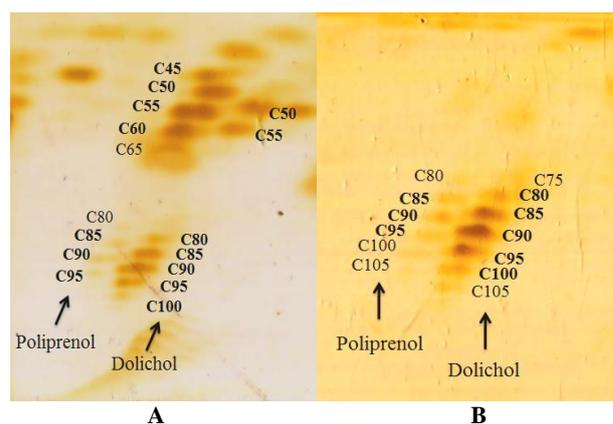
The carbon-chain length of polyisoprenoid in oil palm as shown in Table 2 varied according to the sample's growth stages and tissue types, even in the the same species and formed a particular family with dominant molecule species (Tateyama et al. 1999; Basyuni et al. 2016, 2017a,b). Therefore, in this study, the samples collected from plant groups with different tolerance response to *G. boninense* were sorted into same group of ages and growth stages. Thus, the composition of the carbon-chain length in each group was consistent and the differentiation among the tolerance level to *G. boninense* could be identified.

The carbon-chains of polyprenols and dolichols in mature palm leaves tissue are nearly similar to those in the seedlings leaves (Table 2/ Figure 2), as was suggested by the previous reports (Arifiyanto et al. 2017; Basyuni et al. 2018b). Difference in carbon-chain patterns was detected between leaves and root tissue, both in mature and seedling stages (Figures 3 and 4). In the mature palm roots tissue, there is no occurrence of carbon-chain polyprenols C<sub>45</sub>-C<sub>65</sub> and dolichols C<sub>50</sub>-C<sub>55</sub> (Figure 3(b)), only carbon chains of polyprenol C<sub>80</sub>-C<sub>105</sub> and dolichol C<sub>75</sub>-C<sub>105</sub> was observed (Figure 3(b)). A similar carbon-chain pattern was occurred in mature and seedling leaves tissue. In the roots tissue of seedlings, there is only a short carbon-chain of polyprenols C<sub>65</sub>-C<sub>70</sub> and C<sub>90</sub>-C<sub>95</sub> and dolichol C<sub>80</sub>-C<sub>90</sub> detected (Figures 4 and 5).

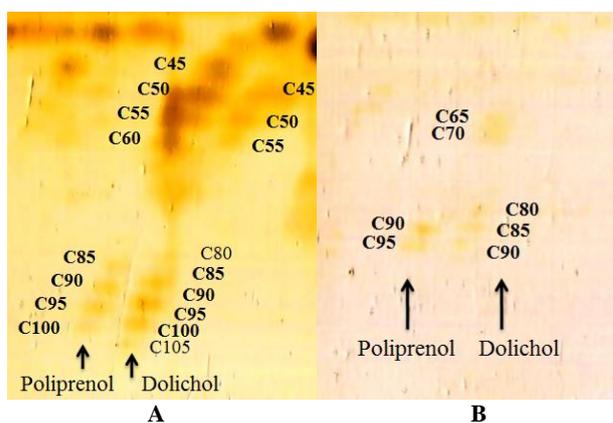
Differential carbon-chain patterns between oil palms with different tolerance levels were not explicitly detected in this study. The polyisoprenoid carbon-chain in the tolerant, moderate and susceptible oil palms showed inconsistent patterns (Table 2). However, we found a contrast polyprenol carbon-chains pattern in root tissues between the infected and uninoculated palms. C<sub>80</sub>-C<sub>100</sub> polyprenols were detected in the root tissue of the infected palm, but absent in the healthy palm (Figure 5). Furthermore, seedlings inoculated with *G. boninense* exhibited more complete array of polyprenol carbon-chains in their root tissues compared with the inoculated seedlings (Figure 6).

### Cluster analysis of polyisoprenoid data

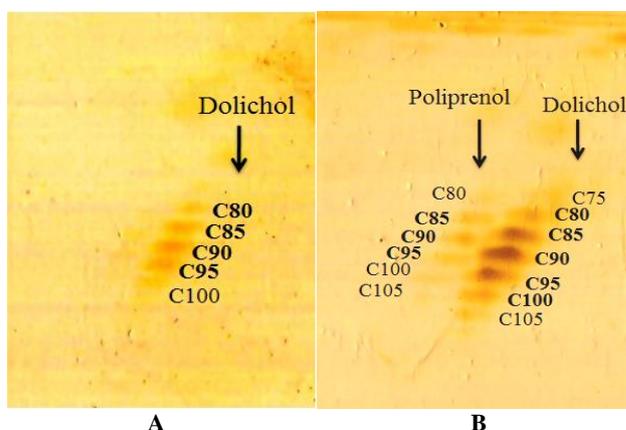
The pattern of carbon-chain was analyzed and translated into binary data and visualized into dendrogram using UPGMA method. The dendrogram was expected to group oil palm samples according to levels of tolerance to *G. boninense*. The first dendrogram uses all the samples from all parameters (Figure 7). The samples were clustered into two large groups at the similarity coefficient of 1.02, i.e., the groups of root and leaf tissues. This result suggests that there are distinct groups of polyisoprenoid carbon-chains pattern in root and leaf tissues of oil palm crops. Further groupings were observed at the similarity coefficient of 0.81, groups of root tissue, the mature and the seedling. Meanwhile, the grouping between mature and seedling leaves tissue was united at the coefficient of similarity 0.62.



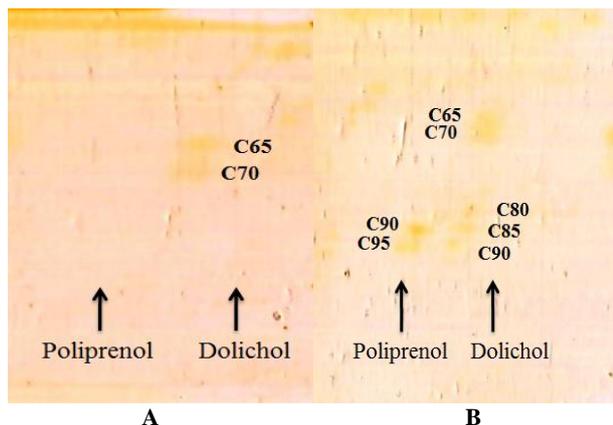
**Figure 3.** 2D-TLC chromatograms of polyisoprenoids from tolerant oil palm mature in leaves (A) and roots (B) tissue. The Carbon number refers to the carbon-chain length of polyisoprenoid alcohols



**Figure 4.** 2D-TLC chromatograms of polyisoprenoids from tolerant oil palm seedling in leaves (A) and roots (B) tissue. The Carbon number refers to the carbon-chain length of polyisoprenoid alcohols



**Figure 5.** 2D-TLC chromatograms of polyisoprenoids from healthy palm (A) and infected (B) by *Ganoderma* in tolerant oil palm mature root tissue. The Carbon number refers to the carbon-chain length of polyisoprenoid alcohols

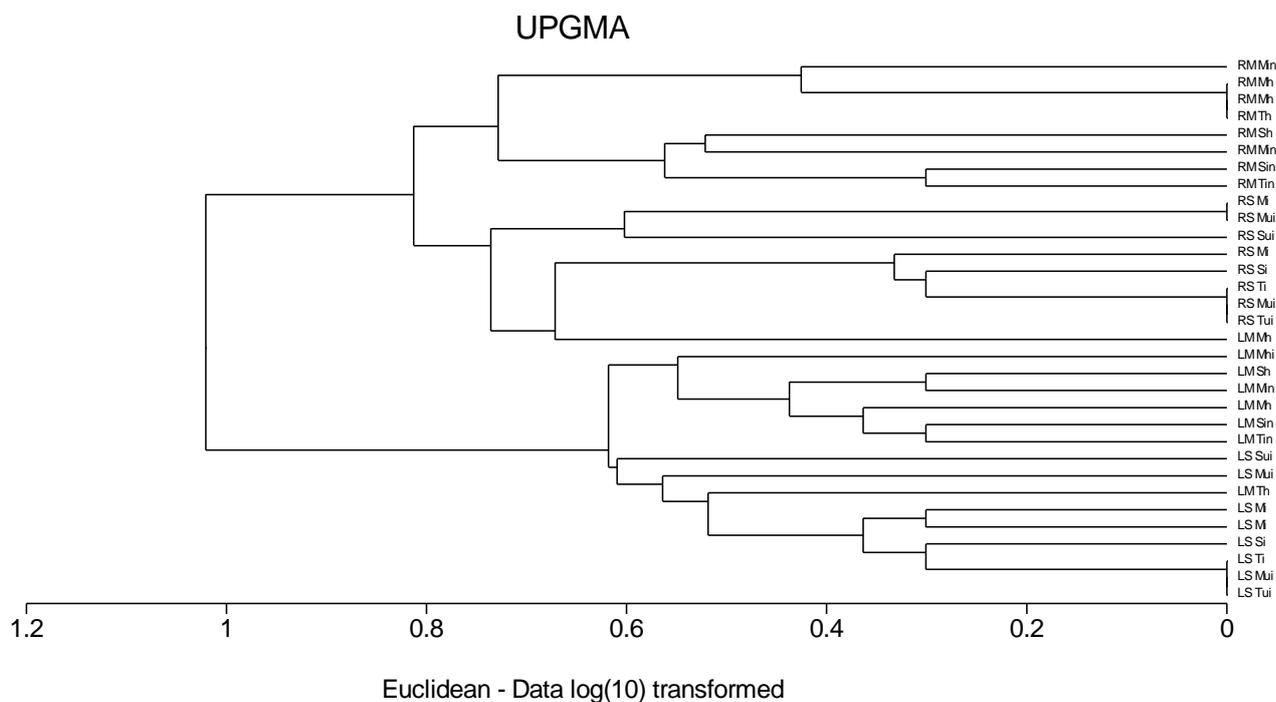


**Figure 6.** 2D-TLC chromatograms of polyisoprenoids from un-inoculated (A) and inoculated (B) with *Ganoderma* in susceptible oil palm seedling root tissue. The Carbon number refers to the carbon-chain length of polyisoprenoid alcohols

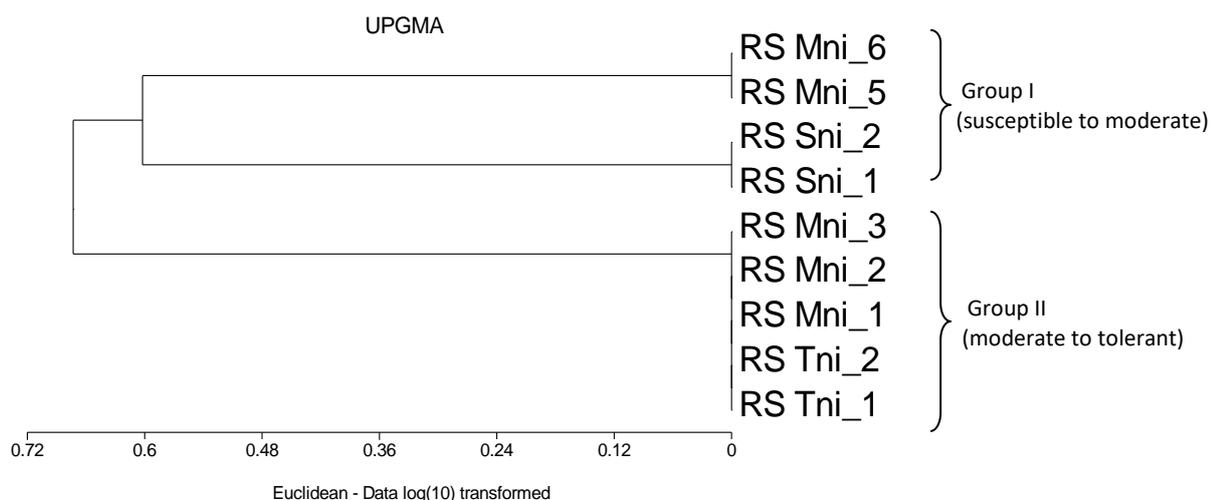
For grouping level of tolerance, cluster analysis was performed based on each parameter. A dendrogram was developed by considering different polyisoprenoids carbon-chain patterns between treatments, as a response of the plants to the treatment. The dendrogram is a diagram of UPGMA analysis based on polyisoprenoid carbon-chain in root tissue of oil palm seedlings that are not inoculated with *G. boninense* (Figure 8). The dendrogram shows a separation into two groups of tolerance occur at the coefficient of similarity of 0.67 (Figure 8). The first group (Group I) consisted of plants with susceptible to moderate

tolerance to *G. boninense*, and the second (Group II) comprised plants with moderate to tolerant response to *G. boninense*. The moderate plants are populations of individual palms generated from the segregation of susceptible and tolerant plants crossing. Moderate plants in group I may be a tolerant individual that has the same carbon-chain pattern as the tolerant plants or a susceptible plant that has the same carbon-chain pattern of susceptible plants as shown in Figure 8.

In root tissues of tolerant oil palm seedling, the carbon-chain of polyprenols and dolichol are C<sub>65</sub>-C<sub>70</sub> and C<sub>90</sub>-C<sub>95</sub>; and C<sub>80</sub>-C<sub>90</sub>, respectively, while in the susceptible seedlings, there is only one short carbon-chain observed (Table 3). When an external pathogen of *G. boninense* attacked, the plant responded by synthesizing more polyprenol or dolichol as a sugar carrier (Guan and Eicher 2011) in the cellulosic and hemicellulosic biosynthesis processes that are components of the cell wall damaged by *G. boninense* attack. Therefore, oil palm screening for tolerance to *G. boninense* with polyisoprenoid biochemical markers should be performed on healthy plants or without treatment of *G. boninense* inoculation. These data support an increase in polyprenol and dolichol in plants infected with pathogen. In un-inoculated seedlings have less polyisoprenoid contents (polyprenol and dolichol), but in inoculated plants (given attack) polyisoprenoid alcohol both polyprenols and dolichols increased. Likewise, in mature stage, infected plants have higher polyisoprenoids content as a form of defense response to the fungal pathogen attack.



**Figure 7.** The UPGMA dendrogram is depicting the similarity among 32 oil palm tolerance to *Ganoderma* from leaves and root tissue based on carbon-chain lengths of polyisoprenoids. R: Root tissue, L: Leaves tissue, M: Mature palm, S: Seedling stage, T: Tolerant, S: Susceptible, M: Moderate, h: Healthy plant, In: Infected, I: Inoculated ul: Un-inoculated



**Figure 8.** The UPGMA dendrogram depicts the group of oil palm tolerance to *Ganoderma* in the seedling stage from root tissue based on the carbon-chain lengths of polyisoprenoids. R: Root tissue, S: Seedling stage, Mni: moderate un-inoculated, Tni: tolerant un-inoculated, Sni: susceptible un-inoculated, 1, 2 etc: sample number 1, 2 etc.

**Table 3.** Carbon-chain length of polyprenol and dolichol in root tissues oil palm seedlings infected with *G. boninense*

Treatment	Family of female parent	Family of male parent	Tolerance level	Polyprenol*	Dolichol*
Uninoculated	SL 2980	SL 1837	Tolerant	65 70 .....90 95	...80 85 90
Seedlings (healthy)	PO 6144	SL 2787	Susceptible	.....90 95	nd
	PO 6144	SL 1837	Moderate	65 70 .....90 95	...80 85 90
	SL 2980	SL 2787	Moderate	65 70 ...	nd
<i>G. boninense</i> -infected seedlings	SL 2980	SL 1837	Tolerant	65 70 .....90 95	...80 85 90
	PO 6144	SL 2787	Susceptible	65 70 .....90 95	...80 85 90
	PO 6144	SL 1837	Moderate	65 70 .....90 95 100	...80 85 90
	SL 2980	SL 2787	Moderate	65 70 ...	nd

Note: \*The numbers refer to the carbon-chain length of the polyisoprenoid alcohols. Data are represented as three independent experiments. nd: not detected

In conclusion, polyisoprenoid profiles and polyisoprenoid carbon-chain pattern in the root tissue of the healthy oil palm plants were distinguishable from that of the *G. boninense*-infected oil palm, suggesting a biochemical response of the plant to *G. boninense* fungal pathogen attack. The difference in the polyisoprenoid carbon-chain pattern in the root of tolerant and susceptible oil palms is a potential biochemical marker for the screening and selection of plants tolerant to *G. boninense*.

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