

Foreword

Welcome to the Second Issue of 2020 for the Journal of Tropical Agricultural Science (JTAS)!

JTAS is an open-access journal for studies in Tropical Agricultural Science published by Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. It is independently owned and managed by the university for the benefit of the world-wide science community.

This issue contains 10 articles; 2 are review articles, 1 is short communication and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria and Thailand.

Articles submitted in this issue cover various scopes of Tropical Agricultural Science including: animal production; aquaculture; crop and pasture production; fisheries sciences; genetics and molecular biology; plant physiology; soil and water sciences; veterinary sciences; and zoology.

An investigation to determine the antifungal potential of *Andrographis paniculata*, *Backhousia citriodora*, *Clinacanthus nutans*, *Ficus deltoidea*, *Phaleria macrocarpa*, and *Piper betle* against three economically-important fungal pathogens was conducted by Mui-Yun Wong and her colleagues from Universiti Putra Malaysia. The results showed that *P. macrocarpa* was most potential to be developed as a biofungicide. For the development of novel biofungicides, further experimental investigation into bioactive compounds of these herbal plants as well as trials in both glasshouse and field are strongly recommended. The detailed information of the article can be found on page 107.

Muslim Razani and his teammates from Universiti Kelantan Malaysia focused on somaclonal variation caused by long-term subculture. The morphology changes of the micropropagated *Musa acuminata* cv. Berangan plantlets from long-term subcultures (15th subculture) could be differentiated by RAPD pattern. They found out that the micropropagated banana cv. Berangan produced different plant heights which were not uniform. This phenomenon is related to the genetic changes which can be proven by using RAPD analysis. Further details of this study is presented on page 183.

A regular paper entitled “Antipyretic Effect of Mitragynine and Crude Methanolic Extract of *Mitragyna speciosa* Korth. in Mice” discussed on the antipyretic effect of mitragynine and methanolic extract of *Mitragyna speciosa* Korth. (MSM) using mice as an *in vivo* pyretic model. It concluded that both of them possessed a dose-dependent antipyretic effect, where intraperitoneally (i.p.) administration of MSM resulted in an opioid-like effect. Details of this study are available on page 207.

We anticipate that you will find the evidence presented in this issue to be intriguing, thought-provoking and useful in reaching new milestones in your own research. Please recommend the journal to your colleagues and students to make this endeavour meaningful.

All the papers published in this edition underwent Pertanika’s stringent peer-review process involving a minimum of two reviewers comprising internal as well as external referees. This was to ensure that the quality of the papers justified the high ranking of the journal, which is renowned as a heavily-cited journal not only by authors and researchers in Malaysia but by those in other countries around the world as well.

We would also like to express our gratitude to all the contributors, namely the authors, reviewers, Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Board Members of JTAS, who have made this issue possible.

JTAS is currently accepting manuscripts for upcoming issues based on original qualitative or quantitative research that opens new areas of inquiry and investigation.

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