



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***ASSOCIATION OF CANDIDATE GENES AND MOLECULAR MARKERS WITH  
MALE REPRODUCTIVE TRAITS AND MEAT QUALITY PROPERTIES IN BOER  
AND BOER CROSS GOATS***

**SAEID NIKBIN**

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REPRODUCTIVE TRAITS AND MEAT QUALITY PROPERTIES IN BOER AND BOER  
CROSS GOATS**

By

**SAEID NIKBIN**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia  
in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

**March 2013**

## **DEDICATION**

MY FATHER AND MOTHER

MY WIFE AND SON,

I Love You Forever



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in  
Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**ASSOCIATION OF CANDIDATE GENES AND MOLECULAR MARKERS  
WITH MALE REPRODUCTIVE TRAITS AND MEAT QUALITY  
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**Chairman : Professor Jothi Malar Panandam, PhD**

**Faculty : Agriculture**

Boer goats are popularly reared in Malaysia as pure breed or as crosses with the local goat populations. As such, identification of the factors influencing their meat production and reproduction is necessary in order to design optimal breeding and selection programs. Conventional selection methods are usually costly for traits which are expressed later in life and evaluated in adulthood, and may be inappropriate when animals need to be sacrificed for such evaluation to be carried out. Using candidate genes in the selection criteria for male reproduction traits may allow early selection thus decreasing the rearing cost, decrease generation interval and increase accuracy of selection. It is more important in the selection for meat quality traits as animals need not be slaughtered to confirm their genetic merit for these traits, thus making them available for breeding. This study aimed to identify

and elucidate the effects of functional candidate genes as well as non genetic factors on meat and semen quality traits in Boer goats and Boer crosses. This objective was accomplished through two independent studies.

In the first study, fresh and thawed 1-day and 6-month frozen semen from 36 Boer bucks and 17 Boer crosses were evaluated. The semen quality traits were analyzed for the effects of fixed factors and 17 candidate genes chosen based on their physiological or biological functions. The effects of age, population, cryopreservation period and some of their interactions on the semen quality traits were significant ( $P < 0.05$ ). Sperm motility and average velocity were 44.16 % and 96.35  $\mu\text{m/s}$ , respectively, after cryopreservation for 1 day, and 37.61 % and 90.04  $\mu\text{m/s}$ , respectively, after 6 months. The younger goats showed higher sperm motility (43.32 %) for fresh and (38.45 %) for post-thaw semen after six months than older bucks. Restriction fragment length polymorphism (PCR-RFLP) and single strand conformation polymorphism (SSCP) analysis and comparative sequencing revealed three single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP) in exon 3 of follicle stimulating hormone beta (*FSHB*), 200A>G (*FSHB3-1*), 226T>C (*FSHB3-2*) and 237A>G (*FSHB3-3*); two SNPs in the coding region of heat shock protein 70 (*HSP70*), 73A>C (*HSP70-1*) and 190C>G (*HSP70-2*); one SNP in exon 2 of Luteinizing hormone beta (*LHB*) (207T>C) (*LHB2*); and one SNP in 5'-UTR of neuropeptide Y (*NPY*) (182G>T) gene. There was also an indel in position 29 of *NPY3*. Analyses of variance revealed significant association of the candidate genes with libido and semen quality traits. The three SNPs of *FSHB3* had significant effect on libido ( $P < 0.05$ ), progressive motility and abnormality of fresh semen ( $P < 0.05$ ), and on motility, velocity and viability traits of post-thaw semen ( $P < 0.05$ ). The SNPs of *HSP70* were associated with libido, semen volume (VOL), sperm concentration

(SCON), motility traits and sperm viability of fresh semen ( $P < 0.05$ ) and with motility and viability traits of post-thaw semen ( $P < 0.05$ ). The two SNPs of *NPY* gene influenced libido ( $P < 0.05$ ), progressive motility (PROG) of fresh semen ( $P < 0.05$ ), and motility traits, velocity traits, amplitude lateral sperm head (ALH), straightness (STR), linearity (LIN) and acrosome integrity (ACI) of post-thaw semen ( $P < 0.05$ ).

In the second study, carcass characteristics and meat quality traits of 30 Boer goats, which were either not transported or transported in low or high stocking density before slaughter, were evaluated. The effects of non genetic factors and 24 candidate genes chosen for their known physiological or biological functions were investigated. The effects of aging, transportation and muscle types and their interactions were significant on meat quality traits ( $P < 0.05$ ). The transported goats showed a significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) decrease in meat pH and tenderness at Day 0. Aging caused a drop of pH and increased meat tenderness. PCR-RFLP (restriction fragment length polymorphism) and sequencing analysis revealed one SNP in growth hormone (*GH*) gene, and two SNPs in the coding region of *HSP70* gene, 73A>C (*HSP70-1*) and 190C>G (*HSP70-2*); and two SNPs in the coding region of *HSP27b*, 119T>C (*HSP27b-1*) and 132C>G (*HSP27b-2*). Analyses of variance showed significant association of *GH4-HaeIII* with carcass dressing percentage ( $P < 0.05$ ); the two SNPs of *HSP70* were associated with pH, glycogen content, drip loss, cooking loss, redness ( $a^*$ ) and chroma ( $P < 0.05$ ); while the two SNPs of *HSP27b-1* were associated with calpastatin level and drip loss shear force ( $P < 0.05$ ).

The results of the present study shows there are candidate genes associated with semen quality as well as carcass and meat quality traits of Boer goats and Boer crosses. These genes may be targeted and used in marker assisted selection for the

respective traits to improve the production and reproduction performance of the animals.



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**PERHUBUNGAN GEN CALON DAN PENANDA MOLEKUL DENGAN  
TRAIT PEMBIAKAN JANTAN DAN CIRI KUALITI DAGING DALAM  
KAMBING BOER DAN KACUKAN BOER**

Oleh

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Mac 2013

**Pengerusi : Profesor Jothi Malar Panandam, PhD**

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Kambing Boer diternak secara popular di Malaysia sebagai baka tulen atau kacukan dengan populasi kambing tempatan. Oleh kerana itu, penganpastian faktor yang mempengaruhi pengeluaran daging dan reproduksi kambing Boer adalah perlu untuk merancang program pembiakbakaan dan pemilihan yang optima. Kaedah pemilihan konvensional biasanya menyebabkan kos yang lebih untuk trait yang dinyatakan lambat dalam hidup dan dinilai pada yang dewasa, dan mungkin tidak bersesuaian apabila ternakan perlu dikorban untuk membuat penilaian berkenaan. Menggunakan gen calon dalam kriteria pemilihan untuk trait pembiakan jantan boleh membenarkan pemilihan awal dan maka mengurangkan kos penternakan, mengurangkan selang generasi dan meningkatkan ketepatan pemilihan. Ia adalah lebih penting dalam pemilihan untuk trait kualiti daging oleh kerana ternakan tidak perlu disembelih untuk mengesahkan merit genetik mereka untuk trait tersebut, dengan itu membolehkan mereka digunakan untuk pembiakan. Kajian ini adalah bertujuan



untuk mengenal pasti dan menjelaskan kesan gen calon berfungsi serta faktor bukan genetik ke atas trait kualiti daging dan air mani bagi kambing Boer dan kacukan Boer. Objektif tersebut tercapai melalui dua kajian bebas.

Dalam kajian pertama, air mani segar dan yang dicairkan selepas beku 1-hari dan 6 bulan daripada 36 ekor kambing jantan Boer dan 17 ekor kacukan Boer telah dinilai. Trait kualiti air mani dianalisa untuk kesan faktor-faktor tetap dan 17 gen calon yang dipilih berdasarkan fungsi fisiologi atau biologi mereka. Kesan umur, populasi, tempoh krioawetan dan beberapa kesan interaksi ke atas ciri-ciri kualiti air mani adalah signifikan ( $P < 0.05$ ). Motiliti dan halaju min sperma adalah 44.16% dan 96.35  $\mu\text{m/s}$ , masing-masing, selepas krioawetan untuk 1 hari, dan 37.61% dan 90.04  $\mu\text{m/s}$ , masing-masing, selepas 6 bulan. Kambing muda menunjukkan motiliti sperma yang lebih tinggi dalam air mani segar (43.32%) dan yang dicairkan selepas enam bulan (38.45%) daripada jantan yang lebih tua. Analisis *restriction fragment length polymorphism* (PCR-RFLP) dan *single strand conformation polymorphism* (SSCP) dan penjujukan perbandingan mendedahkan tiga *single nucleotide polymorphisms* (SNP) di exon 3 gen *follicle stimulating hormone beta* (*FSHB*), 200A>G (*FSHB3-1*), 226T>C (*FSHB3-2*) dan 237A>G (*FSHB3-3*); dua SNP di rantau pengekodan gen *heat shock protein 70* (*HSP70*), 73A>C (*HSP70-1*) dan 190C>G (*HSP70-2*); satu SNP di exon 2 gen *luteinizing hormone beta* (*LHB*) (207T>C) (*LHB2*); dan satu SNP di 5'-UTR gen *neuropeptide Y* (*NPY*) (182G>T). Terdapat juga *indel* dalam kedudukan 29 *NPY3*. Analisis varians menunjukkan hubungan yang signifikan antara gen calon dengan ciri-ciri libido dan kualiti air mani. Tiga SNP *FSHB3* mempunyai kesan ketara ke atas libido ( $P < 0.05$ ), motiliti progresif dan keabnormalan air mani segar ( $P < 0.05$ ), dan motiliti, halaju dan daya hidup ciri-ciri air mani terbeku pasca-cair ( $P < 0.05$ ). SNPs daripada *HSP70* berhubung dengan libido, isipadu air mani,

kepekatan sperma, trait motiliti dan daya hidup sperma air mani segar ( $P < 0.05$ ), dan dengan trait motiliti dan viability air mani pasca-cair ( $P < 0.05$ ). Dua SNP gen *NPY* mempengaruhi libido ( $P < 0.05$ ), motility progresif air mani segar ( $P < 0.05$ ), dan trait motiliti, trait halaju dan amplitud sisi kepala sperma air mani pasca-cair ( $P < 0.05$ ).

Dalam kajian kedua, ciri-ciri karkas dan trait kualiti daging 30 ekor kambing Boer, yang sama ada tidak diangkut atau diangkut dalam stok kepadatan rendah atau tinggi sebelum disembelih, telah dinilai. Kesan faktor bukan genetik dan 24 gen calon yang dipilih kerana fungsi fisiologi atau biologi mereka telah disiasat. Kesan *aging*, pengangkutan dan jenis otot dan interaksi antara mereka ke atas ciri-ciri kualiti daging adalah ketara ( $P < 0.05$ ). Kambing yang diangkut menunjukkan penurunan yang ketara ( $P < 0.05$ ) dalam pH daging dan kelembutan pada Hari 0. *Aging* menyebabkan penurunan pH dan peningkatan kelembutan daging. PCR-RFLP dan analisis penjujukan mendedahkan satu SNP dalam gen growth hormone (*GH*), dan dua SNP di rantau pengekodan gen *HSP70*, 73A>C (*HSP70-1*) dan 190C>G (*HSP70-2*); dan dua SNP di rantau pengekodan *HSP27b*, 119T>C (*HSP27b-1*) dan 132C>G (*HSP27b-2*). Analisis varians menunjukkan perhubungan yang ketara *GH4-HaeIII* dengan *carcass dressing percentage* ( $P < 0.05$ ); dua SNP *HSP70* dengan pH, kandungan glikogen, kehilangan titisan, kehilangan memasak,  $a^*$  dan kroma ( $P < 0.05$ ); dan dua SNP *HSP27b-1* dengan tahap *calpastatin*, titisan kehilangan dan *shear force* ( $P < 0.05$ ).

Keputusan kajian ini menunjukkan terdapat gen calon yang dikaitkan dengan kualiti air mani serta ciri-ciri kualiti karkas dan daging kambing Boer dan kacukan Boer. Gen-gen tersebut boleh digunakan dalam pemilihan dibantu penanda untuk trait tertentu untuk meningkatkan pengeluaran dan prestasi pembiakan haiwan.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 19 March 2013 to conduct the final examination of Saeid Nikbin on his Doctor of Philosophy thesis entitled “Association of Candidate Genes and Molecular Markers with Male Reproductive Traits and Meat Quality Properties in Boer and Boer Cross Goats” in accordance with Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

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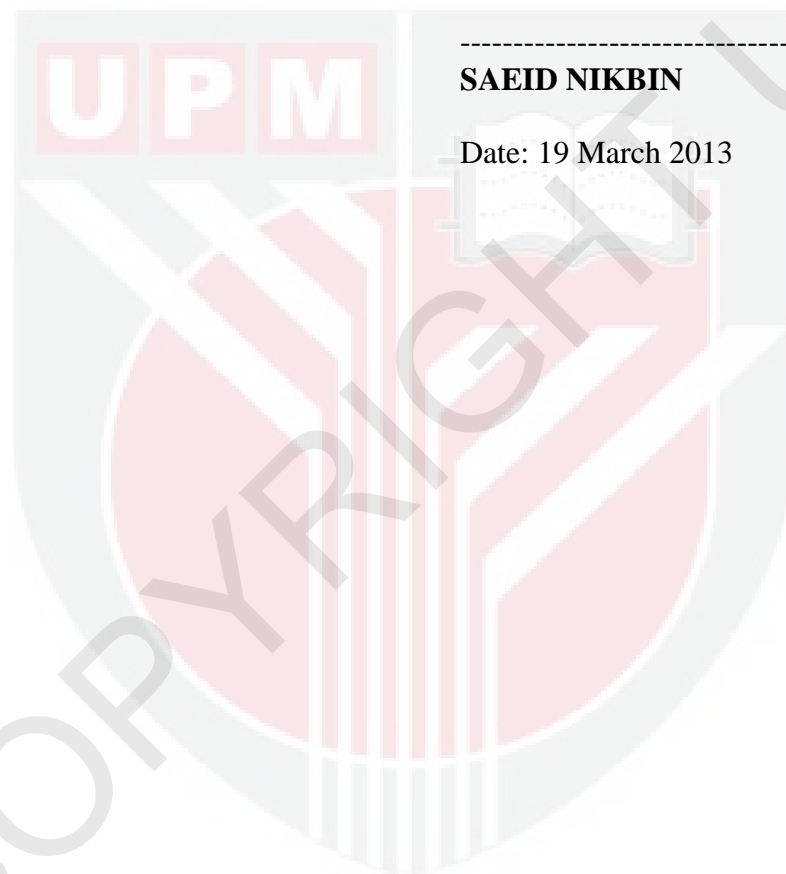
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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations, which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or other institutions.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

<b>ABSTRACT</b>	iii
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	vii
<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENTS</b>	x
<b>APPROVAL</b>	xii
<b>DECLARATION</b>	xiv
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	xviii
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	xxi
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	xxiii

### CHAPTER

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Research Problem	3
1.2	Research Hypothesis	3
1.3	Objectives	3
1.3.1	General objective	3
1.3.2	Specific objectives	4
<b>2</b>	<b>LITREATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Importance of goat and it geographical distribution in the world	5
2.2	Goat Industry in Malaysia	6
2.3	Important Traits in Meat Goats	8
2.4	Libido	9
2.5	Semen Quality Traits	9
2.5.1	Factors Affecting Fresh and Frozen semen Quality Traits..	12
2.5.2	Biochemical and hormonal pathway controlling of semen Quality	13
2.6	Meat Quality	14
2.6.1	Meat quality traits	14
2.6.2	Factors affecting meat quality traits	18
2.6.3	Biochemical and physiological pathway controlling of meat quality	19
2.7	Boer goat	21
2.7.1	Strategy for improvement of trait in Boer goat	22
2.8	DNA Markers	23
2.9	Genetic improvement in goats	26
2.9.1	Conventional Breeding Programs	26
2.9.2	Marker assisted selection	29
2.10	Candidate Genes for Semen Quality Traits	29
2.10.1	Follicle stimulating hormone ( <i>FSH</i> )	30
2.10.2	Luteinising hormone ( <i>LH</i> )	31
2.10.3	Neuropeptide Y ( <i>NPY</i> )	32
2.10.4	Heat shock protein ( <i>HSP</i> )	32
2.10.5	Prolactin	33
2.11	Candidate Genes for Meat Quality Traits	33
2.11.1	Calpain	34
2.11.2	Calpastatin ( <i>CAST</i> )	35
2.11.3	Growth hormone ( <i>GH</i> )	35



2.11.4	Heat Shock Protein (HSP)	36
2.11.5	Insulin like Growth Factor (IGF)	37
2.11.6	Leptin	38
2.11.7	Myostatin	38
2.11.8	Stearoyl-CoA Desaturase (SCD)	39
2.11.9	Pro-Melanin Concentrating Hormone (PMCH)	39
<b>3</b>	<b>ASSOCIATION OF CANDIDATE GENE WITH SEMEN TRAITS IN BOER GOATS AND BOER CROSSES</b>	<b>41</b>
3.1	Introduction	41
3.2	Materials and Methods	43
3.2.1	Experimental sites	43
3.2.2	Experimental animals	44
3.2.3	Preparation of bucks for semen collection	44
3.2.4	Libido score	44
3.2.5	Semen collection and freezing	45
3.2.6	Semen evaluation	46
3.2.7	DNA extraction	49
3.2.8	Candidate genes and primer sequences	53
3.2.9	Statistical Analysis	60
3.3	Results	62
3.3.1	Sperm quality traits between Boer and Boer cross populations	62
3.3.2	Polymorphism of candidate genes for semen quality traits	74
3.3.3	Association between libido and semen quality traits and candidate genes	86
3.4	DISCUSSION	103
3.4.1	Effect of the fixed factors on libido and semen quality traits	103
3.4.2	Candidate genes polymorphisms and their association with libido score and semen quality traits	106
<b>4</b>	<b>ASSOCIATION OF THE CANDIDATE GENE WITH MEAT QUALITY TRAITS</b>	<b>118</b>
4.1	Introduction	118
4.2	Material and Methods	120
4.2.1	Experimental animals	120
4.2.2	Slaughtering and sampling procedure	121
4.2.3	Body weight loss and carcass traits	122
4.2.4	Meat quality traits	123
4.2.5	DNA extraction	130
4.2.6	Candidate genes and primer sequences	131
4.2.7	Statistical analysis	138
4.3	Results	142
4.3.1	Carcass quality traits of Boer goats	142
4.3.2	Carcass characteristics	143
4.3.3	Meat quality traits	144
4.3.4	Polymorphism of candidate genes for carcass characteristics and meat quality traits	156

4.3.5	Analysis of association between genotypes and phenotypes	162
4.4	Discussion	172
4.4.1	Effect of the fixed factors on carcass characteristics and meat quality traits	172
4.4.2	Polymorphism of Candidate genes and their association with carcass and meat quality traits	182
<b>5</b>	<b>GENERAL DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION</b>	<b>196</b>
	<b>REFERENCE</b>	<b>204</b>
	<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>241</b>
	<b>BIODATA OF STUDENT</b>	<b>267</b>
	<b>LIST OF PUBLICATIONS</b>	<b>268</b>

