

**ISOLATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF MUNGBEAN RHIZOBIA  
GROWN FROM SELECTED SOILS IN WESTERN PANGASINAN**

**ALFRED KONRAD G. AQUINO**

An undergraduate thesis manuscript submitted to the faculty of Department of  
Soil Science College of Agriculture, Central Luzon State University  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE**  
(Soil Science)

**June 2017**

**ISOLATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF MUNGBEAN RHIZOBIA  
GROWN FROM SELECTED SOILS IN WESTERN PANGASINAN**

by

**ALFRED KONRAD GARIN AQUINO**

An undergraduate thesis manuscript presented to the faculty of Department of Soil Science, College of Agriculture, Central Luzon State University, Science City of Muñoz in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture major in Soil Science

**APPROVED:**

  
**FLORIDA C. GARCIA**

Adviser

6/10/17  
Date Signed

  
**PURISIMA P. JUICO**

Critic

6/13/17  
Date Signed

  
**FEDERICO O. PEREZ**

Department Research Coordinator

6-13-17  
Date Signed

  
**PURISIMA P. JUICO**

Department Chairperson

6/14/17  
Date Signed

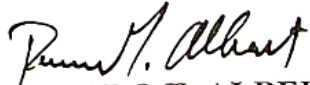
**ACCEPTED:**

  
**ERNESTO A. MARTIN**

Dean

6-14-17  
Date Signed

**RECORDED:**

  
**RONALDO T. ALBERTO**  
College Research Coordinator

6/17/17  
Date Signed

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

The author, Alfred Konrad Garin Aquino, was born on January 13, 1997 in Buenlag West, Mangaldan, Pangasinan as the eldest of Mario J. Aquino and Melchora E. Garin – Aquino. Mostly, he spent his childhood days with his grandmother because his parents worked as Overseas Foreign Worker (OFW).

He took his primary education at the United Methodist Church, Cinderella School where he participated in Student Organization and was elected as a student representative when he was in grade five and was awarded Athlete of the year on his graduation in 2009. During his highschool days at Mangaldan National High School he was very active in sports, music, and songwriting.

He passed the entrance examination in Central Luzon State University in May 2013 and was admitted in the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture curriculum. He chose Soil Science as his major field with specialization in Soil Biology. He joined the Soil Science Society which helped him improved his physical, mental and social skills.

Apart from being an agriculturist, the author would like to fulfill his main achievement in his life i.e., to serve not only for the betterment of his family but also to serve for the betterment of his beloved country.

**ALFRED KONRAD G. AQUINO**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It does not matter what comes up. What matters is who you are, the one perceiving it.  
- Mooji

I, the author of this book, humbly thank our Almighty God for giving the wisdom, knowledge, perseverance and strength to finish my manuscript and for bringing the following persons who helped me out for this achievement.

To my adviser, Prof. Florida C. Garcia, for the most untiring support, sharing her knowledge and ideas for the betterment of my study. Despite of her busy works, still she managed to have time to discuss and explain my thesis; to my critic, Dr. Purisima P. Juico, for accompanying me to my laboratory analyses and finding expert people who assisted in order to finish my DNA analyses; to our professor in colloquium, Dr. Apolinario L. Domingo, for giving such a valuable recommendation and suggestion for the improvement of my data and results.

To Dr. Federico O. Perez, Dr. Ariel G. Mactal and Prof. Fernan T. Fiegalan, for bringing out the greatest idea I ever had. Nourishing what the world of soil science is all about.

Ma'am Sheryl J. Marcha from Crop Protection Department, for giving her time in sterilizing the glassware and media needed for the isolation and for providing for the chemical and textural analyses of my soil sample.

Dr. Jerwin R. Undan from the College of Arts and Sciences, for providing the equipment and reagents needed for the DNA analysis of my rhizobial isolates.

To my brothers and sisters in Soil Science Society, thank you for the countless happiness, laughters, and tears, the friendship you had given to me and a chance to be part of your life.

Marita E. Garin, my grandmother, for the trust, love, patience and sustaining my financial needs to achieve my goals in life. Also to my parents, Mario J. Aquino and Melchora E. Garin, for being at my side in times of my difficulties. To my dearest uncle, Uncle Iran, for the unwavering help during the collection of my 30 soil samples needed for my thesis.

I would like to express my deepest thanks and sincere appreciation to Sir James Espiritu for giving me pieces of advice to strive more in life and for accepting me not only as a resident but as a son in Agriculture Dorm.

To my friend, Paolo Adrian Ildefonso, for his assistance in watering my plants during weekends and for the the unwavering help and support to finish my manuscript when am about to give up my thesis during the toughest times.

To my DAYAMI family, Don, Venus, Bethel, Joy and Alma, for the wittiest experiences and joyful moments.

And lastly, to my beloved “Mahal”, Jolina C. Dela Cruz, I will be forever grateful for having you in my life. Thank you for the love, comfort, trust, smile, laughter, tears, support and also the arguments we had not to be break our relationship but to improve and become mature enough to withstand the next difficulties we will ever have.

It is my pleasure to acknowledge my deepest thanks and gratitude to these people  
in my life.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

**ALFRED KONRAD GARIN AQUINO**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
TITLE PAGE	i
APPROVAL SHEET	ii
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
LIST OF APPENDICES	xii
ABSTRACT	
INTRODUCTION	2
Importance of the study	3
Statement of the Problem	3
Scope and Limitation of the Study	3
Objectives of the Study	4
Time and Place of the Study	4
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	5
Biological Nitrogen Fixation and Its Significance	5
Root Nodule Formation	5

Flavonoids	6
16S rRNA Gene Sequencing	6
Factors Affecting Rhizobium Population	6
Laboratory Techniques Used for Isolation and Identification of Rhizobium Bacteria	8
METHODOLOGY	12
Soil Collection	12
Sowing of Seeds	12
Maintenance and Care of Plants	12
Recovering and Counting of Nodules	14
Nodule Preparation	14
Isolation and Identification of Rhizobium	14
Gram Staining	15
Molecular DNA Analysis	15
Data Gathered	17
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	18
Soil Texture	18
Soil Chemical Properties	19
Plant Parameters	22
Relationship Between Soil pH and Nodulation of Mungbean	24
Morphological Characteristics of Mungbean Rhizobia	24
Gram Reaction	27

DNA Analysis	28
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	30
LITERATURE CITED	32
APPENDICES	36

## LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.		PAGE
1	Soil type of selected soils in 10 municipalities of Western Pangasinan	18
2	Soil pH and EC of selected soils in 10 municipalities of Western Pangasinan	20
3	OM of selected soils in 10 municipalities of Western Pangasinan	21
4	Agronomic characteristics of mungbean-growing in selected soils of 10 municipalities in Western Pangasinan	23
5	Summary of correlation analyses of results	24
6	Morphological characteristics of mungbean rhizobia in YMA with CR	24
7	Reaction of rhizobial isolates in YMA with BTB	26

## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>FIGURE NO.</b>		<b>PAGE</b>
1	Map of Pangasinan showing District 1, 2 and 3 where the soil were collected	13
2	Morphological characteristics of rhizobial isolates in YMA with CR	25
3	Growth of alkali-producing (left) and acid-producing (right) rhizobia in YMA+BTB	27
4	Gram stained cells of rhizobia viewed in microscope	28
5	Amplified rhizobial isolates viewed in LAS	29

## LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX		PAGE
1	Soil Texture Determination (Hydrometer Method)	37
2	Soil pH Determination	39
3	Organic Matter Determination	40
4	Determination of Soil Electrical Conductivity (1:5 water extraction method)	42
5	Gram Staining	43
6	Preparation for Yeast Extract Mannitol Agar with CR and YMA with BTB	44
7	PCR Mixed Reaction Reagents and PCR Profile	46

**ISOLATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF MUNGBEAN RHIZOBIA  
GROWN FROM SELECTED SOILS  
IN WESTERN PANGASINAN<sup>1/</sup>**

by

**ALFRED KONRAD GARIN AQUINO**

**ABSTRACT**

This study was conducted to isolate and characterize rhizobia grown from selected soils of Western Pangasinan. Mungbean rhizobium was evaluated to understand their ecology and relatedness from one area to another. Twenty four isolates were tested for their morphological characteristics in YMA with Congo red and YMA with BTB. Rhizobium isolates were characterized as faintly pink to white, circular in shape with colony size of 0.5 mm to 3 mm diameter, opaque and translucent.

Sixteen out of 24 isolates were fast-growing and acid-producing bacteria classified as *Rhizobium* while five isolates were slow-growing and alkali-producing bacteria classified as *Bradyrhizobium*. All rhizobial isolates are Gram negative short rods. Out of 24 isolates, 3 were amplified under the gel documentation map. LI1 from Lingayen 1, BAY1 from Bayambang 1 and MAB1 from Mabinil. LI1 is *Bradyrhizobium* while BAY1 and MAB1 are both *Rhizobium*.

Correlation analysis between pH and nodulation of mungbean showed that there is a substantial relationship while EC, OM, soil texture and nodulation of mungbean do not have relationship.

Sixty-seven percent of the soils grown to mungbean in the 10 municipalities of Western Pangasinan are dominated by *Rhizobium* bacteria. Mungbean can be nodulated both by *Rhizobium* and *Bradyrhizobium*.

---

<sup>1/</sup>An undergraduate thesis manuscript presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for graduation with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture major in Soil Science under the supervision of Prof. Florida C. Garcia with Research Contribution No. CA-05-17-0001.

## LITERATURE CITED

- AL FALIH, A.M.K.** 2002. Factors affecting the efficiency of symbiotic nitrogen fixation by *Rhizobium*, Pakistan Journal of Biological Sciences, **5**:11, 1277-1293.
- ALLEN E.K., and O.N. ALLEN.** 1950. Bact. Revs., **14**:273 retrieved from <http://himedialabs.com/TD/M721.pdf> on August 29, 2016.
- ANDREW, C.** 1978. Legumes and Acid Soils. In; Döbereiner, J., Burris, R.H., Hollaender, A., Franco, A.A., Neyra, C.A. and Scott, D.B., Eds., *Limitations and Potentials for Biological Nitrogen Fixation in the Tropics*, Springer, New York, 135-160. Retrieved from [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-94-011-10884\\_13](http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-94-011-10884_13) on August 15, 2016.
- BELNAP, J.** 2001. Factors influencing nitrogen fixation and nitrogen release in biological soil crusts. In: *Biological Soil Crusts: Structure, Function and Management* (Belnap, J. and Lange, o. L. Eds.) Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg, Germany, pp. 241-261. Retrieved from <http://docsdrive.com/pdfs/ansinet/pjbs/2002/1277-1293.pdf> on February 10, 2016.
- BRUCKER, M, Z.** 2012. Gram Staining. Retrieved from [http://serc.carleton.edu/microbelife/research\\_methods/microscopy/gramstain.html](http://serc.carleton.edu/microbelife/research_methods/microscopy/gramstain.html) on August 22, 2016.
- BOSSHARD, P.P., R. ZBINDEN, S. ABELS, B. BODDINGHAUS, M. ALTWEGG, and E.C. BOTTGER.** 2006. 16S rRNA gene sequencing versus the API 20 NE system and the Vitek 2 ID-GNB card for identification of nonfermenting gram-negative bacteria in the clinical laboratory. *J. Clin. Microbiol.* **44**:1359 – 1366.
- CORREA, O.S., and A.J. BARNEIX.** 1997. Cellular mechanisms of pH tolerance in *Rhizobium loti*. *World J Microbiol Biotechnol*, **13**:153 – 157.
- CTAHR,** (2000). Biological Nitrogen Fixation. *Nature's Partnership for Sustainable Agricultural Production*. Retrieved from <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/pnm13.pdf> on August 13, 2016.
- EAGLESHAM, A.R.J., and A. AYANABA.** 1984. Tropical Stress Ecology of Rhizobia, Root Nodulation and Legumes Fixation. In: Subba Rao, N.S., Ed., *Current Developments in Biological Nitrogen Fixation*, Edward Arnold Ltd., London, 1-35.
- ELBOUTAHIRI, N.I., S.M. THAMI-ALAMI, and UDUPA.** 2010. Phenotypic and genetic diversity in *Sinorhizobium meliloti* and *S. medicae* from drought and salt

affected regions of Morocco, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA).

- FLYNN, R., and J. IDOWU.** 2015. Nitrogen Fixation by Legumes. Retrieved from [http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/\\_a/A129.pdf](http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_a/A129.pdf) on August 14, 2016.
- GWATA, E.T., S.D. WOFFORD, J.K. BOOTE and H. MUSHORIWA.** 2003. Determination of effective nodulation in early juvenile soybean plants for genetic and biotechnology studies. *Afr. J. Biotechnol.*, **2**, 417-420.
- GAURI, SINGH A.K., R.P. BHATT, S. PANT, M.K. BEDI, and A. NAGLO.** 2011. Characterization of *Rhizobium* isolated from root nodules of *Trifolium alexandrinum*. *Journal of Agricultural Technology* 7(6): 1705-1723.
- JANDA, J.M., and S.L. ABBOTT.** 2007. 16S rRNA Gene Sequencing for Bacterial Identification in the Diagnostic Laboratory: Pluses, Perils, and Pitfalls. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, Sept. 2007, p. 2761-2764
- KRYNDUSKIN, D.S., L.M. ALEXANDROV, M.D. TER-AVANESYAN, and V.V. KUSHNIROV.** 2003. Yeast PSI+ prion aggregates are formed by small Sup35 polymers fragmented by Hsp10. *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. 278 (49): 49636.
- LAMB, J.A., F.G. FERNANDEZ, and D.E. KAISER.** 2014. Understanding Nitrogen in Soils. *Extension Specialists in Nutrient Management*. Retrieved from <http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/nutrient-management/nitrogen/understanding-nitrogen-in-soils/docs/AG-FO-3770-B.pdf> on September 10, 2016.
- LEDGARD, S., and K. STEELE.** 1992. Biological Nitrogen Fixation in Mixed Legume/Grass Pastures. *Plant and Soil*, **141**, 137-153. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/BF00011314> on August 15, 2016.
- LINDERMANN, W.C., and C.R. GLOVER.** 1990. Nitrogen Fixation by Legumes. Guide A-129.
- LIU, C., and J.D. MURRAY.** 2016. The Role of Flavonoids in Nodulation Host-Range Specificity: An Update. Retrieved from file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/plants-0500033.pdf on August 23, 2016.
- MARUEKARAJTINPLENG S., W. HOMHAUL, and C.N. KANJANA.** 2012. Presence of natural variants of *Bradyrhizobium elkanii* and *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* and detection of *Bradyrhizobium yuanmingense* in Phitsanulok province, Thailand. *ScienceAsia* 38 (2012): 24-25.

- MICHELS, J., C. VERRETH, and J. VANDERLEYDEN.** 1994. Effects of temperature stress on bean nodulation *Rhizobium* strains. *Appl Environ Microbiol*, **60**:1206 – 1212.
- NISTE, M., R. VIDICAN, L. ROTAR, and P. ROTAR.** 2013. Stress Factors Affecting Symbiosis Activity and Nitrogen Fixation by *Rhizobium* Cultured *in vitro*. **3** – **5**:400372. Retrieved from <http://journals.usamvcluj.ro/index.php/promediu/article/viewFile/9100/7751> on August 22, 2016.
- ÖĞÜTÇÜ H., C. KASIMOĞLU, and E. ELKOCA.** 2010. Effects of rhizobium strains isolated from wild chickpeas on the growth and symbiotic performance of chickpeas (*Cicer arietinum* L.) under salt stress, *Turk J Agric. For*, **34**, 361 – 371.
- PONGSILIP, N.** 2012. Genotypic diversity of Rhizobia Assessed by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) fingerprinting. *Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, Silpakorn University, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand*.
- RAO D.L.N., K.E. GILLER, A.R. YEO, and T.J. FLOWERS.** 2002. The effects of salinity and sodicity upon nodulation and nitrogen fixation in chickpea (*Cicer arietinum*). Retrieved from <http://aob.oxfordjournals.org/content/89/5/563.long> on August 22, 2016.
- SAMBROOK, J., and D.W. RUSSEL.** 2001. *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual* 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press. Cold Spring Harbor, NY.
- SHERWOOD, M.** 1972. Inhibition of *Rhizobium trifolii* by Yeast Extracts or Glycine is prevented by Calcium. *Agricultural Institute, Johnstown Castle, Wexford, Ireland and Biochemistry Department, Unviversity College, Dublin, Ireland*, **71**, 351-358.
- SIMON Z., M. KELVIN, E. AMARE, and P.A. NDAKIDEMI.** 2014. Isolation and Characterization of Nitrogen Fixing Bacteria from Cultivated and Uncultivated Soils of Northern Tanzania. *American Journal of Plant Science* **5**: 4050 4067.
- SØRENSEN, J., and A. SESSITSCH.** 2007. Plant-associated bacteria—Lifestyle and molecular interactions. In J.D. van Elsas, J.K. Jansson, and J.T. Trevors (Eds.), *Modern Soil Microbiology*, 2nd ed. (pp. 211–236). Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, Taylor and Francis Group.
- SUBBA RAO. S.** 1977. *Soil Microorganisms and Plant Growth*, Oxford and IBH Publishing Co. Retrieved from <http://himedialabs.com/TD/M721.pdf>. on August 29, 2016.

- WALMORTH, J.** 2013. Nitrogen in Soil and the Environment. Retrieved from <http://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/pubs/az1591.pdf> on September 10, 2016.
- WWW.BIBLIO.TELUQ.CA.** 2002. Rhizobium, Root Nodules & Nitrogen Fixation. [http://biblio.teluq.ca/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Zt582qIwcMI5ljHgoneZIw%3D%3D&t\\_bid=40831&language=fr-CA](http://biblio.teluq.ca/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Zt582qIwcMI5ljHgoneZIw%3D%3D&t_bid=40831&language=fr-CA).
- WWW.FAO.ORG.** 1989. Technical Paper 2: Biological Nitrogen Fixation. Retrieved from [http://www.fao.org/Wairdocs/ILRI/x5546E/x5546e05.htm#2.3specificity\\_and\\_eff](http://www.fao.org/Wairdocs/ILRI/x5546E/x5546e05.htm#2.3specificity_and_effective) ictive ess on August 10, 2016.
- WWW.MOLECULAR.ROCHE.COM.** 1996-2016. What is PCR. Retrieved from <https://molecular.roche.com/innovation/pcr/what-is-pcr/> on August 28, 2016.
- WWW.UVM.EDU,** Comparison of phenotypic and genotypic techniques for identification of unusual aerobic pathogenic gram-negative bacilli Retrieved from <https://www.uvm.edu/~gdrusche/Classes/GEOL%20295%20%20Geomicrobiology/Lectures/Lecture3.ppt> on August 31, 2016.
- WWW.VLAB.AMRITA.EDU.** 2013. Soil Analysis-Determination of Available Organic Carbon content in the Soil. Retrieve from <http://vlab.amrita.edu/?sub=2&brch=294&sim=1552&cnt=1> on August 14, 2016.
- YAMAGUCHI T., and E. BLUMWALD.** 2005. Developing salt-tolerant crop plants: Challenges and opportunities, Trends in Plant Science, 10:12, 615 – 620.
- ZAHRAN, H.H.** 1999. Rhizobium-legume symbiosis and nitrogen fixation under severe conditions and in an arid climate. Retrieved from <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10585971> on June 10, 2017.