

## Genetic diversity of *Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *Citri*, causal agent of citrus canker.

### ABSTRACT

A total of 25 samples of canker disease from different part of West Malaysia were isolated from three different hosts. After various diagnostic tests, the samples were identified as *Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *citri* (Xcc), and were also pathogenic to four tested citrus species. Molecular characterization using rep-PCR fingerprinting was carried out on the isolates. Cluster analysis using the combined banding patterns of ERIC and BOX-PCR clearly divided the isolates into different clusters according to their geographical origin, but not to their host species. A relatively high amount of genetic diversity was observed among isolates, as a group of isolates from a more restricted part of Malaysia separated from the rest with relatively low similarity, indicating that there might be distinct pathotypes of the bacterium present in Malaysia.

**Keyword:** Citrus; Citrus bacterial canker (CBC); Rep-PCR; Xcc.