PATHOGENESIS OF Vibrio alginolyticus ISOLATED FROM GREEN MUSSELS (Perna viridis) IN MARUDU BAY, SABAH

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MASTER OF SCIENCE UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA TERENGGANU

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"Oh Prophet You say: Call upon those Gods whom you claim to besides Allah; as they don't control even a tiny particle's weight in either heaven or on earth" [34:22]

> Dedicated with love.. my beloved parents, abah and umi.. my siblings.. my supportive friends..

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Bacterial pathogen, *Vibrio alginolyticus* use several ways of mechanisms to cause disease in aquatic organism. Green mussel, *Perna viridis* is raised as one of the main aquaculture activity in Malaysia by the local community as this species provides income and employment. The immune-compromised green mussel usually die because of bacterial infection towards the host regardless various existence of green mussel defence mechanisms. *V. alginolyticus* from *P. viridis* were identified using VITEK system and Eztaxon and a total of 6 from 27 strains had been confirmed as *V. alginolyticus*. The virulence factors were studying by detection of 4 different genes. Results showed *OmpK* to be the most abundant gene as it can be detected in all isolates;(100%), followed by *toxR* (78%), *collagenase* (56%) and *tlh* (52%); as confirmed by PCR and subsequence analysis. *In-vitro* colonization of *V. alginolyticus* was examined by the adherence of *V. alginolyticus* to the tissues of *P. viridis* which started from 3 hours exposure until the end of 12 hours experiment. Gills of *P. viridis*