

HATCHING SUCCESS ON RELOCATED HAWKSBILL TURTLE  
(*Eretmochelys imbricata*) NESTS IN PADANG KEMUNTING TURTLE  
HATCHERY, MALACCA, AND THE IMPLICATION OF IDENTIFIED FUNGI

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SCHOOL OF MARINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES  
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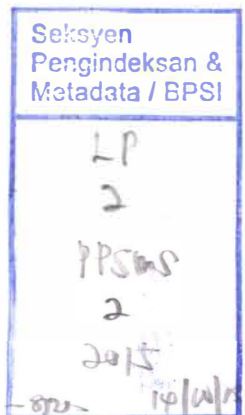
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**Project Report submitted in partial fulfilment of  
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SCHOOL OF MARINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA TERENGGANU

DECLARATION AND VERIFICATION REPORT  
FINAL YEAR RESEARCH PROJECT

It is hereby declared and verified that this research report entitled *Hatching Success on Relocated Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) Nests in Padang Kemunting Turtle Hatchery, Malacca, and the Implication of Identified Fungi* by Hoh Zhi Wei, Matric No. UK 28224 have been examined and all errors identified have been corrected. This report is submitted to the School of Marine and Environmental Sciences as partial fulfillment towards obtaining the Degree Bachelor of Science (Marine Science), School of Marine and Environmental Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Content</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>LIST OF APPENDICES</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	<b>xii</b>
<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background of Study	3
1.2 Justification	4
1.3 Objectives	5
<b>2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 Sea Turtles	6
2.1.1 Biology of hawksbill turtle, <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	7
2.1.2 Global and local status of hawksbill turtle	9
2.1.3 Threats of hawksbill turtle	10
2.2 Hatchery Practice	11
2.3 Factor Affecting the Hatching Rate	12
2.4 Emergence Success	13
2.5 Fungi	13

2.5.1	Fungal infection on turtle egg	14
<b>3.0</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	16
3.1	Study Area	16
3.2	Data Collection	17
3.2.1	Nest excavation	18
3.2.2	Fungi sample collection	18
3.3	Laboratory Analysis	18
3.3.1	Fungal isolation	18
3.3.2	Fungal identification	19
3.4	Data Analysis	20
3.4.1	Hatching success	20
3.4.2	Emergence success	21
<b>4.0</b>	<b>RESULTS</b>	22
4.1	Nest Excavation	22
4.2	Hatching and Emergence Success	23
4.2.1	Spatial variation in hatching success and hatchling contribution	25
4.3	Observation of Fungal Infection on Hawksbill Eggs	27
4.4	Fungal Identification	28
4.4.1	Identification of <i>Fusarium</i> sp.	29
4.4.2	Identification of <i>Penicillium</i> sp.	32
4.4.3	Identification of <i>Aspergillus</i> sp.	35
4.4.4	Characteristics of unidentified fungi	36
<b>5.0</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	37
5.1	Hatching and Emergence Success	37
5.2	Spatial Variation in Hatchling Contribution	39



5.3	Fungal Infection on Turtle Eggs	40
5.4	Implication of Fungal Infection on Hatching Success	45
5.5	Recommendations for Padang Kemunting Turtle Hatchery	46
<b>6.0</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	49
	<b>REFERENCES</b>	51
	<b>APPENDICES</b>	58
	<b>CURRICULUM VITAE</b>	62
	<b>EXTENDED ABSTRACT</b>	63

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table</b>		<b>Page</b>
3.1	The definition of different egg categories during the nest excavation	17
4.1	Overall hatching and emergence success rate of relocated hawksbill nests in Padang Kemunting Turtle Hatchery	24
4.2	Average hatching success according to nesting site; n = number of nests collected from each site	26
4.3	Fungi identified from samples collected	28
5.1	Isolated fungi from turtle eggs and sand at various location	41
5.2	Fungal infection with respect to nest and its hatching success	46

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
2.1	Features for identification of hawksbill turtle	8
2.2	Juvenile and adult hawksbill turtle	8
2.3	Emerged hawksbill hatchlings in PKTH	8
3.1	Map of study area	16
3.2	Uninfected (left) and infected (right) unhatched eggs by fungi	18
3.3	Fungus culture by using slide culture technique	20
4.1	Nest content from excavation process (a) Shredded egg shell pieces; (b) Unhatched eggs dig up during next excavations; (c) Alive hatchlings with deformed shell; (d) Pipped egg with alive hatchling; and (e) Pipped egg with dead hatchling	23
4.2	Overall (a) hatching and (b) emergence success of relocated hawksbill nests in Padang Kemunting Turtle Hatchery	24
4.3	Percentage abundance of the content of unhatched eggs	25
4.4	Spatial variations in proportion of total hatchling contribution based on the excavation effort	26
4.5	Hawksbill turtle eggs and embryos with signs of fungal infection (a) Fungi infected egg yolk and embryo appears pinkish; (b) and (c) Greenish unknown substance (white arrows) found on embryos; (d) and (e) colourful spots found on inner egg shells	27
4.6	Macroscopic morphological identification of the <i>Fusarium</i> sp. (a) Top view of <i>Fusarium</i> sp. in the 7 <sup>th</sup> days of culture on PDA; (b) light orange to dark brown pigmentation on the bottom of colony culture on PDA; and (c) orange sporodocia (indicated by arrows) in the middle of colony	30
4.7	Microscopic morphological identification of <i>Fusarium</i> sp. (a) Hyphae with branches of conidiophores (arrows); (b) Chlamyospore; (c) Aerial conidiophores with ellipsoidal conidia; (d) Macroconidia with 3 to 4 septa (arrows); and (e) microconidia with 0 to 1 septum (arrow)	31

4.8	Macroscopic morphological identification of <i>Penicillium</i> sp. on PDA (7 <sup>th</sup> day culture) (a) Irregular form of colonies with abundance of spores in green and powdery texture; (b) Circular form of colony with velvety texture and green pigmentation on the surface surrounds the middle of the colony; and (c) Irregular form of colony with velvety texture	33
4.9	Microscopic morphological identification of <i>Penicillium</i> sp. (a) Abundant of conidiophores (arrows) branching out from hyphae (b) Penicillus; and (c) Green pigmented, unicellular, smooth and rounded conidia	34
4.1	Macroscopic and microscopic morphological identification of <i>Aspergillus</i> sp. (a) 5 <sup>th</sup> days of colony culture on PDA; (b) conidial heads; and (c) dark green, finely rough and rounded conidia	35
4.11	Morphological identification of the unidentified fungi (a) Colony morphology in irregular form with smooth texture and white mycelium; (b) Dense hyphae; and (c) Unknown globular structure found on the hyphae	36
5.1	Nests of PKTH with narrow distance between each nest	47

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

°C	-	degree Celcius
μL	-	microlitre
μm	-	micrometer
cm	-	centimeter
DoF	-	Department of Fisheries
g	-	gram
L	-	Litre
mL	-	millilitre
PDA	-	Potato Dextrose Agar
PKTH	-	Padang Kemunting Turtle Hatchery
psi	-	pounds per square inch
UMT	-	Universiti Malaysia Terengganu
WWF	-	World Wide Fund for Nature

## LIST OF APPENDICES

<b>Appendix</b>		<b>Page</b>
I	Data sheet for nest excavation	58
II	Hatching and emergence success rate of individual relocated nest in Padang Kemunting Turtle Hatchery, Malacca.	59



## ABSTRACT

In recent years, number of nesting hawksbill along the coast of Malacca had shown increasing trend. All the nests are relocated to Padang Kemunting Turtle Hatchery (PKTH) for incubation. However, low hatching rate was observed in the hatchery over the past few years and that was believed due to fungal infection on turtle eggs. In collaboration with Department of Fisheries and World Wide Fund for Nature, Malacca, this study was conducted to determine the hatching and emergence success rate of relocated nests in the hatchery, and identification of fungi isolated from unhatched eggs and sand from nest chamber. Overall, the hatching success rate of hawksbill turtle in PKTH range from 0 % to 92 %. The mean hatching and emergence success rate was  $32.3 \pm 25.0$  % and  $30.3 \pm 23.3$  %, respectively. Nests originated from Tanjung Belanga had the highest hatching rate ( $61.9 \pm 36.9$  %). Moreover, nests from Padang Kemunting were recorded with the highest contribution in hatchlings (45.8 %) among all sites. During excavation, signs of fungal infection were observed on egg shell, egg yolk and dead embryos with different colour spots and unknown substances. Four types of fungi were isolated from sand and egg-related materials: *Aspergillus* sp., *Fusarium* sp., *Penicillium* sp., and one unidentified fungi. All identified fungi were soil-borne, suggesting the contamination might come from the sand. Replacing the sand used for incubation in the hatchery would be the best way to reduce fungal infection on turtle egg in hope to increase the hatching success rate. Another alternative would be applying materials such as chitin or chitosan that exhibit anti-fungal properties. More importantly, further research shall be carry out to determine the other factor that may affect the hatching rate in PKTH.

**KADAR PENETASAN TERHADAP SARANG DIPINDAH UNTUK PENYU  
KARAH (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) DI PUSAT PENETASAN PENYU, PADANG  
KEMUNTING, MELAKA, DAN IMPLIKASI KULAT YANG DIKENAL  
PASTI**

**ABSTRAK**

Dalam tahun kebelakangan ini, bilangan sarang penyu karah di sepanjang pantai Melaka telah meningkat. Semua sarang akan dipindahkan ke Pusat Penetasan Penyu di Padang Kemunting (PKTH) untuk tujuan inkubasi. Walaubagaimanapun, kadar penetasan yang rendah telah diperhatikan sejak beberapa tahun kebelakangan ini dan dipercayai adalah disebabkan oleh jangkitan kulat pada telur penyu. Atas kerjasama dengan Jabatan Perikanan Melaka dan World Wide Fund for Nature, Melaka, kajian ini telah dijalankan untuk menentukan kadar kejayaan penetasan dan kemunculan sarang yang telah dipindahkan ke tapak penetasan, dan identifikasi kulat yang diisolasi daripada telur yang tidak menetas dan pasir dari ruang sarang. Secara keseluruhan, kadar kejayaan penetasan penyu karah di PKTH adalah dalam julat 0 % hingga 92 %. Purata kejayaan penetasan dan kemunculan adalah  $32.3 \pm 25.0$  % dan  $30.3 \pm 23.3$  % masing-masing. Sarang dari Tanjung Belanga mempunyai kadar penetasan yang tertinggi ( $61.9 \pm 36.9$  %). Selain itu, sarang dari Padang Kemunting mempunyai sumbangan anak penyu yang tertinggi (45.8 %) di kalangan pantai bersarang. Semasa melakukan penggalian sarang, tanda-tanda jangkitan kulat telah diperhatikan pada kulit telur, kuning telur dan embrio yang mati dengan spot warna yang berbeza dan bahan-bahan yang tidak diketahui. Empat jenis kulat telah diisolasi daripada pasir dan telur: *Aspergillus* sp, *Fusarium* sp, *Penicillium* sp, dan satu kulat yang gagal dikenal pasti. Semua kulat yang dikenal pasti adalah didapati dari tanah, menunjukkan jangkitan ini mungkin datang dari pasir. Menggantikan pasir yang digunakan untuk inkubasi di tapak penetasan adalah cara

yang terbaik untuk mengurangi jangkitan kulat pada telur penyu dengan harapan untuk meningkatkan kadar kejayaan penetasan. Satu lagi alternatif adalah menggunakan bahan seperti kitin atau kitosan yang mempunyai ciri-ciri anti-kulat. Lebih penting lagi, penyelidikan selanjutnya haruslah dijalankan untuk menentukan faktor yang mempengaruhi kadar penetasan di PKTH.