

## ICP11 as Biomarker for WSSV Disease in *Litopenaeus vannamei*

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### ABSTRACT

Environmental pollution could directly reduce water quality for shrimp cultivation. This aims of this research were to determine how the environmental quality, shrimp population and genetic characteristics of shrimp that live in polluted waters in shrimp ponds in East Java associated with WSSV disease that often attacks on cultivated shrimp. The method used was a descriptive exploratory. Data was collected by observation and interview with farmers on disease history. Water was sampled for water quality study and characterize its suitability for shrimp cultivations. Shrimps were also sampled for morphological and genetical study for its susceptibility of WSSV. All samples were taken every week during shrimp cultivation in Malang and Gresik. Morphological study using scoring method to determine the disease stages on shrimp, while for genetical study using specific primer for ICP11 for WSSV detection, since ICP 11 was expressed when WSSV infection was occurred. Samples were taken from 2 shrimp ponds in South Malang and Gresik. The result showed that the overall water quality was good, except for NO<sub>2</sub> and TOM in both seawater shrimp ponds which higher than the freshwater/estuary shrimp ponds. Light infections of WSSV were detected in all seawater ponds both in morphology and genetics. However, in the freshwater/ estuary pond only shrimps from freshwater/ estuary Gresik which showing light WSSV infection genetically, but not in the morphological signs. Early disease detection is important to control the disease spread.

**Keywords:** shrimp ponds, *Litopenaeus vannamei*, ICP11, pollution.

### INTRODUCTION

Diseased shrimp including WSSV, will provide cellular response are manifold. The cells were infected with WSSV experiencing prawns hypertrophy or abnormal growth in the cell nucleus. This hypertrophy causes cell lysis and cause infection in organs attacked. WSSV infected shrimp response can be seen from the expression of genes linked to the infection, including genes encoding resistance and susceptibility (Kilawati, 2011). Factors trigger the disease in shrimp is not always caused by the emergence of organisms, environmental factors such as salinity, O<sub>2</sub> content, ammonia levels and lack of food factors also stress on shrimp (Amri, 2006). The environmental factors that lead to the production of antibodies reduced immunity or vannamei shrimp immunity to disease is reduced.

Polluted environment causes shrimp disease outbreaks. According to Yanto (2006), the level of pathogenicity (virulence) of organism is different, depends on the condition of the aquatic environment in terms of water quality and the pathogenic impact. Poor water quality may cause genetic changes in vannamei. Sukenda et al. (2009) stated that the presence of viral diseases especially white spot disease in ponds can be tracked as DNA/RNA virus that can be duplicated by small amounts of PCR than its presence can be readily traced.

Techniques to track the presence of viral DNA can be done by several methods such as PCR. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) is a

technique of synthesis and DNA amplification in vitro. PCR can be used to amplify DNA segments of the million times in just a few hours. With the discovery of PCR techniques in addition to other techniques such as DNA sequencing, have revolutionized the field of science and technology especially in for diagnosis of genetic diseases, forensic medicine and molecular (Handoyo and Rudiretna, 2000). DNA could also be used as a biomarker for early warning of disease outbreaks. However, there is limited information on shrimp pond condition in east java since it having high contribution on shrimp export in Indonesia.

The objectives of this study were to show water quality condition in shrimp ponds along Malang and Gresik, also the WSSV susceptibility using morphology and genetic characteristic using specific primer ICP11, also to know the correlation between WSSV and water quality condition. It assumed that different water quality characteristics could bring different shrimp condition and adaptation, since water resources has different physical and chemical composition.

## MATERIAL & METHODS

The method used in this study was an observational descriptive method using random sampling techniques. Vannamei shrimp sampling in South Malang and Gresik

amounted to 20 shrimps. Shrimp taken were approximately 1-2 months old (no age boundries). The material was DNA expression in vannamei shrimp were traced associated with the prevalence of WSSV, in Gresik and South Malang, East Java. Water quality analyzed were physical (temperature, brightness), chemical (salinity, pH, DO, TOM, nitrite, ammonia, alkalinity) and biological (bacteria vibrio) parameters. Water quality measurements made in 2-3 different places as much as 1 time in a week for 4 weeks at 10:00 to 11:00 pm at the inlet and outlet.

DNA expression on vannamei shrimp were traced associated with the prevalence of WSSV. Water quality analyzed were temperature, salinity, pH, DO, TOM, nitrite, ammonia, alkalinity and Vibrio presence. Water quality measurements were made in 2-3 different places every week for the next 4 following week 10:00 to 11:00 pm at the inlet and outlet. Method used was observational descriptive method using random sampling techniques.

### **Morphological analysis by scoring method.**

Morphological analysis of the level of infection of WSSV in shrimp was analysis using a code of signs or symptoms encountered. The coding in this study is based on the level of infection based on morphological characteristics of vannamei shrimp (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Morphological signs for scoring shrimp conditions.

Infection Sign	Code	WSSV Signs
Sign 1) uninfected/ healty	( - )	shrimp looks fresh and intact. Kilawati (2011), has the characteristics – bright body color, moving actively, rapidly responds to receive disorders, normal appetite and bottom silent during the day. Amri and Kanna (2008), shrimp swim active and responsive to stimuli as well as the condition of the antenna and antennula intact, complete, not broken, long size; hepatopancreas full and dark; Full intestine; uropod (tail fin) is open and not disabled.
Sign 2) lightly infected	( + )	there is a change in behavior that is not normal and the presence of white spots on the carapace. Kilawati (2011), a mild infection characterized by white spots only on the carapace, body color, the swimming leg and foot path becomes reddish and shrimp swim slanting to the surface, and looks limp, gathered lane adjacent to each other and slow motion. Wahjuningrum et al. (2006), WSSV clinical symptoms including reduced feed intake, weak, easily separated cuticle, pale hepatopancreas, swim with unstable conditions, red color on abdomen and white spots on the carapace.

### **Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Analysis.**

Vannamei shrimp samples were taken of the identified WSSV infected morphologic analysis is then performed for Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test animals to determine the positive or negative WSSV infection

## **RESULT & DISCUSSIONS**

### **Water Quality Parameters**

Water quality parameter such as temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), salinity and pH on all the samples were still within the optimal range for growth of vannamei shrimp (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Average Water Quality Parameter in Gresik and South Malang shrimp ponds.

	T (°C)	Water Clarity (cm)	pH	DO (mg/l)	Salinity (g/L)	Alkalinity (mg/L)	Amonia (mg/L)	Nitrite (mg/L)	TOM (mg/L)
<b>South Malang</b>	29.60	24.71	19.26	4.35	20.71	168.43	0.06	0.02	69.10
<b>Gresik</b>	29.80	25.56	55.22	4.40	18.89	234.21	0.01	0.24	101.46

Salinity in Malang and Gresik were 18-21 g/L. Differences in salinity at each pond is affected by salinity of sea water source, and the availability of fresh water in the pond location. Vanname shrimp is an euryhaline animal which have a high tolerance to water salinity, which is 5-30 g/L (Halimah and Adijaya, 2006). According Saoud et al. (2003) also reported that vanamei shrimp can grow in waters with salinity ranging from 0.5-38.3 g/L and grows optimally at 5-35 g/L salinity. Rekasana et al. (2013) explains the effect of salinity on shrimp is at the time of molting (moulting).

The highest water alkalinity found in South Malang (261.87 mg/L). High alkalinity provides a good environment for the shrimp physiological conditions to grow and survive. Mineral concentration is sufficient for exfoliation and the formation of exoskeletons, to support the growth and survival of shrimp (Araneda et al., 2008). Optimum alkalinity for Vannamei shrimp farming ranged from 90-150 mg/L. If the alkalinity value is above 150 mg/L, it required dilution salinity and density of

plankton and adequate oxygenation (Adiwijaya et al., 2008). Range ammonia content was lower for Gresik shrimp Pond than South Malang. High content of ammonia which can be caused by the accumulation of organic material from feed residu, feces, organic matter content of water sources (marine and freshwater) and the organism dies. According to Boyd (1990), NH<sub>3</sub> content of 0.05 to 0.2 mg/L have hindered the growth rate of shrimp and other aquatic organisms. The content of NH<sub>3</sub> as high as 0.45 mg/L can inhibit the growth rate to 50% shrimp, while NH<sub>3</sub> content of 1.29 mg/L was able to kill Penaeid shrimp. WSSV disease occurs when there is interaction between the condition of poor water quality, which in turn will trigger the growth of bacteria/viruses, and shrimp cultivation conditions are declining.

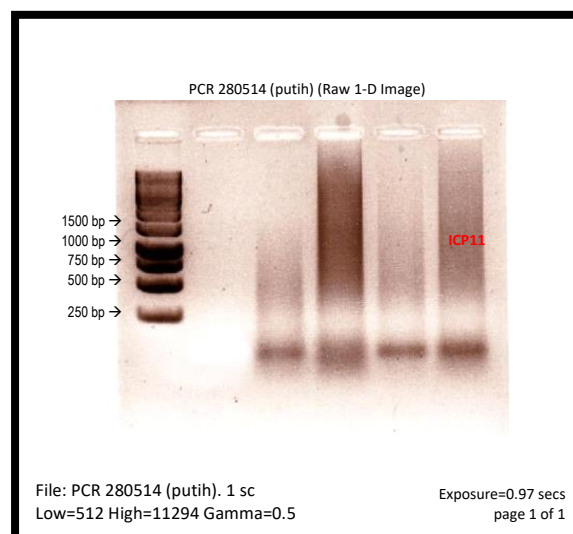
### **Shrimp morphological study.**

Based on observations of 10 samples obtained results shrimps in South Malang morphological percentage of shrimp against WSSV virus attack were; the characteristics

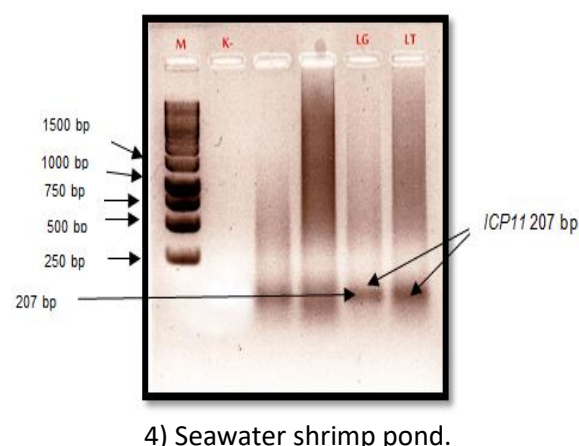
sign (1) the highest percentage in the estuary ponds 100%: sign (2) the highest at sea water pond by 30%. While samples from Gresik observations obtained results morphological percentage of shrimp against WSSV virus attacks were: the characteristics sign (1) the highest percentage in the freshwater ponds of 100%, which means there are no shrimp morphological characteristics WSSV infected with the virus, sign (2) the highest in the pond seawater by 60% which means that 60% of WSSV infected shrimp and 40% are not infected with the virus WSSV.

### **Shrimp Genetical Study.**

In boths sampling locations, South Malang (Figure 1) and Gresik (Figure 2), estuary and marine ponds found that only trait 1 (healthy shrimp) and trait 2 (lightly infected). For a percentage of the value of shrimp infected with WSSV only mild virus found in seawater pond for 30%. At the mouth of the pond found only 1 was prawns with characteristic morphological features healthy, though not necessarily those not infected shrimp, the shrimp can be a mild viral infection. Results of PCR for detection of WSSV virus can be seen from the DNA bands appear quite obvious (Figure 1 Sample from South Malang). Figure 1 showed that the quantity ICP11 gene on the DNA test results vannamei shrimp in ponds estuaries was indicated by code 2. The presence of WSSV infection by viruses with the ICP11 gene amplification is quite clear, however, the morphology does not appear under 25 bp. While at sea ponds shown with the same code 4 also shows the presence of WSSV infection by viruses with the ICP11 gene amplification (DNA bands were quite clear), this is in accordance with the morphological analysis of vannamei shrimp in sea farms also showed clinical symptoms of WSSV virus mild.



**Figure 1.** ICP11 gene amplification results of DNA vannamei shrimp South Malang. 1) Marker, 2) Negative control (-) ddH<sub>2</sub>O, 3) Estuary shrimp pond and



**Figure 2.** ICP11 gene amplification results of DNA vannamei shrimp Gresik. M) Marker, K) negative control (-) ddH<sub>2</sub>O, LG) Seawater shrimp pond and LT) Freshwater shrimp pond.

Firmansyah dkk. (2009) noted that the reproductive cycle of the virus, there are two ways the lytic cycle and the lysogenic cycle. Lytic cycle is the reproductive cycle of the virus peak marked by the death of the host cell. At the time of the wall membrane rupture or lysis of the host cell, the virus - a

new virus that is formed in the host cell will be out and ready to infect new host cells. In the lysogenic cycle, viral genetic material of cells are produced in nature without destroying its host organism. Kilawati and Darmanto (2009) reported that ICP11 gene amplification results in WSSV infected shrimp DNA yield was 207 bp band whereas the non-infected shrimp WSSV virus did not produce bands on the DNA. ICP11 amplified with the most quantity and in the right position, it is due to the viral DNA that has menginsersi perfectly on the DNA of the host cell so that the shrimp can not survive.

Biologically ICP11 has an important role in WSSV infected cell death, with several possible mechanisms involved. The mechanism is that ICP11 directly causes nucleosome disruption, thereby causing cell death. Another possibility is that ICP11 can cause cell death through an indirect mechanism, namely by binding to histones in the cytoplasm. ICP11 can interfere with the mechanism by preventing histone nucleosomes, which are bound to the nucleus, thereby causing destabilization has an important role in epigenetic regulation of gene expression and consequent cell death.

### CONCLUSIONS

Water quality at all sampling locations included in the category of polluted, as indicated by the content of ammonia and high TOM at all locations. Poor water quality triggers the disease one of the detected WSSV from morphology and DNA analysis. DNA analysis results on vannamei shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) in both location indicated that WSSV infection has occur in light infection. However, WSSV infection rate might be higher over time due to ammonia and TOM accumulations.

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