PHYLOGEOGRAPHICAL PATTERNS OF NEOBALANOCARPUS HEIMII (DIPTEROCARPACEAE) FOR THE EVOLUTIONARY HISTORY AND CHAIN OF CUSTODY CERTIFICATION

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THESIS SUBMITTED IN FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

FACULTY OF SCIENCE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA KUALA LUMPUR

2010

CORAK FILOGEOGRAFI *NEOBALANOCARPUS HEIMII* (DIPTEROCARPACEAE) UNTUK SEJARAH EVOLUSI DAN RANGKAIAN PENSIJILAN KUSTODI

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TESIS YANG DIKEMUKAKAN UNTUK MEMENUHI SYARAT MEMPEROLEHI IJAZAH DOKTOR FALSAFAH

FAKULTI SAINS UNIVERSITI MALAYA KUALA LUMPUR

2010

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ABSTRACT

Tectonic movement and climatic oscillations during the Cenozoic have had dramatic effect on the biota of the tropical rain forest. This study aims to reveal the phylogeography and evolutionary history of a Peninsular Malaysian endemic tropical timber, Neobalanocarpus heimii (Dipterocarpaceae), based on chloroplast DNA (cpDNA) variation. Fifteen haplotypes were identified from 10 intraspecific variable sites of five non-coding cpDNA regions: trnL intron, trnS-trnG spacer, trnG intron, trnK intron and psbK-trnS spacer. Two major genealogical cpDNA lineages of N. heimii were elucidated: a widespread southern and a northern region. The species is predicted to survive in multiple refugia during climatic oscillation: the northwestern region (R1: Sungkop), the northeastern region (R2: Gunung Basur), and the southern region (R3: Panti compartment 16). Recolonization of refugia R1 and R2 could have first expanded into the northern region and migrated both northeastwardly and northwestwardly. Meanwhile, recolonization of N. heimii throughout the southern region could have commenced from refugia R3, and migrated toward northeast and northwest respectively. The populations of Tersang, Pasir Raja and Rotan Tunggal exhibited remarkably high haplotype diversity, which could have been the contact zones that received an admixture of organisms from the northerly and also southerly regions. As a whole, understanding the past history of the extant populations is of the utmost importance when developing sound conservation policies or sustainable management strategies.

The inbuilt unique properties of DNA within the timber could serve as tracking and monitoring tools to verify the legality of a suspected timber in the context of illegal logging, forest certification and chain of custody certification. By using *N. heimii* as an example, a population identification database and a haplotype distribution map in Peninsular Malaysia were generated for authenticity testing based on four cpDNA markers (*trnL* intron, *trn*G intron, *trn*K intron and *psb*K-*trn*S spacer). Twenty-one haplotypes were identified from 10 significant intraspecific variable sites. The results

clearly revealed that only the northern and southern regions of Peninsular Malaysia were distinguishable. Thus, this database could only be used to determine the wood lot of unknown origin at the regional level. Statistical procedure based on the composition of the wood lot was used to test whether a suspected timber conforms to a given regional origin. Overall, the observed types I and II errors of the database showed good concordance with the predicted 5% threshold, which might indicate that the database is useful to reveal provenance and establish conformity of wood lot from the northern and southern regions of Peninsular Malaysia. In terms of application, this database could be applied to traceability in two different circumstances: (1) to verify the provenance of a wood lot in the context of forest certification and chain of custody certification and (2) to identify the potential population of origin of the suspected illegal harvested wood lot.

Wood can be a good source of DNA for various applications in forensic forestry and timber trade if high quality DNA can be retrieved from the dry wood. In order to provide a general guideline for DNA authenticity testing established for N. heimii, this study was designed to evaluate the potential for extracting DNA from the dry wood of N. heimii using the Oiagen kit, CTAB, and CTAB with PTB protocols. Overall, the efficacy of DNA extraction was higher for the cambium and sapwood than for the heartwood tissues. In terms of tissue types, the Qiagen kit yielded higher PCR amplification rates from the cambium tissue, while the CTAB with PTB protocol showed higher amplification rates in the sapwood and heartwood tissues. In order to safeguard the intactness of the DNA, it is recommended that DNA extraction from the wood should be carried out within six weeks after felling for logs and six months after felling for stumps. The results also showed that the amplicon size might not account for the PCR amplification success rate and chloroplast genome yielded higher amplification success rate compared with nuclear genome. Additionally, the PCR amplifications also showed that both the nuclear and chloroplast regions can be retrieved from lumber that was heat-treated at 40 °C to 100 °C, although the phenomena of allelic dropout and inconsistency of genotyping were noted for some of the nuclear regions. In short, the guideline obtained from this study are ready to be used together with the population and

individual identification databases developed for the timber tracking system of *N. heimii* in Peninsular Malaysia.

ABSTRAK

Pergerakan tektonik dan perubahan iklim semasa Senozoik memberi kesan yang dramatis ke atas biota dalam hutan hujan tropikal. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mendedahkan filogeografi dan sejarah evolusi bagi salah satu balak tropikal yang endemis di Semenanjung Malaysia, iaitu Neobalanocarpus heimii (Dipterocarpaceae) dengan berdasarkan variasi DNA kloroplas (cpDNA). Daripada lima kawasan bukan pengekodan cpDNA: intron trnL, penjarak trnS-trnG, intron trnG, intron trnK dan penjarak psbK-trnS, 15 haplotip telah dikenalpasti daripada 10 kawasan jujukan berubah yang intraspesifik. Dua genealogi cpDNA yang utama bagi N. heimii telah ditemui di sebelah kawasan utara dan selatan. Spesies ini dijangka hidup dalam pelbagai refugia semasa perubahan iklim, iaitu di kawasan utara-barat (R1: Sungkop), kawasan utara-timur (R2: Gunung Basur) dan kawasan selatan (R3: Panti bahagian 16). Penghijrahan N. heimii dari refugia R1 dan R2 mungkin diperluaskan ke kawasan utara pada permulaan, dan kemudian berpindah secara beransur-ansur ke sebelah utara-timur dan utara-barat. Pada masa yang sama, penghijrahan N. heimii ke kawasan selatan mungkin berpunca daripada refugia R3, dan kemudian berhijrah ke kawasan utara-timur dan utara-barat. Antaranya, populasi Tersang, Pasir Raja dan Rotan Tunggal menunjukkan kepelbagaian haplotip yang tinggi. Ini mungkin disebabkan oleh populasi tersebut merupakan zon pertemuan yang menerima campuran organisma daripada kawasan utara dan selatan. Secara keseluruhan, memahami sejarah lepas untuk populasi yang masih wujud ini adalah amat penting apabila menyediakan polisi pemuliharaan atau strategi pengurusan secara berkekalan.

Dalam konteks pembalakan haram, pensijilan hutan dan rangkaian pensijilan kustodi, kandungan DNA yang unik dalam kayu balak boleh dijadikan sebagai alat pengesan dan pengawas untuk menguji kesahan kayu balak. Dengan menggunakan *N. heimii* sebagai contoh, pangkalan data untuk identifikasi populasi dan peta taburan haplotip di Semenanjung Malaysia telah dijana untuk ujian kesahan berdasarkan empat penanda cpDNA (intron *trn*L, intron *trn*G, intron *trn*K dan penjarak *psb*K-*trn*S).

Antaranya, 21 haplotip telah dikenalpasti daripada 10 kawasan jujukan berubah yang penting dari segi intraspesifik. Keputusan dengan jelasnya menunjukkan terdapat perbezaan antara kawasan utara dan selatan Semenanjung Malaysia. Maka, pangkalan data ini hanya dapat digunakan untuk menentusahkan punca sesuatu kayu balak sama ada berasal daripada kawasan utara atau selatan sahaja. Prosedur statistik yang berdasarkan komposisi kayu telah digunakan untuk menguji sama ada kayu balak yang dicurigai akur dengan kawasan asal yang diisytihar. Secara keseluruhan, ralat cerapan jenis I dan II untuk pangkalan data menunjukkan keselarasan yang baik dengan jangkaan ambang sebanyak 5%. Ini juga menunjukkan bahawa pangkalan data ini adalah sesuai digunapakai untuk menentukan asal-usul dan konformasi kayu balak sama ada berasal daripada kawasan utara atau selatan Semenanjung Malaysia. Pendek kata, pangkalan data ini boleh digunakan untuk sistem pengesanan balak dalam dua situasi, (1) menentusahkan asal-usul kayu balak dalam konteks pensijilan hutan dan rangkaian pensijilan kustodi, dan (2) mengenal pasti populasi asal untuk balak yang ditebang secara haram.

Kayu merupakan sumber DNA yang sesuai untuk pelbagai aplikasi forensic perhutanan dan perdagangan kayu balak jika DNA yang berkualiti tinggi dapat diekstrak daripada kayu. Dengan tujuan menghasilkan satu panduan untuk ujian kesahan DNA yang telah dijana bagi *N. heimii*, kajian ini direka bentuk untuk menilai kebolehan mengekstrak DNA daripada kayu dengan menggunakan protokol kit Qiagen, CTAB dan CTAB dengan PTB. Secara keseluruhan, keberkesanan pengekstrakkan DNA adalah lebih tinggi untuk tisu kambium dan sapwood berbanding dengan tisu heartwood. Dari segi jenis tisu, protokol kit Qiagen menghasilkan kadar amplifikasi PCR yang lebih tinggi untuk tisu kambium, manakala protokol CTAB dengan PTB menunjukkan kadar amplifikasi yang tinggi dalam tisu sapwood dan heartwood. Untuk memastikan kesempurnaan DNA, pengekstrakkan DNA daripada bahagian balak perlulah dilakukan dalam masa enam minggu selepas ditebang, manakala enam bulan untuk bahagian tunggul. Keputusan ini juga menunjukkan saiz amplikon tidak mempengaruhi kadar amplifikasi yang lebih tinggi berbanding dengan genom nukleus. Selain itu, amplifikasi PCR juga menunjukkan kedua-dua DNA nukleus dan kloroplas dapat diekstrak daripada kayu yang dipanaskan daripada 40 °C ke 100 °C, walaupun berlakunya fenomena keciciran alel dan ketidaktekalan pengenotipan untuk sesetengah lokus nukleus. Pendek kata, keputusan yang diperoleh daripada kajian ini boleh diguna bersama dengan pangkalan data identifikasi populasi dan individu yang dijana bagi sistem pengesanan balak *N. heimii* di Semenanjung Malaysia.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like express my deepest thanks and appreciation to my supervisor, Dr. Lee Soon Leong, from the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM). His generous advice, encouragement and support, which extended far beyond the call of duty and academic relationships, are highly appreciated. My deepest gratitude is also extended to Professor Dr. Rofina Yasmin Othman and Dr. Subha Bhassu from the University of Malaya for their huge contributions, guidance and keen interest in my research. Their criticisms, support and valuable suggestions were most helpful throughout the process of completing this thesis.

My special thanks go to the Director General of FRIM, Dato' Dr. Abdul Latif Mohmod, for granting me a scholarship to pursue the study. I also thank my Divisional Director, Dr. Norwati Muhammad, for her encouragement and unending support. The Forest Departments of Kedah, Perak, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Johor, Pahang, Terengganu and Kelantan are acknowledged for granting me permission to access the forest reserves. I thank the District Forest Officers and the staffs of the Renjer Offices who provided assistance and logistic support during the field trips. Special thanks and profound gratitude are due to Dr. Naoki Tani, who guided and assisted me throughout the statistical analyses.

I am deeply indebted to my Genetics Laboratory colleagues, Dr. Lee Chai Ting, Dr. Kevin Ng Kit Siong and Dr. Ng Chin Hong who guided me and coached me throughout. I also thank Dr. Norwati Adnan, Dr. Norlia Basherudin, Dr. Siti Salwana Hashim and Mr. Mohd Rosli Haron who gave their help directly or indirectly. My sincerest thanks go to Mariam Din, Ghazali Jaafar, Yahya Marhani, Ramli Ponyoh, Sharifah Talib, Suryani Che Seman, Nurul Hudaini Mamat and Nor Salwah Abdul Wahid for their excellent assistance in the laboratory and the field. All research group members were helpful with their information. All my friends at FRIM, especially Dr. Ho Wai Mun, Ms. Sun Wan Fong, and Mr. Brian Yap Jing Wei, gave much support and encouragement.

This study was supported in part by the e-Science Research Grant (02-03-10-SF0009) entitled "Development of DNA barcode of *Neobalanocarpus heimii* (chengal) as a tool for forensics and chain of custody certification" and the Bioversity International Agreement No. APO 05/016.

Last but not least, I owe my deepest appreciation and thanks to my parents, Mr. Tnah Boon Keat and Madam Low Soo Chow, and parents-in-law, Mr. Tan Seng Wah and Madam Tan Siok Gern and all the family members for their concern, care and encouragement throughout the study. To my beloved husband Kay Win, I cannot express how much his love, support and understanding have meant to me over the years and I look forward to their continuity in the years to come. My lovely daughter Kyanne Tan, who has been my wonderful companion throughout the study, has provided the incentive for the successful completion of this study. I dedicate this thesis to them and to all those who are always inspired by values but not discouraged by their high prices.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
ABS	ГКАСТ	V
ABS	ГКАК	viii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS		
LIST	T OF TABLES	XV
LIST	OF FIGURES	xvii
LIST	OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS	XX
СНА	PTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
СНА	PTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW	7
2.1	Phylogeography	7
	2.1.1 Geological time scales	8
	2.1.2 Geological events and climatic changes in Southeast Asia	8
	2.1.3 Origin of tropical rain forest	11
	2.1.4 Evidence of climate change and areas of continuing rain forest	13
	2.1.5 The persistence of rain forest refugia in Peninsular Malaysia	14
2.2	Tracing the geographic origin	15
	2.2.1 Issues of illegal logging, forest certification, eco-labelling, and chain of custody certification	15
	2.2.2 Authenticity testing and databases for traceability	17
2.3	DNA extraction from dry wood	19
	2.3.1 General consideration in plant DNA extraction	19
	2.3.2 Structure of wood	22
2.4	Chloroplast DNA markers	24
2.5	Description of Neobalanocarpus heimii (King) Ashton	28
СН	APTER 3: PHYLOGEOGRAPHICAL PATTERN AND	
	EVOLUTIONARY HISTORY OF AN IMPORTANT	
	PENINSULAR MALAYSIA TIMBER SPECIES,	
3 1	Introduction	32
3.1	Materials and methods	36
5.4	3.2.1 Sample collection and DNA extraction	36
	3.2.2 PCR amplifications and sequencing	36
	3.2.3 Statistical analyses	39
3.3	Results	40
2.2	3.3.1 Chloroplast DNA variability and genetic diversity	40

	3.3.2	Genetic differentiation	41
	3.3.3	Haplotype distribution and relationship inferred from NCPA	45
3.4	Discussion		52
	3.4.1	Hypothetical phylogeographical history	52
	3.4.2	Genealogical lineages	54
	3.4.3	Three potential refugia recognized in Peninsular Malaysia	56
	3.4.4	Post-glacial recolonization routes	57
	3.4.5	Implications for conservation	58

CHAPTER 4: GEOGRAPHICAL TRACEABILITY OF AN IMPORTANT TROPICAL TIMBER (Neobalanocarpus Heimii) INFERRED FROM CHLOROPLAST DNA

4.1	Introduction		60
4.2	Materials and methods		63
	4.2.1	Sample collection and DNA extraction	63
	4.2.2	PCR amplifications and sequencing	63
	4.2.3	Population identification database and test of conformity of	65
		origin	
4.3	Results		66
	4.3.1	Population identification database and haplotype distribution	66
	4.3.2	Test of conformity of origin	68
4.4	Discus	ssion	71

CHAPTER 5: DNA EXTRACTION FROM DRY WOOD OF Neobalanocarpus heimii FOR FORENSIC DNA PROFILING AND TIMBER TRACKING

5.1	Introd	uction	74
5.2	Mater	ials and methods	76
	5.2.1	Plant material	76
	5.2.2	DNA extraction protocol	77
	5.2.3	DNA quantification	78
	5.2.4	PCR amplification, genotyping and sequencing	79
5.3	Results		80
	5.3.1	DNA extraction protocols for cambium, sapwood and	80
		heartwood	
	5.3.2	Optimal preservation period of wood for DNA extraction	84
	5.3.3	Effect of amplicon size and genome's copy number	84
	5.3.4	Effect on heat-treated lumber	89
5.4	Discu	ssion	89
CHA	PTER	6: CONCLUSION	96
REFI	ERENG	CES	102
APPENDIX: PUBLISHED MANUSCRIPT			

Table

- 3.1 Sampling localities chosen for the population of the *Neobalanocarpus* 37 *heimii* in Peninsular Malaysia accompanied with the population code and their haplotypes. Eight samples per population were used in this study.
- 3.2 Five universal chloroplast DNA primer pairs used in this study. 38
- 3.3 Distribution of intraspecific variable sites in the five noncoding region 42 of chloroplast DNA (*trnL* intron, *trnS-trnG* spacer, *trnG* intron, *trnK* intron and *psbK-trnS* spacer) of *Neobalanocarpus heimii* in Peninsular Malaysia.
- 3.4 Population of *Neobalanocarpus heimii* with haplotype and nucleotide 43 diversity associated with the results of Tajima's D neutrality test.
- 3.5 Hierarchical analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA) of 44 *Neobalanocarpus heimii* based on two different grouping schemes.
- 3.6 Population structure of *Neobalanocarpus heimii* for the northern region, 46 southern region and the whole Peninsular Malaysia. Values in parenthesis are standard deviation.
- 3.7 Nested contingency analysis of geographic associations and their 53 interpretations according to the inference key of Templeton *et al.*, (2005) for 32 populations of *Neobalanocarpus heimii* in Peninsular Malaysia. Clade numbers refer to numbers reported in Figure 3.5.
- 4.1 Sampling localities chosen for the population of the *Neobalanocarpus* 64 *heimii* in Peninsular Malaysia accompanied by the population codes.
 Eight samples per population were used in this study.
- 4.2 Distribution of significant intraspecific variable sites in the non-coding 67 region of chloroplast DNA of *Neobalanocarpus heimii* in the population identification database. The positions of the variable sites in the *trnL* intron, *trn*G intron, *trn*K intron and *psbK-trn*S spacer, and (-) deletion are indicated.
- 5.1 Results of PCR amplification comparing three DNA extraction methods: 82 the Qiagen kit, CTAB, and CTAB with PTB protocols for logs. Logs are labelled as 1–8. Number 1 corresponds to logs immediately felled, numbers 2–8 correspond to logs preserved for two, four, six weeks and

three, six, nine and 12 months, respectively (numbers indicate amplification and dashes (-) indicate no amplification).

- 5.2 Results of PCR amplification comparing three DNA extraction methods: 83 the Qiagen kit, CTAB and CTAB, with PTB protocols for stumps. Stumps are labelled as 1–8. Number 1 corresponds to stumps of trees immediately felled, numbers 2–8 correspond to stumps preserved for two, four, six weeks and three, six, nine and 12 months, respectively (numbers indicate amplification and dashes (-) indicate no amplification).
- 5.3 PCR amplification tested on DNA extracted from lumber that had 90 undergone drying process from 40 °C to 100 °C using the CTAB with PTB method. Symbol '+' indicates amplification.

Figure

Page

- 2.1 The International Stratigraphic Chart summarizing the set of 9 chronostratigraphic units (geologic stages, periods) and their computed ages, which are the main framework for Geologic Time Scale 2004 (Grastein *et al.*, 2004).
- 2.2 Map of Sundaland at the Last Glacial Maximum (adapted from Bird *et 12 al.*, 2005), showing "savanna corridor" proposed by Heaney (1991). Glacial refugia sites inferred from palynology, geomorphology and biogeography data are denoted by circles (Emmel & Curray, 1982, Bird *et al.*, 2005; Quek *et al.*, 2007).
- 2.3 Cross-section of a *Neobalanocarpus heimii* trunk: outer bark, inner 23 bark, cambium, sapwood, heartwood and pith.
- 2.4 Gene map of the chloroplast genome from *Nicotiana tabacum*. Genes 26 shown on the inside of the circle are transcribed clockwise, and those on the outside are transcribed counter- clockwise. Genes for transfer RNAs are represented by 1-letter code of amino acids with anticodons. Asterisks denote split genes. Open-reading frames are shown by orf plus codon number (≥70 codons). When two genes overlap, the one that is located downstream or inside the other gene is displayed with a lower-height box (by Yukawa *et al.*, 2005).
- 2.5 Morphological characteristics of *Neobalanocarpus heimii*. (A) the 29 mature tree; (B) leaf; (C) fruits of the mature tree; (D) intact seeds; (E) seedlings; (F) stipules and (G) the largest tree of *N. heimii* in Pasir Raja Forest Reserve, Peninsular Malaysia.
- 3.1 (a) Postulated distribution of land and sea in Southeast Asia at 15 Ma
 33 (Middle Miocene, adapted from Hall, 1998), everwet tropical rain forests were widespread across the region (Morley, 2000). Land areas are shaded in green colour and shallow sea in light grey; (b) Sundaland at the Last Glacial Maximum (adapted from Bird *et al.*, 2005), showing "savanna corridor" proposed by Heaney (1991). Glacial refugia sites inferred from palynology, geomorphology and biogeography data are denoted by circles (Emmel & Curray, 1982; Bird *et al.*, 2005; Quek *et al.*, 2007).
- 3.2 Relationship between pairwise population F_{ST} and geographical 47 distance of *Neobalanocarpus heimii* for the (a) whole 32 populations of Peninsular Malaysia (Mantel test of correlation, r = 0.619, P = 0.0000),

(b) southern region (Mantel test of correlation, r = 0.288, P = 0.0082), and (c) northern region (Mantel test of correlation, r = -0.027, P = 0.5720).

- 3.3 Contribution of each population of *Neobalanocarpus heimii* to the total 48 diversity, as described by the haplotype richness (*CTR*). Circles represent total diversity; solid and open bars represent contributions of differentiation and diversity to the total diversity, respectively.
- 3.4 Locations of 32 populations of *Neobalanocarpus heimii* in 29 forest 49 reserves of Peninsular Malaysia. The geographical distribution of cpDNA haplotypes (h1-h15) in each population is shown and haplotypes are colour coded and their frequencies are indicated by sectors of pies.
- 3.5 The resolved cpDNA haplotype network and resulting set of nested 51 clades for *Neobalanocarpus heimii*. Each line connecting one haplotype to another indicates one mutational step. The relative sizes of the circles represent the frequency of these haplotypes and unsampled haplotypes are represented by square box.
- 3.6 (a) Distribution of potential refugia sites (R1, R2 and R3) inferred for 55 Neobalanocarpus heimii and special phytogeographical subprovinces recognized in Peninsular Malaysia include (1) Perak subprovince, (2) rough extent of core of seasonal Asiantic intrusion, and (3) the Riau Pocket (Corner. 1960: Ashton. Hypothetical 1992): (b) phylogeographical history of N. heimii in Peninsular Malaysia. Region in black indicates mountain range and arrows indicate putative recolonization routes from the R1, R2 and R3.
- 4.1 Locations of 32 populations of *Neobalanocarpus heimii* from 29 forest 69 reserves of Peninsular Malaysia. The distributions of 13 haplotypes in the population identification database that occurred in more than two individuals are shown in different colours. The remaining eight unique haplotypes that occurred in only one individual are each shown in black.
- 4.2 Simulation of the number of wood samples/lots considered as 70 non-conformity with the size of lot ranging from 1–100, originating from the southern and northern of Peninsular Malaysia were tested against the southern and northern regions of population identification database.
- 5.1 Agarose gel (0.85%) showing total DNA extracted from the 81 cambium, sapwood and heartwood tissues using three extraction methods performed immediately after felling: the Qiagen kit (lane

2: cambium, lane 3: sapwood and lane 4: heartwood); the CTAB method (lane 5: cambium, lane 6: sapwood and lane 7: heartwood); the CTAB with PTB method (lane 8: cambium, lane 9: sapwood and lane 10: heartwood) and after 12 months preservation: the Qiagen kit (lane 12: cambium, lane 13: sapwood and lane 14: heartwood); the CTAB method (lane 15: cambium, lane 16: sapwood and lane 17: heartwood); the CTAB method (lane 15: cambium, lane 16: sapwood and lane 17: heartwood); the CTAB method (lane 15: cambium, lane 16: sapwood and lane 17: heartwood); the CTAB with PTB method (lane 18: cambium, lane 19: sapwood and lane 20: heartwood). Lane 1 and 11 denote for MassRuler DNA Ladder (Fermentas).

- 5.2 Three different DNA extraction methods were compared for logs and 85 stumps using the cambium, sapwood and heartwood tissues.
- 5.3 PCR amplification success rates of DNA extracted from the cambium, 86 sapwood and heartwood tissues for logs using the Qiagen kit. The amplifications were performed for nuclear and chloroplast regions immediately after felling (start) and two (2w), four (4w), six weeks (6w) and three (3m), six (6m), nine (9m) and 12 months (12m) of preservation.
- 5.4 PCR amplification success rates of DNA extracted from the cambium, 87 sapwood and heartwood tissues for stumps using the CTAB with PTB method. The amplifications were performed for nuclear and chloroplast regions immediately after felling (start) and two (2w), four (4w), six weeks (6w) and three (3m), six (6m), nine (9m) and 12 months (12m) of preservation.
- 5.5 PCR amplification success rate related to amplified fragment length 88 and genome's copy number for logs and stumps (open squares indicate nuclear STR and black triangles indicate chloroplast DNA).
- 5.6 The problems of allelic dropout and inconsistency of genotyping were 91 observed for DNA amplified from heat-treated lumber using nuclear STR. Genotypes of loci *Nhe011*, *Hbi161*, *Sle392* and *Shc07* for control and heat-treated lumber are shown.

LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	Asia Forest Partnership
AFLP	Amplified fragment length polymorphism
AMOVA	Analysis of molecular variance
bp	Base pair
BSA	Bovine serum albumin
CAPS	Cleaved amplified polymorphic sequences (CAPS)
cpDNA	Chloroplast DNA
cpSSR	Chloroplast microsatellites
CSA	Canadian Standards Association
CTAB	Hexadecyltrimethyl-ammonium bromide
DIECA	Diethyldithiocarbamic acid
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
dNTP	2'-deoxynucleoside 5'-triphosphate
EDTA	Diaminoethanetetra-acetic acid
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FR	Forest Reserve
FRIM	Forest Research Institute Malaysia
HCl	Hydrochloric acid
Indel	Insertion and deletion
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
kbp	Kilobase pair
KCl	Potassium chloride
LGM	Last glacial maximum
MgCl ₂	Magnesium chloride
min	Minute
MTC	Malaysian Timber Council
MTCC	Malaysian Timber Certification Council
Ma	Million years ago

NaCl	Sodium chloride
NCPA	Nested Clade Phylogeographic Analysis
NH ₄ OAc	Ammonium acetate
nSTR	Nuclear Short Tandem Repeat
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes
РТВ	N-phenacylthiazolium bromide
PVP	Polyvinylpyrrolidone
RFLP	Restriction fragment length polymorphism
SDS	Sodium dodecyl sulphate
S	Second
SFI	Sustainable Forestry Initiative
STR	Short tandem repeat
TAE	Tris-acetate EDTA
TBE	Tris-borate EDTA
TE	Tris-EDTA
Tris	Trishydroxymethylaminomethane