

**HEAT SHOCK PROTEIN 70 (HSP70) KNOCKDOWN IN THE
BRINE SHRIMP ARTEMIA AND ITS EFFECTS ON EMBRYO
DEVELOPMENT, DIAPAUSE TERMINATION AND STRESS
TOLERANCE**

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**MASTER OF SCIENCE
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Thesis Submitted in Fulfillment of the Requirement for the
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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu
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**HEAT SHOCK PROTEIN 70 (HSP70) KNOCKDOWN IN THE BRINE SHRIMP
ARTEMIA AND ITS EFFECTS ON EMBRYO DEVELOPMENT, DIAPAUSE
TERMINATION AND STRESS TOLERANCE**

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September 2014

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RNA interference (RNAi) is a highly specific and effective tool to eliminate or reduce target mRNAs and thus proteins. In this study, RNAi was used to knockdown Hsp70 in *Artemia* and to investigate Hsp70 function in embryo development, diapause termination and stress tolerance, with the latter focused on thermotolerance and protection against pathogenic *Vibrio*. Injection of *Artemia* females with Hsp70 dsRNA eliminated Hsp70 mRNA and protein in cysts and nauplii, as revealed respectively by RT-PCR and Western immunoblotting. The loss of Hsp70 showed no significant effect on cyst and nauplii release from females, indicating a minor or non-essential role of Hsp70 in embryo development. In contrast to p26, an abundant diapause-specific small Hsp, knockdown of Hsp70 did not lead to spontaneous diapause termination in *Artemia* cysts. Nauplii lacking Hsp70 were less resistant to heat stress and pathogenic *Vibrio*.

campbellii, with survival reduced approximately 31% and 28%, respectively, in challenge assays. This study provides new insights into the role of Hsp70 in embryo development, cyst diapause and stress protection in the crustacean, *Artemia*.

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September 2014

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Artemia research (Artemia) encompasses areas including young aquatic life, benthic life, environmental toxicology, and reproductive biology. In addition, Hsp70 has been shown to play a role in stress protection, dormancy and diapause. Artemia is thus unique, offering a platform for multidisciplinary research. This journal has one publication annually. Please you submit your article to our editor-in-chief or editor-in-chief along with Hsp70 mRNA, mentioning article number Hsp70 in the subject line. Also, you can send your manuscript through RTICCS of Wiley Online Library. Manuscripts on Hsp70 interactions from young adult, zebrafish, zebrafish embryos, polychaetes and the aquatic invertebrates will be considered. We also welcome manuscripts on Hsp70 interactions from the field of environmental toxicology, reproductive biology, and the field of molecular biology.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Malaysia Terengganu
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Sarjana Sains

**PENGHAPUSAN EKSPRESI PROTEIN RENJATAN HABA 70 (HSP70) DI
DALAM UDANG *ARTEMIA* DAN KESAN-KESANNYA TERHADAP
PERKEMBANGAN EMBRIO, PENAMATAN DIAPAUSE DAN
TOLERANSI STRES**

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RNA interference (RNAi) merupakan satu kaedah yang spesifik dan berkesan bagi menyingkirkan atau menghapuskan sesuatu gen sasaran. Dalam kajian ini, teknologi RNAi telah diaplikasikan bagi menghasilkan *Artemia* tanpa Hsp70 bagi tujuan mengenalpasti peranan Hsp70 dalam pembentukan embrio, penamatan dorman dan toleransi *Artemia* ke atas tekanan, dengan yang terakhir memberi penumpuan kepada toleransi haba dan perlindungan melawan *Vibrio* yang patogenik. Suntikan ke atas induk *Artemia* betina dengan Hsp70 dsRNA, menghalang sintesis mRNA Hsp70 dan protein Hsp70 dalam sista dan nauplii seperti yang ditunjukkan melalui RT-PCR dan Western immunoblotting. Penghapusan Hsp70 menunjukkan kesan yang tidak signifikan terhadap perlepasan sista dan nauplii daripada induk betina, ini mencadangkan peranan kecil atau tidak penting yang dimainkan oleh Hsp70 dalam pembentukan embrio.

Berbeza dengan p26, iaitu Hsp kecil dorman-spesifik yang wujud dalam kuantiti tinggi, penghapusan Hsp70 tidak menghalang penamatan dorman secara spontan dalam sista *Artemia*. Dalam aspek toleransi ke atas tekanan, nauplii tanpa Hsp70 adalah kurang ketahanan terhadap tekanan haba dan *Vibrio campbellii*, dengan peratusan kemandirian masing-masing berkurangan kira-kira 31% dan 28% dalam ujian cabaran. Kajian ini memberi pandangan baru terhadap fungsi dasar Hsp70 dalam pembentukan embrio, dorman sista dan perlindungan ke atas tekanan pada *Artemia*.