

**EFFECTS OF DIFFERENT EQUILIBRATION
DURATION, VAPOUR EXPOSURE TEMPERATURE AND
VAPOUR EXPOSURE DURATION ON THE SPERM
FREEZABILITY OF THAI MAHSEER (*Tor tambroides*)**

SHHRULZAMAN BIN SHAHARUDDIN

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
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ABSTRACT

The experiment was carried out to determine the effects of equilibration duration, vapour exposure temperature and vapour exposure duration in sperm cryopreservation protocol for *Tor tambroides* fish using modified Fish Ringer Extender (FRE); and subsequently used in experiment to develop optimal combination of equilibration duration, vapour exposure temperature and vapour exposure duration. Also, an experiment was performed to compare the frozen-thawed sperm characteristics between low temperature incubator and normal refrigerator during cryopreservation process; and the results have been utilised for subsequent final experiment in attempt of the transfer of technology from laboratory to the field condition for the sperm cryopreservation of *Tor tambroides* under field condition.

The freezing process under laboratory ambient was conducted in freezing laboratory, ISB Mini Farm (Livestock), University of Malaya in which a total of 20 Thai mahseer male fish was involved. The freezing process under field condition was carried out in Taman Negara Sg. Relau (Merapoh), Pahang which included a total of 17 Thai mahseer male fish. The mature Thai mahseer males were induced hormonally by injection of Ovaprim (0.5 ml/kg) 24 hours before the milt collection process. Semen was collected by gentle squeezing using centrifuge tube. The collected semen was diluted with Fish Ringer Solution (FRS) at 1:10 ratio after which was mixed with DMSO (10% of the diluent). The mixture was loaded into the 0.25/0.50 ml French straws and sealed. Subsequently the freezing process was carried out and stored in liquid nitrogen tank. Straws were thawed in water bath at 30°C for 1 minute for evaluation of the sperm. Sperm motility characteristics for frozen-thawed sperm were evaluated using an Automated Semen Analyzer (IVOS, Hamilton-Thorne). The effect of factors and parameters were statistically analysed using one-way ANOVA and Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT).

Duration of 30 minutes equilibration gave higher total motility ($67.31 \pm 1.27\%$) than 45 and 60 minutes ($61.93 \pm 1.31\%$ and $65.09 \pm 1.02\%$, respectively) durations for Thai mahseer sperm cryopreservation protocol. Among three temperatures used for vapour exposure phase in this study, -110°C was considered to be the most suitable temperature which obtained the highest values in total motility and progressive motility ($68.53 \pm 1.13\%$ and $15.75 \pm 0.61\%$, respectively) compared to -100°C ($60.74 \pm 1.41\%$ and $11.65 \pm 0.68\%$, respectively) and -120°C ($65.07 \pm 0.99\%$ and $12.56 \pm 0.56\%$, respectively). Meanwhile, 15 minutes of vapour exposure duration produced the highest values of total motility and progressive motility ($65.25 \pm 1.25\%$ and $14.83 \pm 0.71\%$, respectively) compared to 5 ($63.87 \pm 1.31\%$ and $12.31 \pm 0.58\%$, respectively) and 10 minutes durations ($65.21 \pm 1.09\%$ and $12.82 \pm 0.58\%$, respectively). Combination of 30 minutes of equilibration duration, -110°C of vapour exposure temperature and 10 minutes of vapour exposure duration; combination of 30 minutes of equilibration duration, -110°C of vapour exposure temperature and 15 minutes of vapour exposure duration; and combination of 30 minutes of equilibration duration, -120°C of vapour exposure temperature and 15 minutes of vapour exposure duration were considered as three optimal combinations in sperm cryopreservation of Thai mahseer and were used in subsequent experiment.

Combination of 30 minutes of equilibration duration, -110°C of vapour exposure temperature and 15 minutes of vapour exposure duration showed the highest values in total motility and progressive motility ($72.80 \pm 2.85\%$ and $21.20 \pm 4.02\%$, respectively) compared to other two combinations [($72.40 \pm 2.27\%$ and $16.80 \pm 2.22\%$, respectively) and ($70.80 \pm 2.35\%$ and $18.20 \pm 2.48\%$, respectively)] used. Both low temperature incubator and normal refrigerator attained the same effect during the equilibration phase which showed no significant differences when using all equilibration durations (30, 45 and 60 minutes) in

total motility (ranging from $97.07\pm0.74\%$ to $97.60\pm0.50\%$, from $87.80\pm1.74\%$ to $88.40\pm1.59\%$ and from $88.33\pm1.59\%$ to $88.67\pm1.87\%$, respectively) and progressive motility (ranging from $34.60\pm4.04\%$ to $38.60\pm4.16\%$, from $23.13\pm2.16\%$ to $23.93\pm2.95\%$ and from $21.13\pm1.83\%$ to $21.47\pm2.48\%$, respectively) values. As for comparison, the freezing process under laboratory ambient produced higher values in total motility, progressive motility, rapid, medium, slow and ALH ($75.03\pm1.49\%$, $19.47\pm1.46\%$, $24.80\pm1.83\%$, $10.23\pm0.74\%$, $38.53\pm1.52\%$ and $3.26\pm0.12\ \mu\text{m}$, respectively) compared to freezing process under field condition ($35.81\pm1.69\%$, $8.96\pm0.64\%$, $10.36\pm0.75\%$, $4.76\pm0.37\%$, $23.11\pm1.36\%$ and $2.95\pm0.10\ \mu\text{m}$, respectively). However, the most interesting facts from this attempt, there were no significant differences in VAP, VSL, VCL, BCF, STR and LIN values between the freezing under laboratory ambient and field condition with a range from $41.54\pm0.91\ \mu\text{m/s}$ to $43.53\pm1.33\ \mu\text{m/s}$, from $37.24\pm0.90\ \mu\text{m/s}$ to $38.10\pm1.28\ \mu\text{m/s}$, $57.30\pm0.95\ \mu\text{m/s}$ to $61.16\pm1.35\ \mu\text{m/s}$, from $24.96\pm0.62\ \text{Hz}$ to $25.48\pm1.04\ \text{Hz}$, from $86.33\pm0.53\%$ to $87.94\pm0.44\%$ and from $62.03\pm1.20\%$ to $62.93\pm0.69\%$, respectively.

In summary, the results demonstrate that the Thai Mahseer sperm could be cryopreserved using modified Fish Ringer Extender (mFRE) with good frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics both under laboratory ambient as well as field condition.

ABSTRAK

Eksperimen ini dijalankan bertujuan untuk menentukan kesan tempoh pengimbangan, suhu pengewapan dan tempoh pengewapan dalam protokol penyejukbekuan sperma ikan kelah (*Tor tambroides*) menggunakan ‘*modified Fish Ringer Extender (mFRE)*’; dan seterusnya digunakan dalam eksperimen untuk membentuk kombinasi optimal untuk masa pengimbangan, suhu pengewapan dan jangka masa pengewapan. Di samping itu, eksperimen ini dilakukan untuk membandingkan ciri-ciri sperma yang dinyahbeku antara proses penyejukbekuan menggunakan inkubator suhu rendah dan peti sejuk biasa; dan keputusannya akan dimanfaatkan dalam eksperimen terakhir yang seterusnya iaitu percubaan untuk memindahkan teknologi penyejukbekuan sperm ikan kelah (*Tor tambroides*) dari persekitaran makmal ke keadaan persekitaran semula jadi.

Proses penyejukbekuan di bawah persekitaran makmal telah dijalankan di makmal penyejukbekuan, Ladang Mini ISB (Ternakan), Universiti Malaya di mana melibatkan 20 ekor ikan kelah jantan. Sejumlah 17 ekor ikan kelah digunakan bagi proses sejukbeku di bawah keadaan persekitaran semula jadi yang telah dilakukan di Taman Negara Sg. Relau (Merapoh), Pahang. Ikan kelah jantan yang matang distimulasi secara hormon dengan suntikan ‘Ovaprim’ (0.5 ml/kg) pada 24 jam sebelum proses pengumpulan semen dijalankan. Pengumpulan semen dilakukan dengan mengurut bahagian abdomen secara perlahan-lahan dan menggunakan tiub pengemparan. Semen yang telah dikutip akan dicairkan dengan ‘*modified Fish Ringer Solution (mFRS)*’ pada kadar 1:10 dan campuran itu dicampurkan dengan DMSO (10% daripada campuran tersebut). Campuran akan dimasukkan ke dalam 0.25/0.50 ml ‘*French straws*’ dan diterakan. Kemudian, straw-straw tersebut akan melalui proses penyejukbekuan dan disimpan di dalam tangki cecair nitrogen. Straw akan dinyahbeku di dalam pemanas air pada 30°C selama 1 minit untuk

analisis sperma tersebut. Ciri-ciri motiliti sperma yang dinyahbeku akan dianalisis dengan menggunakan mesin penganalisis sperma secara automatik (IVOS, Hamilton-Thorne). Kesan faktor-faktor dan parameter-parameter yang diukur dianalisis secara statistik dengan menggunakan ‘*one-way ANOVA*’ dan ‘*Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT)*’.

Tempoh pengewapan selama 30 minit memberikan motiliti menyeluruh ($67.31 \pm 1.27\%$) yang lebih tinggi berbanding tempoh 45 dan 60 minit ($61.93 \pm 1.31\%$ dan $65.09 \pm 1.02\%$, masing-masing) dalam protokol penyejukbekuan sperma ikan kelah. Antara tiga suhu pengewapan yang digunakan dalam kajian ini, -110°C disimpulkan sebagai suhu yang paling sesuai di mana memperolehi nilai paling tinggi dalam motility menyeluruh dan motility progresif ($68.53 \pm 1.13\%$ dan $15.75 \pm 0.61\%$, masing-masing) berbanding -100°C ($60.74 \pm 1.41\%$ dan $11.65 \pm 0.68\%$, masing-masing) dan -120°C ($65.07 \pm 0.99\%$ dan $12.56 \pm 0.56\%$, masing-masing). Selain itu, tempoh pengewapan selama 15 minit menghasilkan nilai paling tinggi dalam motility menyeluruh dan motiliti progresif ($65.25 \pm 1.25\%$ dan $14.83 \pm 0.71\%$, masing-masing) berbanding tempoh 5 minit ($63.87 \pm 1.31\%$ dan $12.31 \pm 0.58\%$, masing-masing) dan 10 minit ($65.21 \pm 1.09\%$ dan $12.82 \pm 0.58\%$, masing-masing). Antara tiga kombinasi terbaik dalam proses sejukbeku ikan kelah ini ialah 30 minit tempoh pengimbangan, -110°C suhu pengewapan dan 10 minit tempoh pengewapan; 30 minit tempoh pengimbangan, -110°C suhu pengewapan dan 15 minit tempoh pengewapan; dan 30 minit tempoh pengimbangan, -120°C suhu pengewapan dan 15 minit tempoh pengewapan

Kombinasi 30 minit tempoh pengimbangan, -110°C suhu pengewapan dan 15 minit tempoh pengewapan telah menunjukkan nilai tertinggi dalam motility menyeluruh dan motiliti progresif ($72.80 \pm 2.85\%$ dan $21.20 \pm 4.02\%$, masing-masing) berbanding dua kombinasi lain yang telah digunakan [($72.40 \pm 2.27\%$ dan $16.80 \pm 2.22\%$, masing-masing)

dan ($70.80 \pm 2.35\%$ dan $18.20 \pm 2.48\%$, masing-masing)]. Kedua-dua inkubator suhu rendah dan peti sejuk biasa mengalami kesan yang sama semasa fasa pengimbangan di mana tiada perbezaan yang signifikan menggunakan semua tempoh pengimbangan (30, 45 dan 60 minit) dalam nilai-nilai motiliti menyeluruh (berjulat dari $97.07 \pm 0.74\%$ ke $97.60 \pm 0.50\%$, dari $87.80 \pm 1.74\%$ ke $88.40 \pm 1.59\%$ dan dari $88.33 \pm 1.59\%$ ke $88.67 \pm 1.87\%$, masing-masing) dan motiliti progresif (berjulat dari $34.60 \pm 4.04\%$ ke $38.60 \pm 4.16\%$, dari $23.13 \pm 2.16\%$ ke $23.93 \pm 2.95\%$ dan dari $21.13 \pm 1.83\%$ ke $21.47 \pm 2.48\%$, masing-masing). Sebagai perbandingan, proses penyejukbekuan yang dijalankan di bawah persekitaran makmal menunjukkan perbezaan yang signifikan dalam motiliti menyeluruh, motiliti progresif, taburan sperma laju, taburan sperma sederhana, taburan sperma perlahan dan ALH ($75.03 \pm 1.49\%$, $19.47 \pm 1.46\%$, $24.80 \pm 1.83\%$, $10.23 \pm 0.74\%$, $38.53 \pm 1.52\%$ dan $3.26 \pm 0.12 \mu\text{m}$, masing-masing) berbanding proses penyejukbekuan yang dilakukan di bawah keadaan persekitaraan semula jadi ($35.81 \pm 1.69\%$, $8.96 \pm 0.64\%$, $10.36 \pm 0.75\%$, $4.76 \pm 0.37\%$, $23.11 \pm 1.36\%$ dan $2.95 \pm 0.10 \mu\text{m}$, masing-masing). Walaubagaimanapun, fakta-fakta menarik yang didapati daripada eksperimen ini, tiada perbezaan signifikan dalam nilai-nilai VAP, VSL, VCL, BCF, STR dan LIN antara penyejukbekuan di bawah persekitaran makmal dan keadaan persekitaran semula jadi berjulat dari $41.54 \pm 0.91 \mu\text{m/s}$ ke $43.53 \pm 1.33 \mu\text{m/s}$, dari $37.24 \pm 0.90 \mu\text{m/s}$ ke $38.10 \pm 1.28 \mu\text{m/s}$, dari $57.30 \pm 0.95 \mu\text{m/s}$ ke $61.16 \pm 1.35 \mu\text{m/s}$, dari $24.96 \pm 0.62 \text{ Hz}$ ke $25.48 \pm 1.04 \text{ Hz}$, dari $86.33 \pm 0.53\%$ ke $87.94 \pm 0.44\%$ dan dari $62.03 \pm 1.20\%$ ke $62.93 \pm 0.69\%$, masing-masing.

Secara keseluruhan, keputusan-keputusan dari eksperimen ini menunjukkan sperma ikan kelah boleh disejukbekukan menggunakan '*modified Fish Ringer Extender (mFRE)*' dengan menghasilkan ciri-ciri motiliti sperma yang dinyahbeku di bawah persekitaran makmal mahupun keadaan persekitaran semula jadi.

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2. Shahrulzaman, S., W.E. Wan Khadijah and R.B. Abdullah. 2010. Sperm cryopreservation of thai mahseer (*Tor tambroides, kelah*) under field condition. Proceedings of the 31th Malaysian Society of Animal Production, June 6-8, Kota Bahru, Malaysia. pp. 168-169 (Abstract).
3. Shahrulzaman, W.E. Wan Khadijah and R.B. Abdullah. 2010. Effects of equilibration duration on frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics in Thai mahseer (*Tor tambroides, kelah*). Proceedings of the 7th Annual Asian Reproductive Biotechnology Society Conference, November 8-10, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. p. 93 (Abstract).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents	Page
ABSTRACT	i
ABSTRAK	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vii
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	ix
TABLE OF CONTENTS	x
LIST OF TABLES	xvi
LIST OF FIGURES	xxi
ABBREVIATIONS	xxii
Chapter 1	
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY	1
1.2 STATEMENT OF PROBLEMS	6
1.3 JUSTIFICATION	7
1.4 APPLICATION	8
1.5 OBJECTIVES	9
Chapter 2	
2.0 REVIEW OF LITERATURE	10
2.1 FISH SPERM	10
2.1.1 General Fish Morphology and Characteristics	10
2.1.2 Fish Spermatogenesis	11
2.2 FACTORS AFFECTING THE QUALITY OF SPERM	13
3.2.1 Biotic Factor	13

2.2.1.1	Individual genetic inheritance and species-dependent fish	13
2.2.1.2	Intra-testicular aging of sperm	14
2.2.1.3	Spawning season	14
2.2.1.4	Gradient of ionic and sperm motility induction	15
2.2.2	Abiotic Factor	17
2.2.2.1	Nutrition	17
2.2.2.2	Temperature and photoperiod	18
2.2.2.3	Stress	19
2.2.2.4	Urine contamination	20
2.3	FISH SPERM CRYOPRESERVATION	21
2.3.1	Sperm Cryopreservation	21
2.3.2	History of Fish Sperm Cryopreservation	23
2.3.3	Advantage of Sperm Cryopreservation	24
2.4	SPERM CRYOPRESERVATION PROCEDURE DEVELOPMENT	25
2.4.1	Sperm Collection	26
2.4.2	Extender Selection	26
2.4.3	Cryoprotectant Agent	29
2.4.4	Samples Packaging for Freezing	32
2.4.5	Equilibration Duration	33
2.4.6	Freezing phase	34
2.4.7	Storage of Cryopreserved Sperm	35
2.4.8	Thawing Phase	36
2.4.9	Semen Analysis	37

2.5	SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES IN SPERM CRYOPRESERVATION OF FISH	39
Chapter 3		
3.0	MATERIALS AND METHODS	50
3.1	LOCATION OF STUDY	50
3.2	MATERIALS	50
3.2.1	Animal Experiment and Maintenance	50
3.2.2	Equipment, Instruments and Consumables	51
3.2.3	Chemicals, Solutions and Reagents	51
3.3	METHODS	52
3.3.1	Modified Fish Ringer Solution (mFRS) Preparation	52
3.3.2	Ovaprim Injection	53
3.3.3	Collection of Milt	54
3.3.4	Pre-sperm Viability Checking	55
3.3.5	Diluted Sperm	56
3.3.6	Sperm Enveloping	56
3.3.7	Equilibration	57
3.3.8	Freezing	58
3.3.9	Thawing	60
3.3.10	Analysis of Frozen-Thawed Sperm	61
3.4	STATISTICAL ANALYSIS	61
3.5	EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN	62
3.5.1	Determination of the Effects of Equilibration Duration, Vapour Exposure Temperature and Vapour Exposure Duration in Sperm Cryopreservation Protocol for Thai mahseer (<i>Tor tambroides</i>) Fish using the Modified	

	Fish Ringer Extender (mFRE) (Experiment 1)	63
3.5.2	Optimisation of Combination of Equilibration Duration, Vapour Exposure Temperature and Vapour Exposure Duration for Sperm Cryopreservation in Thai mahseer (<i>Tor tambroides</i>) Fish (Experiment 2)	64
3.5.3	Comparison between the Low Temperature Incubator and the Normal Refrigerator on the Frozen-thawed Sperm Characteristics with reference to Equilibration Duration (Experiment 3)	65
3.5.4	An Attempt to Transfer of Technology from Laboratory to the Field Condition for the Sperm Cryopreservation of Thai mahseer (<i>Tor tambroides</i>) under Field Condition (Experiment 4)	65
 Chapter 4		
4.0	RESULT	68
4.1	EFFECTS OF EQUILIBRATION DURATION ON FROZEN-THAWED SPERM MOTILITY CHARACTERISTICS IN THAI MAHSEER (<i>Tor tambroides</i>) (EXPERIMENT 1)	68
4.2	EFFECTS OF VAPOUR EXPOSURE TEMPERATURE ON FROZEN-THAWED SPERM MOTILITY CHARACTERISTICS IN THAI MAHSEER (<i>Tor tambroides</i>) (EXPERIMENT 1)	77
4.3	EFFECTS OF VAPOUR EXPOSURE DURATION ON FROZEN-THAWED SPERM MOTILITY CHARACTERISTICS IN THAI MAHSEER (<i>Tor tambroides</i>) (EXPERIMENT 1)	87
4.4	EFFECTS OF COMBINATIONS OF EQUILIBRATION DURATION, VAPOUR EXPOSURE TEMPERATURE AND VAPOUR EXPOSURE DURATION ON FROZEN-THAWED SPERM MOTILITY CHARACTERISTICS IN THAI MAHSEER (<i>Tor tambroides</i>) (EXPERIMENT 1)	97
4.5	OPTIMISATION OF COMBINATION OF EQUILIBRATION DURATION, VAPOUR EXPOSURE TEMPERATURE AND VAPOUR	

	EXPOSURE DURATION FOR SPERM CRYOPRESERVATION IN THAI MAHSEER (<i>Tor tambroides</i>) FISH (EXPERIMENT 2)	106
4.6	EFFECTS OF THE LOW TEMPERATURE INCUBATOR AND THE NORMAL REFRIGERATOR ON THE FROZEN-THAWED SPERM CHARACTERISTICS WITH REFERENCE TO EQUILIBRATION DURATION (EXPERIMENT 3)	114
4.7	AN ATTEMPT TO TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY FROM LABORATORY TO THE FIELD CONDITION FOR THE SPERM CRYOPRESERVATION OF THAI MAHSEER (<i>Tor tambroides</i>) UNDER FIELD CONDITION (EXPERIMENT 4)	133
Chapter 5		
5.0	DISCUSSION	139
5.1	EFFECTS OF EQUILIBRATION DURATION, VAPOUR EXPOSURE TEMPERATURE AND VAPOUR EXPOSURE ON FROZEN-THAWED SPERM MOTILITY CHARACTERISTICS IN THAI MAHSEER (<i>Tor tambroides</i>)	139
5.2	EFFECTS OF COMBINATIONS OF EQUILIBRATION DURATION, VAPOUR EXPOSURE TEMPERATURE AND VAPOUR EXPOSURE DURATION ON FROZEN-THAWED SPERM MOTILITY CHARACTERISTICS IN THAI MAHSEER (<i>Tor tambroides</i>)	143
5.3	OPTIMISATION OF COMBINATION OF EQUILIBRATION DURATION, VAPOUR EXPOSURE TEMPERATURE AND VAPOUR EXPOSURE DURATION FOR SPERM CRYOPRESERVATION IN THAI MAHSEER (<i>Tor tambroides</i>) FISH	144
5.4	EFFECTS OF THE LOW TEMPERATURE INCUBATOR AND THE NORMAL REFRIGERATOR ON THE FROZEN-THAWED SPERM CHARACTERISTICS WITH REFERENCE TO EQUILIBRATION DURATION	147

5.5	ATTEMPTS TO TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY FROM LABORATORY TO THE FIELD CONDITION FOR THE SPERM CRYOPRESERVATION OF THAI MAHSEER (<i>Tor tambroides</i>) UNDER FIELD CONDITION	148
5.6	GENERAL DISCUSSION	151
5.7	CONSTRAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENT	156
Chapter 6		
6.0	CONCLUSIONS	162
REFERENCES		164
APPENDICES		
	APPENDIX 1	184
	APPENDIX 2	185
	APPENDIX 3	186

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Title	Page
2.1	Significant milestones of fish sperm cryopreservation in various types of Fishes	39
3.1	Chemicals and solution used in modified Fish Ringer Solution (mFRS)	52
4.1	Total motility and progressive motility (mean±SEM) of frozen-thawed sperm for different equilibration durations	69
4.2	Velocity distribution (mean±SEM) of frozen-thawed sperm for different equilibration durations	69
4.3	Sperm motion characteristics (mean ± SEM) of frozen-thawed sperm for different equilibration durations	70
4.4	Correlations between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics using 30 minutes of equilibration duration in cryopreservation of Thai mahseer	73
4.5	Correlations between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics using 45 minutes of equilibration duration in cryopreservation of Thai mahseer	74
4.6	Correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics using 60 minutes of equilibration duration in cryopreservation of Thai mahseer	75
4.7	Overall correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics using 30, 45 and 60 minutes of equilibration duration in cryopreservation of Thai mahseer	76
4.8	Total motility and progressive motility (mean±SEM) of frozen-thawed sperm for different vapour exposure temperatures	78
4.9	Velocity distribution (mean±SEM) of frozen-thawed sperm for different vapour exposure temperatures	79
4.10	Sperm motion characteristics (mean±SEM) of frozen-thawed sperm for different vapour exposure temperatures	79
4.11	Correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics using -100°C of vapour exposure temperature in cryopreservation of Thai mahseer	83

4.12	Correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics using -110°C of vapour exposure temperature in cryopreservation of Thai mahseer	84
4.13	Correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics using -120°C of vapour exposure temperature in cryopreservation of Thai mahseer	85
4.14	Overall correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics using -100, -110 and -120°C of vapour exposure temperature in cryopreservation of Thai mahseer	86
4.15	Total motility and progressive motility (mean±SEM) of frozen-thawed sperm for different vapour exposure durations	88
4.16	Velocity distribution (mean±SEM) of frozen-thawed sperm for different vapour exposure durations	89
4.17	Sperm motion characteristics (mean±SEM) of frozen-thawed sperm for different vapour exposure durations	89
4.18	Correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics using 5 minutes of vapour exposure duration in cryopreservation of Thai mahseer	93
4.19	Correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics using 10 minutes of vapour exposure duration in cryopreservation of Thai mahseer	94
4.20	Correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics using 15 minutes of vapour exposure duration in cryopreservation of Thai mahseer	95
4.21	Overall correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics using 5, 10 and 15 minutes of vapour exposure duration in cryopreservation of Thai mahseer	96
4.22	Total motility and progressive motility (mean±SEM) of frozen-thawed sperm for different combinations of equilibration duration, vapour exposure temperature and vapour exposure duration	99
4.23	Velocity distribution (mean±SEM) of frozen-thawed sperm for different combinations of equilibration duration, vapour exposure temperature and vapour exposure duration	100
4.24	Sperm motion characteristics (mean±SEM) of frozen-thawed sperm for different combinations of equilibration duration,	

	vapour exposure temperature and vapour exposure duration	103
4.25	Total motility and progressive motility (mean±SEM) for sperm cryopreservation of Thai mahseer sperm using the best three combinations of equilibration durations, vapour exposure temperatures and vapour exposure durations	107
4.26	Velocity distribution (mean±SEM) for sperm cryopreservation of Thai mahseer sperm using the best three combinations of equilibration durations, vapour exposure temperatures and vapour exposure durations	108
4.27	Sperm motion characteristics (mean±SEM) for sperm cryopreservation of Thai mahseer sperm using the best three combinations of equilibration durations, vapour exposure temperatures and vapour exposure durations	108
4.28	Correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics using combination 1 in cryopreservation of Thai mahseer	110
4.29	Correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics using combination 2 in cryopreservation of Thai mahseer	111
4.30	Correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics using combination 3 in cryopreservation of Thai mahseer	112
4.31	Overall correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics using combination 1, 2 and 3 of in cryopreservation of Thai mahseer	113
4.32	Total motility and progressive motility (mean±SEM) of frozen-thawed Thai mahseer sperm using modified Fish Ringer Extender (mFRE) after 30 minutes of equilibration phase for different incubator or refrigerator	115
4.33	Total motility and progressive motility (mean±SEM) of frozen-thawed Thai mahseer sperm using modified Fish Ringer Extender (mFRE) after 45 minutes of equilibration phase for different incubator or refrigerator	116
4.34	Total motility and progressive motility (mean±SEM) of frozen-thawed Thai mahseer sperm using modified Fish Ringer Extender (mFRE) after 45 minutes of equilibration phase for different incubator or refrigerator	116
4.35	Velocity distribution (mean±SEM) of frozen-thawed Thai mahseer sperm using modified Fish Ringer Extender (mFRE) after 30 minutes of equilibration phase for different incubator	

	or refrigerator	117
4.36	Velocity distribution (mean±SEM) of frozen-thawed Thai mahseer sperm using modified Fish Ringer Extender (mFRE) after 45 minutes of equilibration phase for different incubator or refrigerator	117
4.37	Velocity distribution (mean±SEM) of frozen-thawed Thai mahseer sperm using modified Fish Ringer Extender (mFRE) after 60 minutes of equilibration phase for different incubator or refrigerator	118
4.38	Sperm motion characteristics (mean±SEM) of Thai mahseer sperm for fresh semen with extender and after 30 minutes of equilibration phase for different incubator or refrigerator	118
4.39	Sperm motion characteristics (mean±SEM) of Thai mahseer sperm for fresh semen with extender and after 45 minutes of equilibration phase for different incubator or refrigerator	119
4.40	Sperm motion characteristics (mean±SEM) of Thai mahseer sperm for fresh semen with extender and after 60 minutes of equilibration phase for different incubator or refrigerator	119
4.41	Correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics of Thai mahseer after 30 minutes equilibration duration using low temperature incubator	125
4.42	Correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics of Thai mahseer after 30 minutes equilibration duration using normal refrigerator	126
4.43	Correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics of Thai mahseer after 45 minutes equilibration duration using low temperature incubator	127
4.44	Correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics of Thai mahseer after 45 minutes equilibration duration using normal refrigerator	128
4.45	Correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics of Thai mahseer after 60 minutes equilibration duration using low temperature incubator	129
4.46	Correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics of Thai mahseer after 60 minutes equilibration duration using normal refrigerator	130

4.47	Overall correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics of Thai mahseer after 30, 45 and 60 minutes equilibration duration using low temperature incubator	131
4.48	Overall correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics of Thai mahseer after 30, 45 and 60 minutes equilibration duration using normal refrigerator	132
4.49	Sperm motility characteristics (mean±SEM) between performing sperm cryopreservation under laboratory ambient and field condition on of Thai mahseer frozen-thawed sperm	134
4.50	Correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics in sperm cryopreservation of Thai mahseer under laboratory ambient using 30 minutes of equilibration duration, -110°C of vapour exposure temperature and 15 minutes of vapour exposure duration	137
4.51	Correlation between frozen-thawed sperm motility characteristics in sperm cryopreservation of Thai mahseer under field condition using 30 minutes of equilibration duration, -110°C of vapour exposure temperature and 15 minutes of vapour exposure duration	138

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Title	Page
2.1	Step-by-step representation of zebrafish spermatogenesis from undifferentiated spermatogonia to sperm, throughout the three phases of the spermatogenic process: proliferative or spermatogonial, meiotic or spermatocytary and spermiogenic.	12
2.2	Suggested cell-signaling pathways for the mechanism of initiation of carp sperm motility.	17
2.3	Schematic representation of some of the motility patterns measured by the CASA system.	39
3.1	Fish house at the ISB Mini Farm (Livestock), the University of Malaya.	51
3.2	Taman Negara Sg. Relau, Merapoh, Pahang Darul Makmur.	52
3.3	Hormonal injection at the back of the dorsal fin.	54
3.4	The correct technique of holding the fish before semen collection.	55
3.5	The squeezing of fish abdomen to facilitate semen ejaculation into the centrifuge tube.	55
3.6	Diagrammatic presentation of straw containing the diluted sperm.	56
3.7	Special rack.	57
3.8	Equilibration phase.	58
3.9	Freezing phase under vapour temperature using styrofoam box containing liquid nitrogen.	59
3.10	Storage of frozen sperm in LN ₂ tank.	60
3.11	Thawing the frozen sperm using water bath.	61
3.12	Flow chart of experimental design.	67

ABBREVIATIONS

ABEL	Animal Biotechnology-Embryo Laboratory
ALH	Amplitude of Lateral Head Displacement
ANOVA	Analysis of variance
BCF	Beat-Cross Frequency
BSA	Bovine Serum Albumin
BSMIS	Buffered Sperm Motility-Inhibiting Saline Solution
Cho/PL	Cholesterol/Phospholipid
CPA	Cryoprotectant Agent
DMA	Dimethylacetamide
DMRT	Duncan's Multiple Range Test
DMSO	Dimethyl-sulfoxide
HBSS	Hanks' Balanced Salt Solution
ISB	Institute of Biological Sciences
LIN	Linearity
LN ₂	Liquid Nitrogen
mFRE	Modified Fish Ringer Extender
mFRS	Modified Fish Ringer Solution
NaHCO ₃	Sodium Bicarbonate
PG	Propylene-glycol
SEM	Standard Error of the Means
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
STR	Straightness
SVP	Seminal Vesicle Plasma

US	United States
VAP	Average Path Velocity
VCL	Curvilinear Velocity
VSL	Straight Line Velocity

Chapter 1
INTRODUCTION