

# Pathogenicity of *Pseudomonas anguilliseptica* Infection in Goldfish (*Cyprinus Carpio*)



AjengAekanurmaningdyah<sup>1</sup> and Kurniasih<sup>2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Clinical Department, Brawijaya University, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup>Pathology Department, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia

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\*Corresponding author: Kurniasih, Clinical Department, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Brawijaya University, Indonesia, Email: kurniasih\_1951@yahoo.co.id

## Abstract

*Pseudomonas anguilliseptica* caused Red Spot Disease (Sekitten - Byo) resulted a very high mortality in fishes and serious economic losses as a Quarantine Fish and Diseases group I. Aim of study is to identify *Ps. anguilliseptica* with conventional, molecular, and the histopathological changes. Local isolate of *Ps. anguilliseptica* were identified by morphological and molecular tests. Molecular identification in 16S rRNA fragment used forward primer Psan-F (21-mer: 5'-TTGGGAGGAAGGGCA-GTAACC-3') and reverse Psan-R (20-mer: 5'-TGCGCCACTAAAATCTCAAG-3'), and sequencing. Pathogenicity test used 18 fishes divided into 2 groups each group consist of 9 fishes. Group I, fish was infected intramuscularly with buffer saline as a control and group II, fish was infected intramuscularly with 0.1ml LC-50 of *Ps. anguilliseptica* suspension. Fishes were autopsied on 1<sup>st</sup> day, 8<sup>th</sup> day and 15<sup>th</sup> day after infection. The morphological results showed the colonies appear round, grayish, convex, entire, diameter about 1mm with rod-shaped cells and Gram negative. Biochemical results showed a positive reaction to oxidase, catalase, motility, gelatinase, pH 5.3 to 9.7 and sucrose; and negative reactions to indole, glucose and lactose. Alignment sequences of local isolate of *Ps. anguilliseptica* showed the similarities with the *Ps. anguilliseptica* of Gene Bank 94%. Histopathological result was myositis and congestion of brain at the 1<sup>st</sup> day. At the 8<sup>th</sup> day showed necrosis and myositis, renal necrosis, enteritis hemorrhagica, epicarditis, and congestion of brain. At the 15<sup>th</sup> day muscle necrosis, epidermatitis, hepatitis, splenitis, epicarditis, enteritis hemorrhagica, and congestion of brain.

**Keywords:** *Pseudomonas anguilliseptica*; Common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*); Pathogenicity; Molecular

## Introduction

*Pseudomonas anguilliseptica* was firstly identified in 1972 as the cause of Red Spot Disease or "Sekiten- byo" at aquaculture of *Anguilla japonica* in Japan [1]. *Pseudomonas anguilliseptica* was also the etiology of "Winter Disease Syndrome" [2-5]. The disease could attack *Anguilla japonica*, *Anguilla anguilla*, *Lates calcalifer*, *Plecoglossus altivelis*, *Carrassius auratus*, *Oreochromis niloticus*, *Pangasius* spp, and *Cyprinus carpio*. Distribution of *Ps. Anguilliseptica* infection was Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, Europe, until Indonesia including Yogyakarta, Bali, Nabire, Nangroe Aceh Darussalam, West Kalimantan and South Sumatera [6]. Symptoms of disease were ascites, petechiae hemorrhage, darker skin, exophthalmia, and loosing scale. Liver was pale, hemorrhage of kidney, congestion of intestine and fibrinous exudates [4,7].

The Japanese eel (*Anguilla japonica*) showed petechial hemorrhage on the skin, especially at the bottom jaw, operculum, ventral and pectoral fins. The mortality at the second days, fish showed congestion of peritoneum and liver, swollen and black colour of kidney and spleen [8]. *Pseudomonas anguillisepti*

could be isolated from spleen, kidney, liver, eye, Intestine, fin, lesion of dermis, and ascites [3,9,10]. *Pseudomonas anguilliseptica* was also found in the blood [2]. Romalde et al. [11] has identified *Ps. Anguilliseptica* based on PCR in 16S rRNA region using internal organ. The amplification product was 418 base pair. A pair of primers used was forward Psan-F (21-mer; 5'-TTGGGAGGAAGGGCA-GTAACC-3') and reverse Psan-R (20-mer; 5'-TGCGCCACTAAAATCTCAAG-3'). Pathogenicity research of *Ps. Anguilliseptica* has been experimentally done by intramuscular injection [12], intraperitoneally, and subcutaneous injection [2]. The aim of study to find out the pathogenicity of *Ps. anguilliseptica* from local isolates experimentally infection in gold fish (*Cyprinus carpio*).

## Methods

### Re-identification of *Ps. anguilliseptica*

The isolate of *Ps. anguilliseptica* collected from gouramy fish in Yogyakarta was identified based on Austin & Austin [13], it can be seen in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Morphological identification of *Ps. anguilliseptica*.

	Local Isolate	<i>Ps.anguilliseptica</i> (Austin&Austin, 2007)
Oxidase	+	+
Katalase	+	+
Motility	+	+
Indole	-	-
H2S	-	-
Gelatinase	+	+
pH 5.3-9.7	+	+
Glucose	-	-
Lactose	-	-
Sucrose	+	+

### Molecular analysis

Local isolate was extracted using RNA extraction kit (DNeasy@Qiagen). Gen amplification of 16SrRNA used primer forward Psan-F (21-mer;5'-TTGGGAGGAAGGGCA-GTAACC- 3') and reverse primer Psan-R(20-mer;5'- TGCGCCACTAAAATCT-CAAG-3'). The PCR was performed in a total reaction volume 25µL containing 12µL master mix (GoTaq Green), 1µL of each primer (10pMol), 9µL of Nuclease free water and 2µL DNA template. The mixture was incubated in a automatic thermal cycler programmed for 35 cycles, 1 cycles of pre denaturation 95°C for 3 minutes, denaturation 95°C for 20s, annealing 63°C for 20

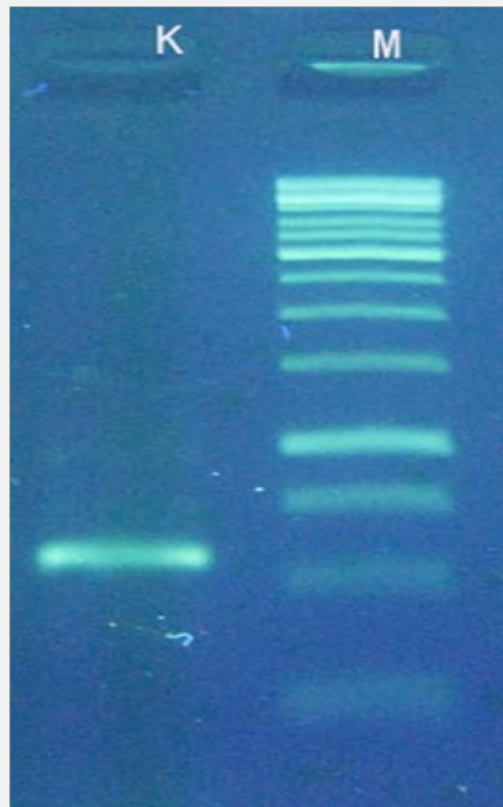
seconds, extension 72°C for 30 s and final extension 72°C for 5 minutes [11]. The amplification product was electrophoresed in 1% of agarose gel in buffer TAE, 100 voltages for 45 minutes. Amplification product was then purified and sequenced.

### Experimentally infection of *Ps. Anguilliseptica* in gold fish

Number of 18 gold fish was divided into two groups. Group one was injected intramuscularly with 0,1mL of solution containing *Ps. Anguilliseptica* 5,75 x 10<sup>6</sup>cell/mL, the second group was injected intramuscularly with 0.1mL of NaCl fisiologis solution as a control. Two groups were observed for 15 days, they were autopsied at the first, the eight, and the fifteenth day after injection.They were also processed for histopathological examination.

### Result

Result of amplification of *Ps. Anguilliseptica* showed 500-750bp (Figure 1), that it was different from previous report at 418bp [11]. Sequencing result of gen16SrRNAof *Ps. Anguilliseptica* from Yogyakarta has been compared to *Ps. Anguilliseptica*of Gene Bank (FJ608122.1), it was found that the nucleotide length of local isolate of *Ps. Anguilliseptica* was 546bp (Figure 1). Alignment result showed that the similarity of *Ps.anguilliseptica* sequences from local isolate and *Ps. Anguilliseptica*from GeneBank was 94% (Figure 2).



**Figure 1:** Amplification of 16S rRNA fragment. K was isolate of *Ps. Anguilliseptica* from Yogyakarta, M was 1Kb marker.

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Ps. anguilliseptica CCCTGG AACTG AG ACACGGTCCAGACTCCTACGGGA 36
GeneBank CACTGGA AACTGAG ACACGGTCCAGACTCCTACGGGA

Ps. anguilliseptica GGCAGCAGTGGGGAATATTGGACAATGGCGAAAGC 72
GeneBank GGCAGCAGTGGGGAATATTGGACAATGGCGAAAGC

Ps. anguilliseptica CTGATCCAGCCATGCCGCGTGTGTGAAGAAGGTCTT 108
GeneBank CTGATCCAGCCATGCCGCGTGTGTGAAGAAGGTCTT

Ps. anguilliseptica CGGATTGTAAAGCACTTTAAGTTGGGAGGAAGGGTT 144
GeneBank CGGATTGTAAAGCACTTTAAGTTGGGAGGAAGGGTT

Ps. anguilliseptica GTAGATTAATACTCTGCAATTITGACGTTACCGACA 180
GeneBank GTAACCTAATACGTTGCTACTTTGACGTTACCGACA

Ps. anguilliseptica GAATAAGCACCGGCTAACTCTGTGCCAGCAGCCGCG 216
GeneBank GAATAAGCACCGGCTAACTCTGTGCCAGCAGCCGCG

Ps. anguilliseptica GTAATACGAAGGGTGCAAGCGTTAATCGAATTACT 252
GeneBank GTAATACGAAGGGTGCAAGCGTTAATCGAATTACT

Ps. anguilliseptica GGGCGTAAAGCGCGCGTAGGGTGGTTTGTAAAGTTGG 288
GeneBank GGGCGTAAAGCGCGCGTAGGGTGGTTTGTAAAGTTGG

Ps. anguilliseptica ATGTGAAATCCCGGCTCAACCTGGGAAGTGCATT 324
GeneBank AAGTGAAATCCCGGCTCAACCTGGGAAGTGCATT

Ps. anguilliseptica CAAAACCTGACTGACTAGATATGGTAGAGGGTGGTG 360
GeneBank CAAAACCTGACTGACTAGATATGGTAGAGGGTGGTG

Ps. anguilliseptica GAATTTCTGTGTAGCGGTGAAATGCGTAGATATAG 396
GeneBank GAATTTCTGTGTAGCGGTGAAATGCGTAGATATAG

Ps. anguilliseptica GAAGGAACACCAGTGGCGAAGGCGACCACCTGGACT 432
GeneBank GAAGGAACACCAGTGGCGAAGGCGACCACCTGGACT

Ps. anguilliseptica AATACTGACACTGAGGTGCGAAAGCGTGGGGAGCAA 468
GeneBank GATACTGACACTGAGGTGCGAAAGCGTGGGGAGCAA

Ps. anguilliseptica ACAGGATTAGAACCTTTGGTAGGACACGCCGTAAAC 504
GeneBank ACAGGATTAGAACCTTTGGTAGGACACGCCGTAAAC

Ps. anguilliseptica GATGTC AACTAGCCGTTGGAAGCCTTGAGATTTAG 540
GeneBank GATGTC AACTAGCCGTTGGAAGCCTTGAGATTTAG

Ps. anguilliseptica TGGCGC 546
GeneBank TGGCGC
    
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Figure 2: The Alignment result of *Ps. anguilliseptica* sequences from local isolate was compared to sequences from Gene Bank(FJ608122.1).

**Clinical symptom**

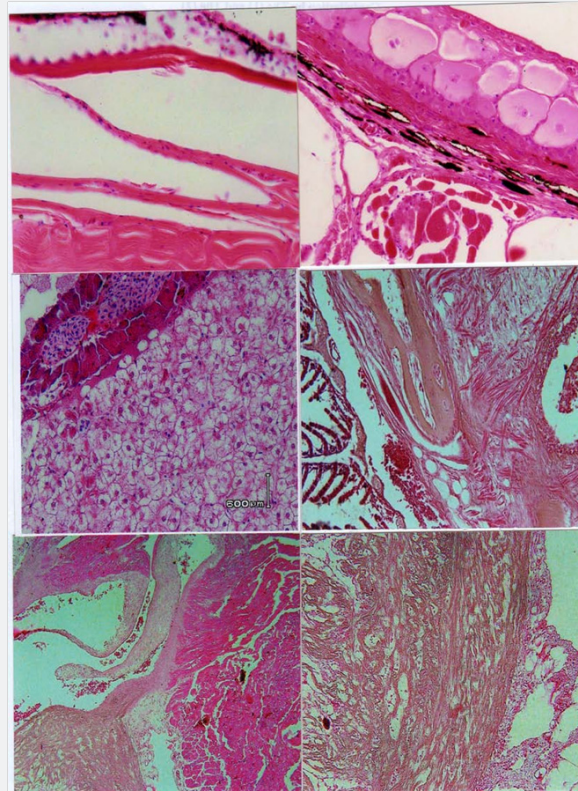
Gold fish that were infected with *Ps.anguilliseptica* showed several symptoms such as anorexia, stay at the bottom of aquarium, slow swimming, ascites, loosing scale, and lesion of skin(Table 2).

Table 2: Clinical symptoms of gold fish that was infected with *Ps. anguilliseptica*.

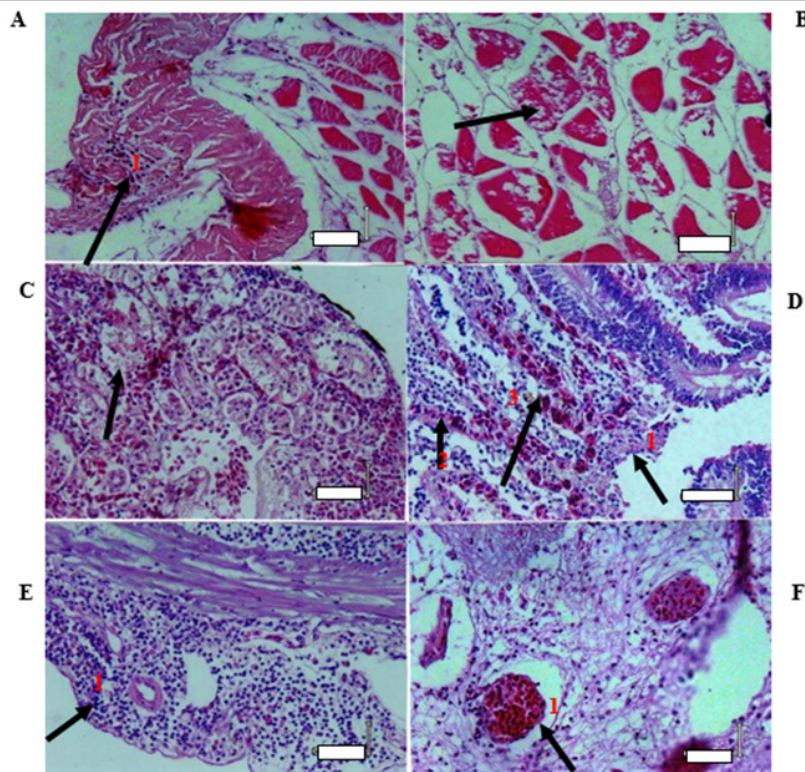
Symptoms	Day-1	Day-8	Day-15
Anorexia	+	+	+
Stay at the bottom	+	+	+
Slow swimming	+	+	+
Slow reaction	+	+	+
Ascites	-	+	+
Broken fin	-	+	+
Loosing scale	-	+	+
Lesion of skin	-	+	+

**Pathogenicity**

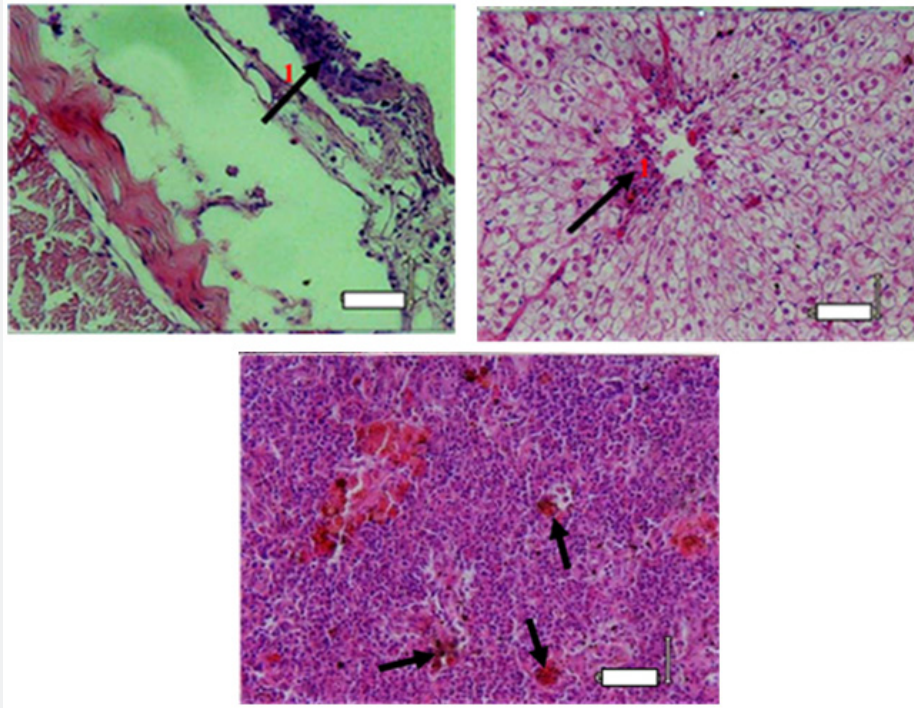
The histopathological organs such as skin, liver, cor, kidney, spleen, intestine, and brain of control group were no changes (Figure 3). At the first day of infection the fish showed myositis, and congestion of brain. At the eight day of infection, fish was suffered from myositis, necrosis of kidney, enteritis, epicarditis, and congestion of brain (Figure 4). At the fifteenth day, fish showed necrosis of muscle, dermatitis, hepatitis, splenitis, enteritis, epicarditis, and congestion of brain (Figure 5&6). The histopathological changes were varied from days one, eight, and fifteen.Lesion of skin was first congestion and myositis at the first day, it became necrosis at day fifteen. Congestion and inflammation could be occurred because of the presence of intracellular enzyme with hemolytic and proteolytic activity that irritated the skin [14]. Necrosis of muscle has been reported by Gallardo et al.[15] in Gilthead Sea Bream (*S. aurata*) with winter syndrome or *Ps.anguilliseptica* infection. Congestion and necrosis in liver, kidney, and other organs were also reported by Ellis et al.[16,17]. Necrosis of kidney especially in glomerulus could be caused by toxin from *Ps. Anguilliseptica*[18].



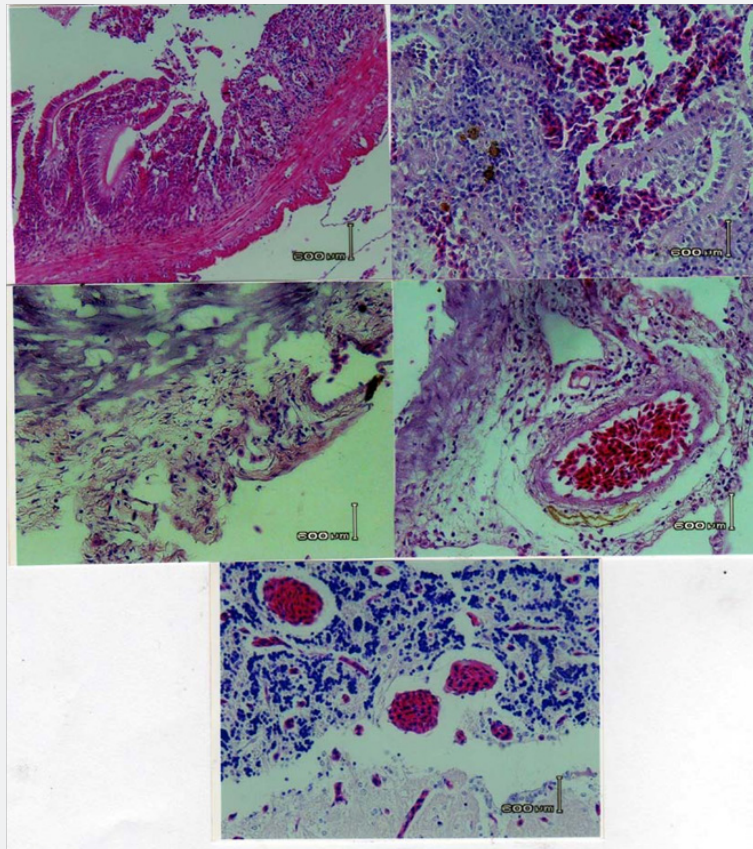
**Figure 3:** Histology of normal organ of gold fish in control group, A skin; B kidney; Chepar; D gill; E cardiac valve; F intestine. Scale bar 50µm.



**Figure 4:** Histopathology of gold fish organs at the eight day of infection with *Ps. Anguilliseptica* Myositis (A); Necrosis of muscle (B); Necrosis of tubulus kidney (C); Erosion (1), Inflammation (2) and hemorrhage (3) of intestine (D); Epicarditis (E); Congestion of brain (F). Scalebar 50µm.



**Figure 5:** Histopathology of gold fish at the fifteenth day of infection. Necrosis of muscle(A); Epidermatitis (B); Congestion and hepatitis (C); Splenitis. Scalebar50µm.



**Figure 6:** Histopathology of gold fish at the fifteenth day of infection. Enteritis hemorrhagica (A); congestion and epicarditis (B); congestion of brain (C). Scalebar 50µm.

The heart was normal at the first day, it showed inflammation at the eight day of infection, and all fish became epicarditis. The inflammation of intestine and spleen was already found at the first day, it became increase at the eight day, and it was decrease at the day 15. The result was the same as Hossain and Chowdhury research in 2009, the increase number of melanomakrofoag that brownish colour became a patognomonic changes in spleen and kidney after *Ps. anguilliseptica* infection [5]. Bacteremia of *Ps. Anguilliseptica* consisted of three phases, the first phase was 90-99% of bacteria gone from circulation and would be back into circulation depend on individua and environment. The second phase, bacteria was found in the circulation with a low concentration or grow slowly, then gone because of liver and spleen activities. At the third phase, *Ps. Anguilliseptica* caused fatal infection after the number of bacteria was highly increase again in the blood vessel until the fish died [12].

## Conclusion

Local isolate of *Ps. anguilliseptica* was similar to *Ps. anguilliseptica* from gene bank based on molecular study in 16SrRNA gen. Pathogenecity of *Ps. anguilliseptica* infection was occurred bacteremia, congestion, and necrosis in several organ such as skin and brain at the first day. It became necrosis and inflammation at the eight day, and histopathological changes were found in all internal organ at the fifteenth day of infection.

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