Potential of culture filtrate from Trichoderma spp. as biofungicide to Colletotrichum gloeosporioides causing anthracnose disease in chili

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ABSTRACT. Nurbailis, Djamaan A, Rahma H, Liswarni Y. 2019. Potential of culture filtrate from Trichoderma spp. as biofungicide to Colletotrichum gloeosporioides causing anthracnose disease in chili. Biodiversitas 20: 2915-2920. Trichoderma spp. have the potential to be used for controlling the airborne pathogenic fungi such as C. gloeosporioides. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the antifungal activity of the culture filtrate of five isolates of Trichoderma spp. (T. harzianum, T. viride, T. koningii, Trichoderma PP2, Trichoderma PP3) against C. gloeosporioides causing anthracnose disease in chili. Culture filtrate of Trichoderma spp. was produced from single culture and dual culture techniques. The design was a Completely Randomized Design with six treatments and four replications. The treatments were culture filtrate from T. harzianum, T. viride, T. koningii, Trichoderma PP2, Trichoderma PP3, and negative control (without culture filtrate from Trichoderma spp.). Parameters observed were: the diameter of the colony, colony coverage, conidial germination, and conidial density. The results of this research showed all the culture filtrate from Trichoderma spp. produced by single and dual culture techniques can inhibit the growth of C. gloeosporioides. The culture filtrate from Trichoderma PP2 and T. koningii were the most potential in inhibiting the growth, conidial density, and conidial germination of C. gloeosporioides.

KEYWORDS: Biofungicide, Colletotrichum gloeosporioides, culture filtrate, Trichoderma

INTRODUCTION

Colletotrichum gloeosporioides is one of the fungi that cause anthracnose disease in chili. This pathogen infects the mature and immature fruit of chili, causing high loss of production (Roberts et al. 2008; Robert et al. 2015; Diao et al. 2017). In general, the control of anthracnose disease is carried out by the extensive use of fungicides which have a negative impact on the environment and consumers (Sharma and Kulsheetha 2015). Therefore; it is necessary to find alternative controls which are environmentally friendly by utilizing the antagonistic fungi such as Trichoderma spp. as biological control agents.

Trichoderma spp. are free-living fungi, antagonistic, nonvirulent, plant symbionts, as well as hyperparasite against plant pathogenic fungi (Harman et al. 2004). They are commonly found in all climatic zones with habitats that dispersed in various types of soil and agricultural land. The most typical habitats of these fungi include soil and rotting wood (Samuel 2006; Druzhinina et al. 2006). Trichoderma has several mechanisms in inhibiting the growth of plant pathogens which are: competition of space and nutrients, parasitic to the plant pathogens and antibiosis by producing secondary metabolites as antimicrobial (Howell 2003; Vinale et al. 2008). Trichoderma spp. induces pathogen inhibition by secreting secondary metabolites. Different Trichoderma species secrete different substances, including isonitrile, diketopiperazines, sesquiterpenes, stemids, polyketides, alkylpyrones, and peptaibols (Wu et al. 2017).

Utilization of Trichoderma spp. to control pathogens that attack parts of the plant surface such as leaves and fruit have not been widely reported. Trichoderma has the potential to be developed for controlling this disease by utilizing secondary metabolites that are produced as antifungal and antibacterial compounds (Dubey et al. 2011; Leelavathy et al. 2014). Secondary metabolites produced by Trichoderma are chemically diverse, and their production varies between species and between isolates of the same species (Vinale et al. 2009). The vast structural and functional diversity of Trichoderma metabolites necessitates the continuous search for new metabolites. The generated knowledge may be necessary for the selection of new biocontrol agents, or the compounds themselves may be used as bioactive compounds in pesticide and antibiotic applications (Mutowila et al. 2016).

Antibiosis is a mechanism of antagonistic fungi in inhibiting the growth of pathogens with antagonistic chemical products released into their environment, which include antibiotic components and extracellular enzyme systems that damage pathogens (Harman, et al. 2004; Woo, et al. 2006; Dubey et al. 2011; Leelavathy et al. 2014; Daniel et al. 2014). T. harzianum T22 and T39 strains produce secondary metabolites in the form of antibiotics that can suppress many plant pathogenic fungi such as Leptosphaeria maculans, Phytophthora cinnamomi, and Botrytis cinerea (Vinale et al. 2006).

Kumar et al. (2014) reported that secondary metabolites from T. harzianum (Th. Azad) and T. viride (01PP)
produced with dual culture with various soil-borne pathogenic fungi showed that the metabolites produced were more effective in suppressing the growth of *F. oxysporum* growth. *f.spp. lenti, Rhizoctonia solani*, and *Sclerotinia rolfsii*. The higher the concentration of secondary metabolites, the more depressed pathogen growth.

Nurbailis et al. (2006) reported that *T. viride* and *T. koningii*, indigenous isolates from banana rhizosphere were able to inhibit the growth of *F. oxysporum f.spp. cubense* with an antibiotic, hyperparasite and competition mechanism. Nurbailis et al. (2014) also reported that *Trichoderma* PP2 and PP3 isolates originating from chili rhizosphere were effective in inhibiting the growth of *C. gloeosporioides* in vitro by the mechanism of competition, hyperparasites, and antibiotic.

There was an indication that *Trichoderma* spp. have an antibiotic mechanism in controlling plant diseases caused by *Colletotrichum* in chili. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct research on the utilization of secondary metabolites produced in culture medium of *Trichoderma* spp. to inhibit the growth of *C. gloeosporioides* that cause anthracnose in chili. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the antifungal activity of the culture filtrate of five isolates of *Trichoderma* spp. (*T. harzianum, T. viride, T. koningii, Trichoderma PP2, Trichoderma PP3*) against *C. gloeosporioides* causing anthracnose disease in chili

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The study was conducted in the Phytopathology Laboratory of the Agriculture Faculty, Andalas University, Padang from March to September 2018. The design was a Completely Randomized Design (CRD) consisting of six treatments and four replications. The treatments were culture filtrate of five *Trichoderma* isolates, namely: *T. viride, T. harzianum, T. koningii, Trichoderma PP2, and Trichoderma PP3* isolates and negative control (without culture filtrate). Each treatment has four replications. Data were statistically analyzed using Analysis of Variance and Duncan’s Multiple Range Test (DMRT) at the 5% level.

**Cultivation of Trichoderma spp.**

*Trichoderma* spp.: *T. viride, T. harzianum, T. koningii, Trichoderma PP2, and Trichoderma PP3* isolates with indication of having antibiotic activity were cultured on Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA) medium for seven days

**Cultivation of Trichoderma spp. in the liquid medium**

Cultivation of *Trichoderma* in liquid medium was carried out in two techniques: 1) single culture technique of *Trichoderma*: *Trichoderma* was cultivated in a liquid medium of Potato Dextrose Broth, contains of 200 g potato, 20 g dextrose and 1000 mL distilled water and pH were adjusted 6.0. The medium was put as much as 100 ml into Erlenmeyer tube 250 ml and sterilized in an autoclave for 30 minutes at 15 psi and 121°C. The sterilized medium was placed in laminar airflow for the inoculation of *Trichoderma* spp. Inoculation was carried out by adding 10 ml conidial suspension of *Trichoderma* (10⁹ conidia/mL) into an Erlenmeyer tube containing 100 ml of PDB medium (10% of the total medium). Subsequently incubated for five days at room temperature and then incubation was continued in a rotary shaker at a speed of 180 rpm for seven days. 2) dual culture technique of *Trichoderma* and *C. gloeosporioides* simultaneously. Cultivation was carried out in the Potato Dextrose Broth (PDB) as mention above. Inoculation was carried out by adding 10 ml conidial suspension each of *Trichoderma* and *C. gloeosporioides* (10⁹ conidia/mL) into an Erlenmeyer tube containing 100 ml of PDB medium. Next incubated for five days at room temperature, incubation was continued on a rotary shaker at a speed of 180 rpm for seven days. (Kumar et al. 2014).

**Culture filtrate of Trichoderma spp**

Liquid growth media as mention above was separated from biomass of *Trichoderma* spp for single culture and biomass of *Trichoderma* spp and *C. gloeosporioides* for dual culture techniques using Whatman filter paper. The filtrate was centrifuged at 4000 rpm for 30 minutes, then filtered again using Whatman paper into another Erlenmeyer. The obtained filtrate was prepared by passing through Millipore filter membrane 0.2 µm

**Culture of Colletotrichum gloeosporioides**

The pathogenic fungus *C. gloeosporioides* was isolated from infected chili fruit with anthracnose symptoms characterized by dry brownish-black rot with sunken lesions in fruit skin. The isolation was carried out by the moist chamber method. First the surface sterilization is carried out on symptomatic fruit by washing with sterile aquadest, then the fruit is soaked in a plastic box containing Natrium hypochlorit 1% (NaOCl 1%) for tree minutes and then rinsed with sterile aquadest. The fruit is cut into 0.5 cm size by inserting symptomatic and healthy parts. Five pieces of fruit were placed in a plastic petri dish covered with moistened filter paper and incubated for 48 hours. The fungus that grows on the fruit was isolated in a petri dish containing a PDA medium, the fungal colony that has the characteristic of *C. gloeosporioides* is isolated again until its pure culture is obtained. Furthermore pure cultures are identified macroscopically and microscopically by referring to the literature (Alexopoulos et al. 1995; Agrios 2005).

**Inhibition test of culture filtrate against C. gloeosporioides**

One mL of *Trichoderma* culture filtrate from single or dual culture techniques was mixed evenly with 9 mL of PDA medium at 40°C and poured onto Petri dishes. Cultures of *C. gloeosporioides* on PDA was cut using a core borser with a diameter of 0.5 cm and placed in the center of a Petri dish. Petri dish was incubated at room temperature until the culture in control covered the entire PDA surface.

**Parameters observed**

*Growth inhibition of C. gloeosporioides colonies*

Diameter and colony coverage of *C. gloeosporioides* colonies were observed by measuring the diameter of the fungal colonies using a ruler. Colony coverage was
measured using millimeter plastic paper. Observations were done every day until up to 12 days after inoculation of C. gloeosporioides.

Evaluation of conidial germination and conidial density of C. gloeosporioides

Conidial germination of C. gloeosporioides was determined by the method of Junianto and Sukamoto (1995). PDA in the form of a plate with an area of about 1 cm² and 1-2 mm thickness was placed on a sterile object-glass, then 10 μL of conidial suspension containing 10⁶ conidia/mL was transferred on PDA medium. The object-glass was placed in sterile Petri dishes containing a moistened filter paper and incubated at room temperature for 24 hours. Observation was using a light microscope with a magnification of 400 times. Germination was observed by counting the number of conidia that germinated divided by the total number of conidia observed.

Conidial density of C. gloeosporioides was determined by preparing: C. gloeosporioides culture on PDA medium that has been added with filtrate of Trichoderma spp. that incubated for 12 days (the control dish was full colony coverage). Furthermore, the conidia were crushed using a small brush and stirred evenly with distilled water. The suspension was inserted into the test tube, and a dilution of 10⁻¹ was made. The number of C. gloeosporioides conidia which cultivated on PDA incorporated with culture filtrate of Trichoderma spp. was calculated using a hemocytometer. The observation was carried out using a light microscope with a magnification of 400x.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The effect of culture filtrate of Trichoderma spp. to the growth of C. gloeosporioides: Single culture technique

Culture filtrate of Trichoderma spp. incorporated with PDA affected the growth of C. gloeosporioides significantly over control (Table 1). Culture filtrates of Trichoderma spp. contain secondary metabolites derived from Trichoderma spp were able to suppress the growth of C. gloeosporioides in various degree. The highest growth suppression was recorded in Trichoderma PP2 with the effectivity 67.80% and, T. koningi had the effectivity 25.89% in suppressing the colony coverage r. The highest colony growth was recorded in negative control without culture filtrate of Trichoderma spp.

The high ability of culture filtrates of T. koningii and Trichoderma PP2 in inhibiting the growth of C. gloeosporioides was due to the secondary metabolites contain in culture filtrate that has antifungal activity. Vinale et al. (2006) reported that the secondary metabolites of T. harzianum strain T22 and T39 have antifungal activity so that they can inhibit the growth of pathogenic fungi like Leptosphaera muculans, Phytophthora cinnamoni, and Botrytis cinerea. In this study, T. koningii and Trichoderma PP2 have better ability in inhibiting the growth of C. gloeosporioides than T. harzianum. It is due to different species or isolates in the same species of Trichoderma produce different types of secondary metabolites (Wu et al. 2017) so that they have different abilities in inhibiting the growth of pathogenic fungi.

Conidial germination and conidial density of C. gloeosporioides

Culture filtrate of Trichoderma spp. showed a significantly different effect on the conidial density and germination of C. gloeosporioides conidia (Table 2). Trichoderma spp. produce secondary metabolites that able to suppress the formation of C. gloeosporioides conidia with the conidial density of 1.3-1.65 x 10⁶ /mL and the germination of conidia was in the range 21.33-32.37% which were much lower than the control treatment (4.60 x10⁶/mL).

In general, culture filtrate of Trichoderma spp. reduces the germination of C. gloeosporioides conidia. The lowest germination (21.33%) was in the treatment of culture filtrate from T. harzianum with the effectiveness of 72.21%. The results of this study showed that reduction of germination caused by culture filtrate of Trichoderma spp. was varied. Vinale et al. (2014) reported that viridin, a secondary metabolite produced by T. koningii and T. virens was able to inhibit conidial germination of the fungi Botrytis allii, C. line, and F. caurdeum. Differences in ability to reduce germination rate by different Trichoderma isolates may be caused by different secondary metabolites that were produced so that the ability to inhibit the conidial germination of pathogenic fungi was also different.

Table 1. Effect of culture filtrates of Trichoderma spp. on the growth C. gloeosporioides colonies in single culture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Colony coverage (mm²)</th>
<th>Effectiveness (%)</th>
<th>Diameter of colony (cm)</th>
<th>Effectiveness (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>4792.30</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8.87</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. viride PP3</td>
<td>4514.50</td>
<td>107.07</td>
<td>7.72</td>
<td>16.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. harzianum PP3</td>
<td>4230.30</td>
<td>11.72</td>
<td>7.42</td>
<td>16.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. koningi PP3</td>
<td>3551.30</td>
<td>25.89</td>
<td>6.60</td>
<td>25.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trichoderma PP2</td>
<td>1543.00</td>
<td>67.80</td>
<td>7.85</td>
<td>11.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV = 8.30%</td>
<td>CV = 9.42%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Mean values having the same uppercase letter in the column do not significantly different at the 5% level by DMRT.

Table 2. Conidial density and germination of C. gloeosporioides treated with culture filtrate of Trichoderma spp. in single culture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Conidial density (x 10⁶/mL suspension)</th>
<th>Effectiveness (%)</th>
<th>Germination of conidia (%)</th>
<th>Effectiveness (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>4.60a</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>76.76a</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. viride PP3</td>
<td>1.65b</td>
<td>64.13</td>
<td>32.37b</td>
<td>57.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. harzianum PP3</td>
<td>1.60b</td>
<td>65.21</td>
<td>21.33c</td>
<td>72.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. koningi PP3</td>
<td>1.50bc</td>
<td>67.39</td>
<td>21.94c</td>
<td>71.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trichoderma PP2</td>
<td>1.30c</td>
<td>71.73</td>
<td>23.74c</td>
<td>69.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV = 8.89</td>
<td>CV = 12.32</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The numbers followed by the same uppercase letter on the same column are not significantly different at the 5% level by DMRT.
Growth rate (colony diameter) of C. gloeosporioides treated with culture filtrate of Trichoderma spp. was lower than control. The lowest growth rate was in the treatment of culture filtrate produced by T. koningii (Figure 1).

Colony growth of C. gloeosporioides on Potato Dextrose Agar medium incorporated with culture filtrate of Trichoderma spp. was dominated by mycelium formation while conidia formation was inhibited compared to the control (Figure 2).

The effect of culture filtrate of Trichoderma spp. to the growth of C. gloeosporioides: Dual Culture Technique

Growth inhibition of C. gloeosporioides

The treatment of culture filtrate incorporation of Trichoderma spp. produced by dual culture technique showed a significantly different effect among treatments to the colony coverage and diameter of C. gloeosporioides colonies (Table 3). Trichoderma spp. produced secondary metabolites that could suppress the growth of C. gloeosporioides. Culture filtrate of Trichoderma PP2 results in complete growth inhibition of C. gloeosporioides, while culture filtrate of T. harzianum caused growth inhibition of C. gloeosporioides with colony coverage was 1568.80 mm² (effectiveness 39.45%), and diameter of colony was 5.37 cm. Colony coverage and diameter of colony in negative control were 4792.30 mm² and 8.87 cm respectively.

Dual culture technique results in higher growth suppression of pathogenic fungi because they grew simultaneously on the same media at the same time so that Trichoderma during its growth and propagation will produce secondary metabolite compounds maximally for competing against C. gloeosporioides. Kumar et al. (2014) reported that secondary metabolites of T. harzianum (Th Ahad) and T. viridae (O1PP) produced in liquid medium simultaneously with pathogenic fungi were more effective to suppress the growth of F. oxysporum f.sp. lenti, Rhizoctonia solani, and Sclerotinia rolfsii. The higher of the secondary metabolite concentration, the more inhibition of pathogenic growth.

**Figure 1.** Growth rate (colony diameter) of C. gloeosporioides treated with culture filtrate of Trichoderma spp produced by Single Culture Technique

**Figure 2.** Growth of C. gloeosporioides treated with culture filtrate of Trichoderma spp at 10 days after inoculation. A. Control, B. Trichoderma PP3, C. Trichoderma harzianum, D. Trichoderma koningii, E. Trichoderma PP2, F. Trichoderma viride
The culture medium of *Trichoderma* PP2 was able to inhibit the growth of *C. gloeosporioides* completely. It indicated that *Trichoderma* PP2 was superior to other isolates in producing secondary metabolites as antifungal. According to Harman et al. (2004) *Trichoderma* spp. can produce hydrolytic enzymes that can destroy pathogenic cell walls such as chitinase, β-1,3 glucanases, and protease.

The culture medium of *T. koningii* and PP3 result in the growth of *C. gloeosporioides* colonies was slower than culture medium of *T. harzianum and T. koningii* treatment (Figure 3).

### Table 3. Effect of culture filtrates of *Trichoderma* spp. produced by dual culture method on the growth *C. gloeosporioides* colonies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Colony coverage (cm²)</th>
<th>Effectiveness (%)</th>
<th>Diameter of colony (cm)</th>
<th>Effectiveness (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>4792.30a</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8.87a</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>T. viride</em> + Cg</td>
<td>4470.50a</td>
<td>6.71</td>
<td>7.85b</td>
<td>11.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Trichoderma</em> PP3 + Cg</td>
<td>2673.80b</td>
<td>44.20</td>
<td>5.40c</td>
<td>39.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>T. koningii</em> + Cg</td>
<td>2173.80b</td>
<td>54.63</td>
<td>5.95c</td>
<td>32.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>T. harzianum</em> + Cg</td>
<td>1568.80c</td>
<td>67.26</td>
<td>5.37c</td>
<td>39.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Trichoderma</em> PP2+ Cg</td>
<td>0.00d</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0.00d</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Mean values having the same uppercase letter in the column do not significantly different at the 5% level by DMRT. Cg: *C. gloeosporioides*.

### Table 4. Conidial density and germination of *C. gloeosporioides* treated with culture filtrate of *Trichoderma* spp. in Dual Culture Technique

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Conidial density (x 10⁶/mL suspension)</th>
<th>Effectiveness (%)</th>
<th>Germination of conidia (%)</th>
<th>Effectiveness (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>40.60a</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>76.76a</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>T. harzianum</em> + Cg</td>
<td>19.00b</td>
<td>53.20</td>
<td>34.47b</td>
<td>55.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>T. koningii</em> + Cg</td>
<td>16.50b</td>
<td>59.35</td>
<td>33.70b</td>
<td>56.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>T. viride</em> + Cg</td>
<td>16.00b</td>
<td>60.59</td>
<td>36.19b</td>
<td>52.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Trichoderma</em> PP3 + Cg</td>
<td>8.50c</td>
<td>79.06</td>
<td>32.40b</td>
<td>57.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Trichoderma</em> PP2 + Cg</td>
<td>0c</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0c</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CV = 11.52, CV = 16.32

Note: The numbers followed by the same uppercase letter on the same column are not significantly different at the 5% level by DMRT. Cg: *C. gloeosporioides*.

### Figure 3. Growth rate (colony diameter) of *C. gloeosporioides* treated with culture filtrate s of *Trichoderma* spp. by dual culture

Conidial germination and conidial density of *C. gloeosporioides*

The treatment of *Trichoderma* spp in dual culture showed different effects significantly to the conidial germination and conidial density of *C. gloeosporioides* (Table 4). In general, culture medium of *Trichoderma* spp. was able to suppress the growth of *C. gloeosporioides* in various degree. Conidial density in *Trichoderma* spp. treatment was varied from 8.50 to 19.00 x10⁶/mL, and conidial germination varied from 32.4 to 34.47%. Treatment with culture filtrate of *Trichoderma* PP2 causes complete inhibition of conidial germination and conidial density, while conidial density and conidial germination in negative control was 40.60 x10⁶/mL and 76.76% respectively (Table 4).

Secondary metabolites produced in culture medium by *Trichoderma* PP2, *T. koningii* and *Trichoderma* PP3, were superior to suppress the formation of *C. gloeosporioides* conidia. It is related to the ability to suppress the growth of *C. gloeosporioides* (Figure 3) so that the conidial density and conidial germination were also inhibited. Meena et al. (2017) reported that *T. harzianum* and *T. viride* produce volatile and non-volatile compounds of secondary metabolites that effectively inhibit the growth and spore production of *Fusarium* spp. and *Alternaria alternata*.

Secondary metabolites of *Trichoderma* PP2 from dual culture inhibit the growth of *C. gloeosporioides* completely, so neither mycelium nor conidia were not formed. It indicated that the secondary metabolites of *Trichoderma* PP2 were very potential as antifungal. According to Daniel et al. (2014), secondary metabolites of *T. asperellum* T2-31 extract inhibit sporulation and germination of *F. oxysporum* conidia. The result of this study can be concluded that culture medium or culture filtrate from *Trichoderma* spp produced by single and dual culture used in this study can inhibit the growth of *C. gloeosporioides*. Secondary metabolites of *Trichoderma* PP2 and *T. koningii* were the best in inhibiting the growth, formation, and germination of *C. gloeosporioides* conidia.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors thank the Institute of Research and Community Service at Andalas University, Padang, Indonesia for funding this research, through the research contract of the Professor’s Acceleration Research Cluster Scheme Number: 50/UN.16.17/ PP.PGBGB/LPPM/2018

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