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3.	25 April 2019	Editor mengirimkan Revision 1 : perbaikan sesuai format dan permintaan nama dan alamat email dari 3 potensial reviewers	3-4
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6.	13 Mei 2019	Editors menyetujui naskah untuk diproses dan direview oleh tim reviewers RASAYAN Journal, editors mengirimkan invoice biaya proses publikasi	7-11
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10.	21 Mei 2019	Editors mengirimkan a Proof of payment Editors mengirimkan acceptance letter. Editors meminta bukti Copyright of transfer dan Letter of Original Work	31
11.	24 Mei 2019	Penulis mengirimkan copyright of transfer dan Letter of Original Work, sesuai permintaan editors	32-33
12.	25 Mei 2019	Penulis menerima laporan dan koreksi dari reviewer jurnal	34-39
13.	29 Mei 2019	Editor menerima dan menyetujui formulir copyright of transfer dan Letter of Original Work yang dikirimkan	40
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23.	3 Agustus 2019	Editors mengirimkan pemberitahuan bahwa naskah telah dipublikasikan online pada RASAYAN Journal of Chemistry , Vol.12, No.3, July - September, 2019. Melalui website : www.rasayanjournal.com	106-108
24.	27 September 2019	Editors mengirimkan informasi tentang penerbitan hardcopy	109
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Bengkulu, April 22nd 2019

Prof.(Dr.) Sanjay K. Sharma

Editor-in-Chief

RASĀYAN Journal of Chemistry

Dear Editors,

I am pleased to submit an original research article entitled “The Secondary Metabolites and Its Relation to Flowering Competency in Shalot (*Allium cepa* var. *aggregatum*)” by Marlin, Awang Maharijaya, Agus Purwito, and Sobir for consideration for publication in RASĀYAN Journal of Chemistry. This manuscript builds on our study to determine the metabolites composition in shallot and its relation to flowering competency.

The non-targetted metabolites were identified using GC-MS and assigned by matching their mass spectra with those available in the WILEY7 LIB. In this manuscript, we show a total of 130 of metabolites in non vernalized bulbs and 122 of metabolites in vernalized bulbs of 5 shallot genotypes. The metabolites composition was visualized in heatmap. Metabolites composition from 5 genotypes were difference and suggested correlated to flowering competency.

The submission has not been previously published, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. I certify that this article is new, and very appropriate to be published in RASĀYAN Journal of Chemistry. All authors have made substantial contributions to the concept and design of the research, acquisition of the data and its analysis, and drafting of the manuscript. We have no conflicts of interest to disclose. Thank you for your consideration. We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours Sincerely,



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1 **THE SECONDARY METABOLITES AND**
2 **ITS RELATION TO FLOWERING**
3 **COMPETENCY IN SHALOT (*Allium cepa* var.**
4 ***aggregatum*)**

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ABSTRACT

Shallot extract contains a great quantity of essential oil, volatiles, and other compounds. The composition of secondary metabolite can be regarded as the ultimate reactions of biological and physiological to genetic and environmental conditions. This study was objected to identify metabolomic composition and its relation to flowering competency in 5 genotypes of shallot. The non-targetted metabolites were identified using GC-MS and assigned by matching their mass spectra with those available in the WILEY7 LIB. Data matrix was analyzed by using metabolomic package of the R software. Heatmap was visualized for a total of 130 of metabolites in non vernalized bulbs and 122 of metabolites in vernalized bulbs of 5 shallot genotypes. The composition metabolites from 5 genotypes were difference and suggested correlated to flowering competency. The 3 genotypes of flowering type of shallot produced highest concentration of phytol (ditherphene alcohol) and low concentration of nitrogen compound. Whereas, 2 genotypes of non-flowering types contained high concentration of organosulfur and nitrogen sources. Metabolite profile of 5 genotypes contained of volatile and non-volatile phytonutrients, vitamin, saturated fatty acid and organosulfur compounds.

Keywords : dissimilarity matrix, GC-MS, non-targetted metabolite, organosulfur, phytol

INTRODUCTION

Shallot (*Allium cepa* var. *aggregatum*) is an important *Allium* plant that been used for food, ornamental, natural alternatives to food synthetic preservatives and medicinal for curing various diseases. *Allium* plants contain different sugars, amino acids, vitamins, sulfurous compounds, enzymes, flavonoids, saponins and minerals¹. *Allium* are also valued for their therapeutic properties; they are active as diuretics and laxatives and have been used to treat headaches and parasitic worms². Onion has beneficial effect as their prebiotic, and their ability to decrease levels of insulin, cholesterol, triacylglycerol and phospholipids for human health³, and considered an important vegetable and medicinal plant prescribed as an effective therapy for several complaints in healing treatment such as natural cancer treatment⁴. These beneficial effects will become an important target in shallot breeding and management practices.

Shallot genotypes may vary in flowering pattern, naturally flowering, inducible flowering, and non-inducible flowering shallot⁵. Flowering in shallot can be induce by an exogenous treatment such as vernalization. Vernalization is an important adaptation of plants to initiate flowering in response to a prolonged exposure to low temperatures^{6,7}. The principles derived from vernalization are likely to be widely relevant to epigenetic reprogramming in many organisms⁷. External condition plays important regulation in plant bioactivity and influences the metabolomic composition. Metabolomic composition in plant is various and specific, that depends on genetic and plant growth environment. Metabolomic describes plant phenotype differentiation.

1 Metabolomic technologies have revealed a new insights in
2 biological systems through metabolic dynamics⁸. The metabolomic
3 composition determines biological and physiological function of the
4 plants. Metabolite compounds are observed in the 6 *Alliaceae* family⁹,
5 in *Allium cepa* (onion) extracts^{10,11}, in *Allium rotundum* L¹², and in
6 *Allium sativum* (garlic) formulations^{13,14}. Metabolomic defined as a
7 comprehensive analysis in which all the metabolites of a biological
8 system are identified and quantified¹⁵. Metabolites are the end products
9 of cellular regulatory processes. Metabolites profiling in plant can be
10 directly extracted from a part of plant to find new molecules contents.
11 Profiling of the metabolite composition is an important way to evaluate
12 the contents of the medical plants, as well as their safety and efficacy¹⁶.

13 Mass spectrometry is an analytical method, which allows the
14 determination of the mass formula and structure. With mass
15 spectrometry, individual molecules can be measured based on their
16 molecular peak (m/z) and characteristics spectra of fragment ions¹⁷.
17 Mass spectrometry technology is high sensitivity to identify the
18 unknown and unexpected of the components present in the complex
19 biological samples¹⁸. These fragments often provide a clue to the
20 molecule's structure, but without a reference compound, the difficulty
21 of making an identification increases markedly¹⁷. The analytical
22 strategy *gase chromatography mass spectrometry* (GC-MS) used to
23 analyze the volatile compounds, and selected compounds were
24 structurally measured by mass spectrometry transposing the method to
25 GC-MS¹⁹. The mass analyzer separates the molecules or/and
26 fragments according to their masses and the detector detects and
27 quantifies the separated ions¹⁷. GC-MS analysis is performed on

1 single-quadrupole mass spectrometers, which provide nominal-mass
2 information. Quadrupole MS spectra can be easily compared with
3 commercial or inter-laboratories databases¹⁸.

4 This study was objected to identify secondary metabolite
5 composition and its relation to flowering competency in 5 genotypes of
6 shallot.

7

8 **EXPERIMENTAL**

9 ***Plant materials***

10 Local genotypes of shallot with different pattern of flowering
11 were selected as plant material. Shallot genotype ‘Bentanis’ is used as
12 the naturally flowering, while genotypes ‘Bima Brebes Ilokos, Tajuk
13 and Sumenep’ are selected as the induced flowering of shallot (Marlin
14 *et al.*, 2018). Each genotypes were treated with vernalization in 8 °C
15 temperature for 5 weeks, and no vernalization treatment as control. The
16 bulbs were then planted in 45 cm diameter polythene bags containing
17 8 kg of growing media (soil: manure: husk = 2: 1: 1). Each polybag was
18 planted with three bulbs. Before planting, shallots bulbs were soaked in
19 a fungicide benomil 50% at a concentration of 2 g.L⁻¹ for 15 minutes.
20 The bulbs were then soaked into solution of plant growth promoting
21 rhizobacteria of 5 g.L⁻¹ for 15 minutes. NPK fertilizers with a ratio of
22 15:15:15 were applied in a dose of 600 kg.ha⁻¹ or 2.4 g per polybag.

23

24 ***Metabolomic analysis***

25 The samples were the leaves of shallot plants at 4 weeks after
26 planting. GC-MS unit was carried out on an GCMS-QP2010 system

1 (Shimadzu Corporation, Japan) coupled to mass spectrometer detector.
2 The samples were inserted into the quartz chamber in the GC-MS unit.
3 Helium was used as a carrier gas in a constant flow mode at 0.85
4 ml/min. The chamber was heated in an oxygen-free environment at a
5 temperature of 400 °C for 0.2 minutes. The reaction will produce heat-
6 mediated cleavage of chemical bonds in the macromolecular structure
7 and produce low molecular weight with a chemical composition that
8 identify specific compound of metabolite. Compound mixtures were
9 then passed through the column GC-MS analysis. The column is Rt x 5
10 MS, with length 60.0 m, thickness 0.25 µm, and diameter 0.25 mm.
11 The initial temperature of the column was 50 °C, which was gradually
12 increased by 10 °C up to 280 °C. At the end of this period, the column
13 oven temperature was 50 °C raised up to 280 °C. Injection port
14 temperature was ensured as 280 °C and helium flow rate as 0.85
15 ml/min. Mass spectrometer detector was employed to detect
16 compounds when they were vented from the column. Temperature of
17 the detector was 200 °C. The volatile compounds of the plant samples
18 were then identified for each treatments.

19 The identification of the components of non-targetted metabolite
20 was assigned by matching their mass spectra with those available in the
21 WILEY7 LIB. The volatile compounds of the plant samples were then
22 identified for each genotypes. Spectra were compared with National
23 Institute of Standard and Technology (NIST, 2005 v2.1) library to
24 identify the unknown compounds. The data were confirmed using
25 PubChem online database in National Center for Biotechnology
26 Information (<https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>), chemicalbook
27 database (<http://www.chemicalbook.com>), and NIST webbook

1 database <http://webbook.nist.gov/>. The datasets were then log-
2 transformed in order to acquire the normalized data. Data matrix based
3 on non-targetted metabolomic of shallot in each vernalization
4 treatments were analyzed using Metabolomic package of the R
5 software (R version 3.2.2 <http://www.r-project.org/>). Metabolomics
6 package was operated to construct HCA (*hierarchical cluster analysis*)
7 and visulized heatmap with dendrogram. HCA was performed using
8 Euclidean distance method and complete linkage agglomerative
9 method.

11 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

12 Metabolite compounds in 5 shallot local genotypes were affected
13 significantly by vernalization treatments. A total of 130 of
14 metabolomic compound of non-vernalized bulbs, and 122 of
15 metabolites compound of vernalized bulbs of 5 shallot local genotypes
16 were identified by GC-MS. Metabolite compound obtained where then
17 visually described by metabolite heatmap (Figure 1). Heatmap is
18 widely used in metabolomic research because it is able to visualize
19 large amounts of metabolite data and its differences in sample groups²⁰.
20 Heatmap of both non vernalized and vernalized bulbs clustered 5
21 shallot local genotypes into three groups (Figure 1). First group was G2
22 (Bima Brebes genotype) and G4 (Tajuk genotype), second group was
23 G1 (Bentanis genotype), and the third group was G3 (Ilokos genotype)
24 and G5 (Sumenep genotype). Shallot genotypes in the same group
25 exhibited a similar metabolite profile, and showed a relevant metabolite
26 variability to another group. This was also confirmed by different

1 colour of each heatmap coloumn. Specific metabolite compounds were
2 visualized on each genotype column with a bright green color.
3 Hierarchical clustering analysis showed that the genotype had a
4 significant effect on the metabolites composition of the shallot. Each
5 genotype of shallot produces different metabolites that associated to the
6 flowering competency. Hierarchical clustering analysis of shallot
7 metabolites grouped shallot genotypes into three distinct genotypes, in
8 both vernalization treatments (Figure 1 and 2). The result indicated that
9 the presence of specific compounds produced in metabolome processes
10 in the vegetative transition to the reproductive phase in different
11 flowering ability.

12 Shallot genotypes located in the same group showed that the
13 genotype had the same metabolite profile, and showed significant
14 metabolite diversity with other groups. Visualization with heatmap also
15 confirmed in the presence of different colors from each of the heatmap
16 columns. The genotypes included in the first group were the Bentanis
17 genotype (G1). In the second group there was the Bima Brebes (G2)
18 and Tajuk genotype (G4), while in the third group there was Ilokos
19 (G3) and Sumenep genotype (G5). The Bentanis genotype separates on
20 its own group, and has close proximity to the Bima Brebes and Tajuk
21 groups. These three genotypes are genotypes that have the ability to
22 generate interest (sensitive to flowering).

23 Visualization with heatmap is widely used in metabolomic
24 research because it can visualize large amounts of metabolomic data
25 and classify it in sample groups²⁰. Specific metabolite compounds of
26 each sample of onion are visualized on each genotype column in bright
27 green.

1 Mass spectrometry methods can accurately detect compounds
2 including identification of unknown and unexpected compounds¹⁸.
3 Identification of the molecular structure is often given without
4 reference compounds, making it difficult to make a real identification¹⁸.
5 The genotypes of shallot that have the ability to produce flowers will
6 produce the specific metabolite compounds. Metabolite compounds
7 produced in the transition process can be an indicator to determine the
8 ability of flowering in shallot. The distribution of metabolomic
9 compounds produced in non-vernalized shallot genotypes is presented
10 in Figure 3.

11 The results showed each genotype produced different metabolite
12 compound. In Bentanis genotype showed the presence of monomethyl
13 ester (41.82%) higher than Sumenep genotype (2.12%). The
14 monomethyl ester compound, in the form of Mg-protoporphyrin IX
15 mono-methyl ester cyclase is the catalyst required for the oxidation
16 process of chlorophyll formation in plants²¹. The Bentanis genotype
17 grows faster than Sumenep genotype. Bentanis genotype has robust
18 maximum vegetative growth compared to Sumenep genotype at 5
19 weeks after planting. The results in Table 1 show that Bentanis
20 genotype has higher plant height (36.96 cm) than of Sumenep (29.82
21 cm). The presence of monomethyl ester (Mg-protoporphyrin IX mono-
22 methyl ester cyclase) compounds can increase the formation of
23 chlorophyll more optimally, thus increasing the photosynthesis process
24 for the Bentanis genotype growth.

25 Low concentration of proline (3.55% and 5.56%) was produced
26 in Bentanis and Tajuk genotypes (Figure 3). Proline compounds are
27 generally produced by plants as their response to stress condition.

1 Bentanis genotype was also produced succinimide compounds at about
2 4.78%, those can not be found in other genotypes. Succinimide
3 compounds are used as intermediate compounds in the process of
4 forming organic compounds that stimulate plant growth.

5 The presence of high concentrate of ammonium carbamate
6 compound is found in Bima Brebes genotype. Ammonium carbamate is
7 an important compounds in the formation of carbamoyl phosphate and
8 the formation of ATP into ADP²². While the presence of disulfide
9 (dipropyl disulfide) compounds was found higher in non-sensitive
10 flowering genotypes, such as Ilokos and Sumenep (1.69% and 5.43%),
11 compared with other genotypes (0.8–0.14%). The content of dipropyl
12 disulfide is an important component of activity as an antimicrobial and
13 antioxidant and gives a distinctive aroma to shallot plant. The sulfur
14 compounds in dipropyl disulfide is important the components of these
15 metabolite compounds²³. The sulfur compounds are known to have
16 important activities as antimicrobials and antioxidants^{24,25}. Derivative
17 products of allicin compounds such as diallyl disulfide, diallyl trisulfide
18 found in garlic essential oil indicate activity as a good antimicrobial²⁶.

19 Onion bulbs had the highest concentrations of propanethiol
20 compounds having an aroma 20 times higher than dipropyl disulfide
21 compounds²⁷. It also found in non-flowering shallot plant, Ilokos and
22 Sumenep genotypes, they produce higher acetic acid compounds
23 (1.04% and 5.98%) compared to the flowering type, the Bentanis
24 genotype (1.02%).

25 Utilization of sensitive instruments in metabolomic analysis is an
26 important way to detect the content of plant essential compounds. Plant
27 metabolites consist of highly diverse chemical compounds ranging

1 from inorganic compounds to hydrophilic, volatile alcohol and ketone
2 compounds, amino and non-amino acids, hydrophobic lipids, and
3 complex natural products¹⁸. The distribution of metabolomic
4 compounds produced on 5 shallot genotypes with vernalization
5 treatment is presented in the form of diagrams in Figure 4.

6 Utilization of mass spectrometry technology is a great way to
7 solve research and analysis problems in the metabolomic field¹⁸.
8 Metabolomic analysis was successfully to identify potential compounds
9 extracted directly from shallot genotypes. The results showed higher
10 concentrations of acyclic dithiophene alcohol (phytol) compounds in
11 flowering type shallot, Bentanis genotype (8.23%), Bima Brebes
12 (2.2%) and Tajuk (7.52%) than the Ilokos genotype (1.15%) and
13 Sumenep (2.19). The phytol compounds is an indication that
14 vernalization treatment has a positive effect in inducing flowering of
15 shallot genotypes, explaining that these three genotypes are sensitive to
16 vernalization treatment to induce flower formation. Phytol compound is
17 a compound that serves as a precursor of vitamin E and K. The content
18 of these vitamins plays an important role in the plant body as an
19 enzymatic cofactor in the process of metabolism that stimulates
20 reproductive response. The content of vitamin E in the form of
21 tocopherol is an important compound as one of the factors in the
22 context of a cellular antioxidant system²⁸. The differences of
23 metabolite profile might play a key role in flowering initiation in
24 shallot.

25 In flowering type of shallot genotypes, Bentanis, Bima Brebes
26 and Tajuk also showed the formation of nitrogen oxide and
27 semicarbazid hydrochlorid which are relatively lower than the non-

1 flowering type, Ilokos and Sumenep. Nitrogen compound is a
2 compound that plays an important role in the vegetative phase of the
3 plant. Once the plant enters the reproductive phase, the nitrogen
4 compounds in the plant body will decrease. In contrast, the Ilokos and
5 Sumenep genotypes show the formation of high nitrogen compounds ie
6 ammonium compounds ammonium carbamat, and nitrogen oxide. High
7 content of nitrogen compounds in Ilokos and Sumenep genotypes
8 explains that these two genotypes are not sensitive to vernalization
9 treatment, thus not encouraging the flowering formation.

10 The results also showed that the Sumenep genotype contained
11 high organosulfur compounds compared with other genotypes, namely
12 thiophene (2.31%) and trisulfide (4.25%). The organosulfur is an
13 important compound in giving aroma and spiciness upsurge in shallot,
14 and play an important role as an antioxidant. Essential compounds in
15 *Allium* have strong antioxidant ability. Tests on antimicrobial activity
16 showed that all essential oils on *Allium* were able to inhibit the activity
17 of gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria⁹.

18 Vernalization treatment triggered in the formation of proline
19 compounds in the Sumenep genotype. Vernalization treatment provides
20 a stress condition to the plants that increase the plant mechanism of
21 adaptation by producing proline compounds. Proline accumulation in
22 the plant body is a physiological response to stress, and as a generative
23 tissue development²⁹. Secondary metabolite is the cellular response in
24 plant that receives external pressure.

25 The metabolite profile of 5 local onion genotypes is also rich in
26 non-volatile phytonutrients, especially the content of phenolic
27 compounds (phenol, 2-propenamide, 3-pyridinamine, N-furfurylidene

1 2-phenylethyl amine, pyrrolidinedione), amide compounds aziridine-2-
2 carbothioic acid amide) and protein compound (pyroglutamic acid).
3 The essential components, mono and sesquiterpenes, carbohydrates,
4 phenols, alcohols, ether, aldehydes and ketones, are responsible for
5 biological activity and also for their fragrance³⁰. Phenols and
6 polyphenol compounds play important roles as antioxidants in
7 plants^{31,32,33}. Research on *Allium rotundum* showed the presence of
8 antioxidant activity of phenol compounds with high concentrations of
9 up to 4%¹². Onion extract contained the highest of phenol content, at
10 17.18 mg GAE per gram of fresh weight³⁴, and a phenol content of
11 114.70 mg GAE per 100 g of different onion samples³⁵.

12 Metabolite compound is difference among shallot genotypes.
13 Each plant genotype performs metabolic activities that depend on their
14 genetic conditions and the ability to adapt to its environment. The plant
15 biological activity may imply to proportion of metabolite containing in
16 a plant.

17

18 CONCLUSIONS

19 Secondary metabolite is associated to the flowering competency
20 in shallot genotypes. GC-MS analysis in shallot of 5 genotypes
21 detected 130 metabolites compounds in non-vernalized treatment, and
22 detected 122 metabolites in vernalization treatment. Each genotypes
23 produce different specific metabolites which is clustered according to
24 the ability to flower. Genotype Bentanis, Bima Brebes and Tajuk were
25 confirmed as flower-sensitive genotypes, with a lower content of
26 proline and nitrogen compounds (ammonium carbamate and nitrogen

oxide), but with higher phytol compounds. Genotype Ilokos and Sumenep are flowering insensitive genotypes, which contain higher levels of organosulfur compounds (thiophene and trisulfide). Vernalization treatment caused the Sumenep genotype produces the highest proline compound among other genotypes.

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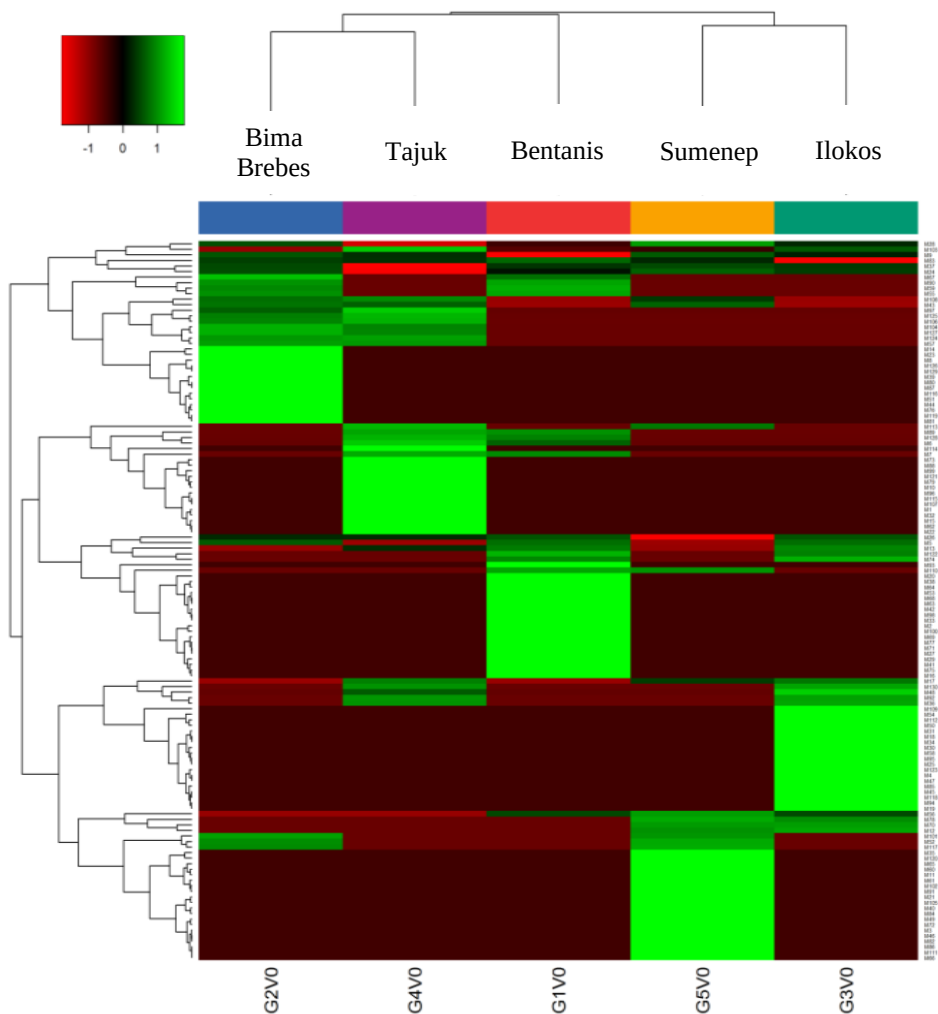


Figure 1 Heatmap of hierarchical clustering analysis based on non-targeted metabolomic in 5 shallot genotypes of 130 metabolites in non-vernalized bulbs.

Color-coded matrix represents the mean values of the metabolite intensity in 5 shallot local genotypes. Metabolite data had been transformed to log2 and mean-centered.

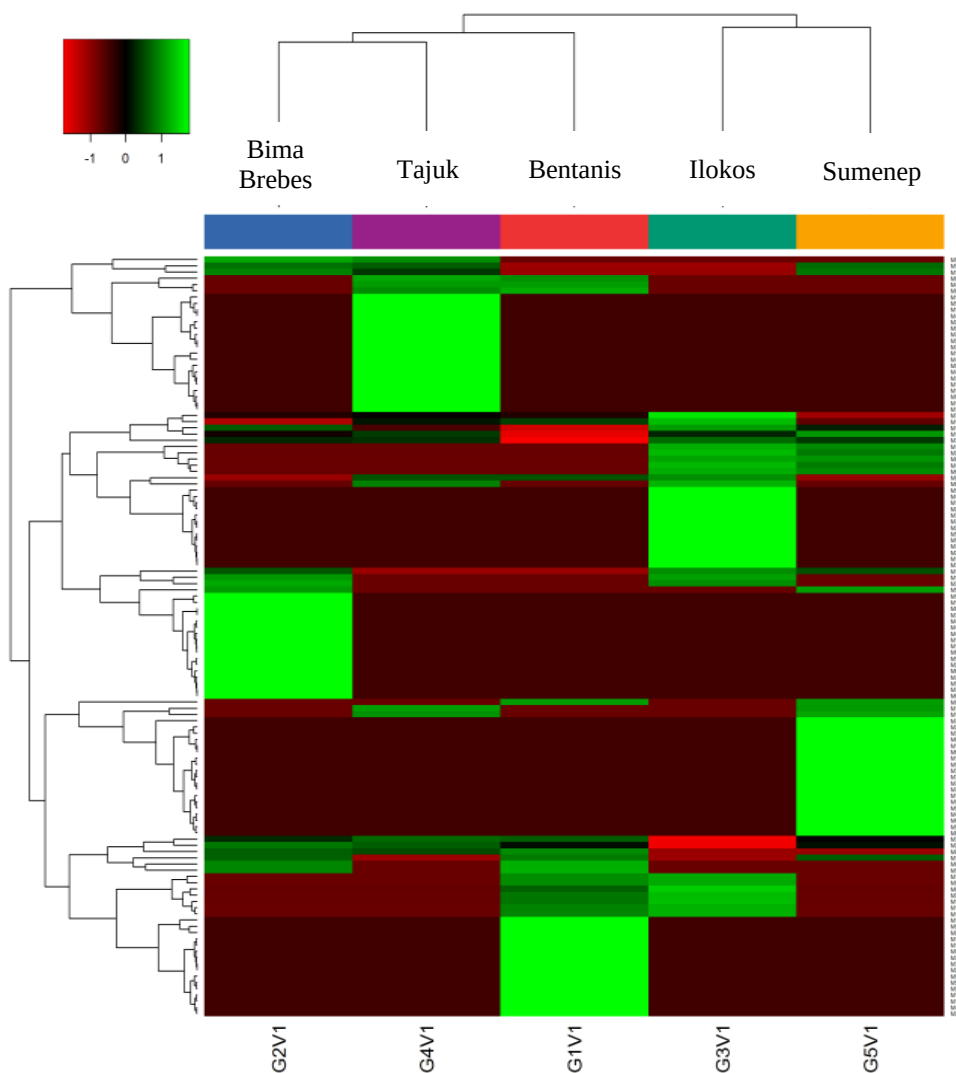


Figure 2 Heatmap of hierarchical group analysis based on non-targeted metabolomic in 5 shallot local genotypes of 122 metabolites in vernalized bulbs. Color-coded matrix represents the mean values of the metabolite intensity in 5 shallot local genotypes. Metabolite data had been transformed to log2 and mean-centered.

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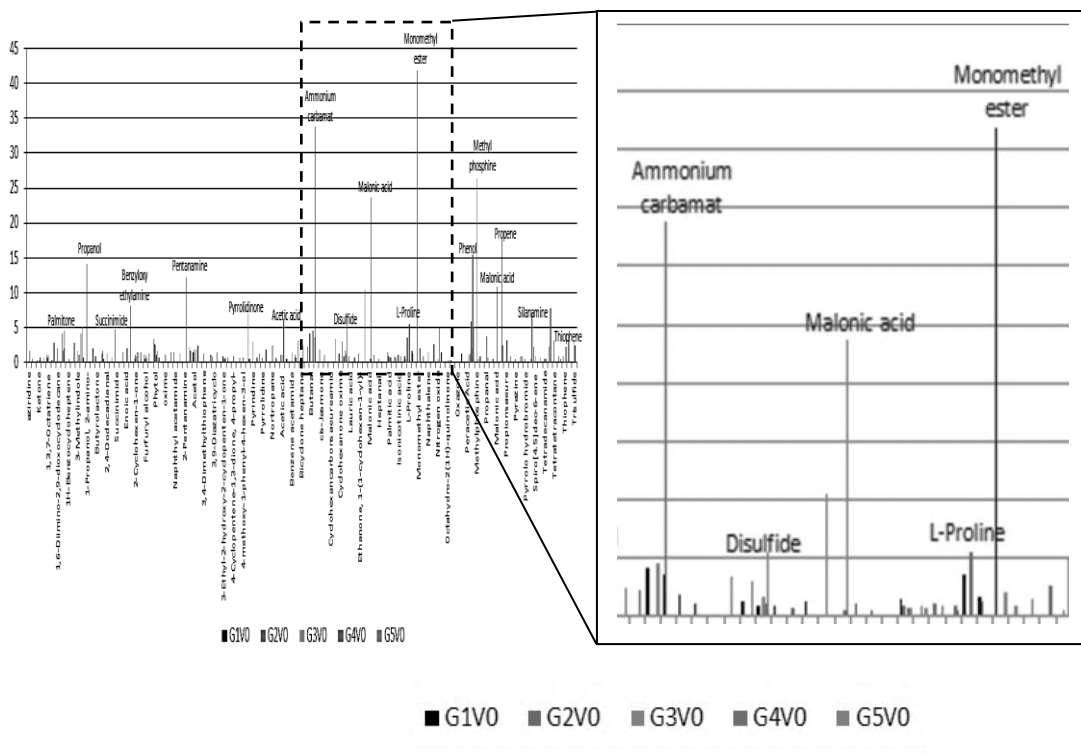
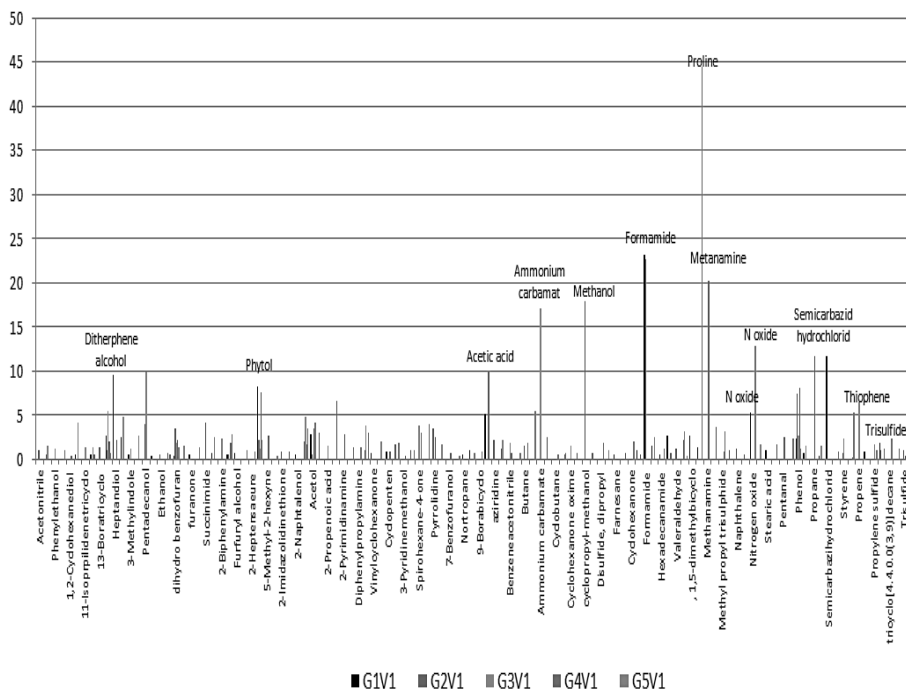


Figure 3 Metabolite composition in non-vernalized shallot genotypes. Genotype Bentanis (G1), Bima Brebes (G2), Ilokos (G3), Tajuk (G4) and Sumenep (G5)



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3 Figure 4 Metabolite compounds in 5 onion genotypes with
4 vernalization treatment (5 mst). Genotype Bentanis (G1),
5 Bima Brebes (G2), Ilokos (G3), Tajuk (G4) and Sumenep
6 (G5)



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Jl. WR. Supratman Kandang Limun

City: Bengkulu

State: Indonesia

Phone: +6285368227265

Email: marlin@unib.ac.id

Comment: Bengkulu, April 22nd 2019

Prof.(Dr.) Sanjay K. Sharma

Editor-in-Chief
RASĀYAN Journal of Chemistry

Dear Editors,

I am pleased to submit an original research article entitled "The Secondary Metabolites and Its Relation to Flowering Competency in Shalot (*Allium cepa* var. *aggregatum*)" by Marlin, Awang Maharijaya, Agus Purwito, and Sobir for consideration for publication in RASĀYAN Journal of Chemistry. This manuscript builds on our study to determine the metabolites composition in shallot and its relation to flowering competency.

The non-targetted metabolites were identified using GC-MS and assigned by matching their mass spectra with those available in the WILEY7 LIB. In this manuscript, we show a total of 130 of metabolites in non vernalized bulbs and 122 of metabolites in vernalized bulbs of 5 shallot genotypes. The metabolites composition was visualized in heatmap. Metabolites composition from 5 genotypes were difference and suggested correlated to flowering competency.

The submission has not been previously published, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. I certify that this article is new, and very appropriate to be published in RASĀYAN Journal of Chemistry. All authors have made substantial contributions to the concept and design of the research, acquisition of the data and its analysis, and drafting of the manuscript. We have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Thank you for your consideration. We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Marlin

Department of Crop Production, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bengkulu
Jalan WR. Supratman Kandang Limun Bengkulu 38121, Indonesia

Email : marlin@unib.ac.id

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Dear Editors,

Thank you for your fast response to my submission entitled “The Secondary Metabolites and Its Relation to Flowering Competency in Shalot (*Allium cepa* var. *aggregatum*)” by Marlin, Awang Maharijaya, Agus Purwito, and Sobir. Here is I attach the document of Revision-1 for consideration for publication in RASĀYAN Journal of Chemistry. I also provide 3 potential reviewers for my manuscript as follow

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3. Prof. Masayoshi SHIGYO

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Faculty of Agriculture Yamaguchi University.

Yoshida 1677-1 Yamaguchi, 753-8515, JAPAN

Thank you for your consideration.

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Acceptance Letter

Dear **Dr. Marlin**,

We are glad to inform you that your manuscript, entitled-

**MS No. RJC- 5356/2019: THE SECONDARY METABOLITES AND ITS
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(Allium cepa var. aggregatum)

Marlin, A. Maharijaya, A. Purwito, and Sobir

has been reviewed and subsequently accepted for publication in **RASĀYAN Journal of Chemistry**. The paper will be published in **RJC, Vol.12, No.3, 2019** issue of the journal.

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Complete Affiliation:	
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Manuscript Number:	
Title:	THE SECONDARY METABOLITES AND ITS RELATION TO FLOWERING COMPETENCY IN SHALOT (Allium cepa var. aggregatum)
Authors:	Marlin^{1*}, A. Maharijaya², A. Purwito², and Sobir² ¹ Department of Crop Production, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bengkulu, Indonesia ² Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia
Date of receiving by Reviewer:	May 12, 2019
Date of submission From Reviewer:	May 13, 2019

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Research Methodology:	Please see in the text
Results and Discussion:	Please see in the text
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THE SECONDARY METABOLITES AND ITS RELATION TO FLOWERING COMPETENCY IN SHALOT (*Allium cepa* var. *aggregatum*)

Marlin^{1*}, A. Maharijaya², A. Purwito², and Sobir²

¹Department of Crop Production, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bengkulu, Indonesia

²Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia

*E-mail : marlin@unib.ac.id

ABSTRACT

Shallot extract contains a great quantity of essential oil, volatiles, and other compounds. The composition of secondary metabolite can be regarded as the ultimate reactions of biological and physiological to genetic and environmental conditions. This study was objected to identify metabolomic composition and its relation to flowering competency in 5 genotypes of shallot. The non-targetted metabolites were identified using GC-MS and assigned by matching their mass spectra with those available in the WILEY7 LIB. Data matrix was analyzed by using metabolomic package of the R software. Heatmap was visualized for a total of 130 of metabolites in non vernalized bulbs and 122 of metabolites in vernalized bulbs of 5 shallot genotypes. The composition metabolites from 5 genotypes were difference and suggested correlated to flowering competency. The 3 genotypes of flowering type of shallot produced highest concentration of phytol (dithierphene alcohol) and low concentration of nitrogen compound. Whereas, 2 genotypes of non-flowering types contained high concentration of organosulfur and nitrogen sources. Metabolite profile of 5 genotypes contained of volatile and non-volatile phytonutrients, vitamin, saturated fatty acid and organosulfur compounds.

Keywords: dissimilarity matrix, GC-MS, non-targetted metabolite, organosulfur, phytol

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INTRODUCTION

Shallot (*Allium cepa* var. *aggregatum*) is an important *Allium* plant that been used for food, ornamental, natural alternatives to food synthetic preservatives and medicinal for curing various diseases. *Allium* plants contain different sugars, amino acids, vitamins, sulfurous compounds, enzymes, flavonoids, saponins and minerals¹. *Allium* are also valued for their therapeutic properties; they are active as diuretics and laxatives and have been used to treat headaches and parasitic worms². Onion has beneficial effect as their prebiotic, and their ability to decrease levels of insulin, cholesterol, triacylglycerol and phospholipids for human health³, and considered an important vegetable and medicinal plant prescribed as an effective therapy for several complaints in healing treatment such as natural cancer treatment⁴. These beneficial effects will become an important target in shallot breeding and management practices.

Shallot genotypes may vary in flowering pattern, naturally flowering, inducible flowering, and non-inducible flowering shallot⁵. Flowering in shallot can be induce by an exogenous treatment such as vernalization. Vernalization is an important adaptation of plants to initiate flowering in response to a prolonged exposure to low temperatures^{6,7}. The principles derived from vernalization are likely to be widely relevant to epigenetic reprogramming in many organisms⁷. External condition plays important regulation in plant bioactivity and influences the metabolomic composition. Metabolomic composition in plant is various and specific, that depends on genetic and plant growth environment. Metabolomic describes plant phenotype differentiation.

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Metabolomic technologies have revealed a new insights in biological systems through metabolic dynamics⁸. The metabolomic composition determines biological and physiological function of the plants. Metabolite compounds are observed in the 6 *Alliaceae* family⁹, in *Allium cepa* (onion) extracts^{10,11}, in *Allium rotundum* L¹², and in *Allium sativum* (garlic) formulations^{13,14}. Metabolomic defined as a comprehensive analysis in which all the metabolites of a biological system are identified and quantified¹⁵. Metabolites are the end products of cellular regulatory processes. Metabolites profiling in plant can be directly extracted from a part of plant to find new molecules contents. Profiling of the metabolite composition is an important way to evaluate the contents of the medical plants, as well as their safety and efficacy¹⁶.

Mass spectrometry is an analytical method, which allows the determination of the mass formula and structure. With mass spectrometry, individual molecules can be measured based on their molecular peak (m/z) and characteristics spectra of fragment ions¹⁷. Mass spectrometry technology is high sensitivity to identify the unknown and unexpected of the components present in the complex biological samples¹⁸. These fragments often provide a clue to the molecule's structure, but without a reference compound, the difficulty of making an identification increases markedly¹⁷. The analytical strategy *gase chromatography mass spectrometry* (GC-MS) used to analyze the volatile compounds, and selected compounds were structurally measured by mass spectrometry transposing the method to GC-MS¹⁹. The mass analyzer separates the molecules or/and fragments according to their masses and the detector detects and quantifies the separated ions¹⁷. GC-MS analysis is performed on single-quadrupole mass spectrometers, which provide nominal-mass information. Quadrupole MS spectra can be easily compared with commercial or inter-laboratories databases¹⁸. This study was objected to identify secondary metabolite composition and its relation to flowering competency in 5 genotypes of shallot.

EXPERIMENTAL

Plant materials

Local genotypes of shallot with different pattern of flowering were selected as plant material. Shallot genotype 'Bentanis' is used as the naturally flowering, while genotypes 'Bima Brebes Ilokos, Tajuk and Sumenep' are selected as the induced flowering of shallot (Marlin *et al.*, 2018). Each genotypes were treated with vernalization in 8 °C temperature for 5 weeks, and no vernalization treatment as control. The bulbs were then planted in 45 cm diameter polythene bags containing 8 kg of growing media (soil: manure: husk = 2: 1: 1). Each polybag was planted with three bulbs. Before planting, shallots bulbs were soaked in a fungicide benomil 50% at a concentration of 2 g.L⁻¹ for 15 minutes. The bulbs were then soaked into solution of plant growth promoting rhizobacteria of 5 g.L⁻¹ for 15 minutes. NPK fertilizers with a ratio of 15:15:15 were applied in a dose of 600 kg.ha⁻¹ or 2.4 g per polybag.

Metabolomic analysis

The samples were the leaves of shallot plants at 4 weeks after planting. GC-MS unit was carried out on an GCMS-QP2010 system (Shimadzu Corporation, Japan) coupled to mass spectrometer detector. The samples were inserted into the quartz chamber in the GC-MS unit. Helium was used as a carrier gas in a constant flow mode at 0.85 ml/min. The chamber was heated in an oxygen-free environment at a temperature of 400 °C for 0.2 minutes. The reaction will produce heat-mediated cleavage of chemical bonds in the macromolecular structure and produce low molecular weight with a chemical composition that identify specific compound of metabolite. Compound mixtures were then passed through the column GC-MS analysis. The column is Rt x 5 MS, with length 60.0 m, thickness 0.25 µm, and diameter 0.25 mm. The initial temperature of the column was 50 °C, which was gradually increased by 10 °C up to 280 °C. At the end of this period, the column oven temperature was 50 °C raised up to 280 °C. Injection port temperature was ensured as 280 °C and helium flow rate as 0.85 ml/min. Mass spectrometer detector was employed to detect compounds when they were vented from the column. Temperature of the detector was 200 °C. The volatile compounds of the plant samples were then identified for each treatments.

The identification of the components of non-targeted metabolite was assigned by matching their mass spectra with those available in the WILEY7 LIB. The volatile compounds of the plant samples were then identified for each genotypes. Spectra were compared with National Institute of Standard and

Commented [A4]: Are you sure, this material has been identified? Please give information such as identified or voucher specimen in your work.

Commented [A5]: Where location? Please give information for coordinate geography your research location.

Commented [A6]: Please give information type of your sample that injected in GC-MS? Extract or another types of your sample, please give explain more?

Technology (NIST, 2005 v2.1) library to identify the unknown compounds. The data were confirmed using PubChem online database in National Center for Biotechnology Information (<https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>), chemicalbook database (<http://www.chemicalbook.com>), and NIST webbook database (<http://webbook.nist.gov/>). The datasets were then log-transformed in order to acquire the normalized data. Data matrix based on non-targeted metabolomic of shallot in each vernalization treatments were analyzed using Metabolomic package of the R software (R version 3.2.2 <http://www.r-project.org/>). Metabolomics package was operated to construct HCA (*hierarchical cluster analysis*) and visualized heatmap with dendrogram. HCA was performed using Euclidean distance method and complete linkage agglomerative method.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Metabolite compounds in 5 shallot local genotypes were affected significantly by vernalization treatments. A total of 130 of metabolomic compound of non-vernalized bulbs, and 122 of metabolites compound of vernalized bulbs of 5 shallot local genotypes were identified by GC-MS. Metabolite compound obtained where then visually described by metabolite heatmap (Figure-1). Heatmap is widely used in metabolomic research because it is able to visualize large amounts of metabolite data and its differences in sample groups²⁰. Heatmap of both non vernalized and vernalized bulbs clustered 5 shallot local genotypes into three groups (Figure-1). First group was G2 (Bima Brebes genotype) and G4 (Tajuk genotype), second group was G1 (Bentanis genotype), and the third group was G3 (Ilokos genotype) and G5 (Sumenep genotype).

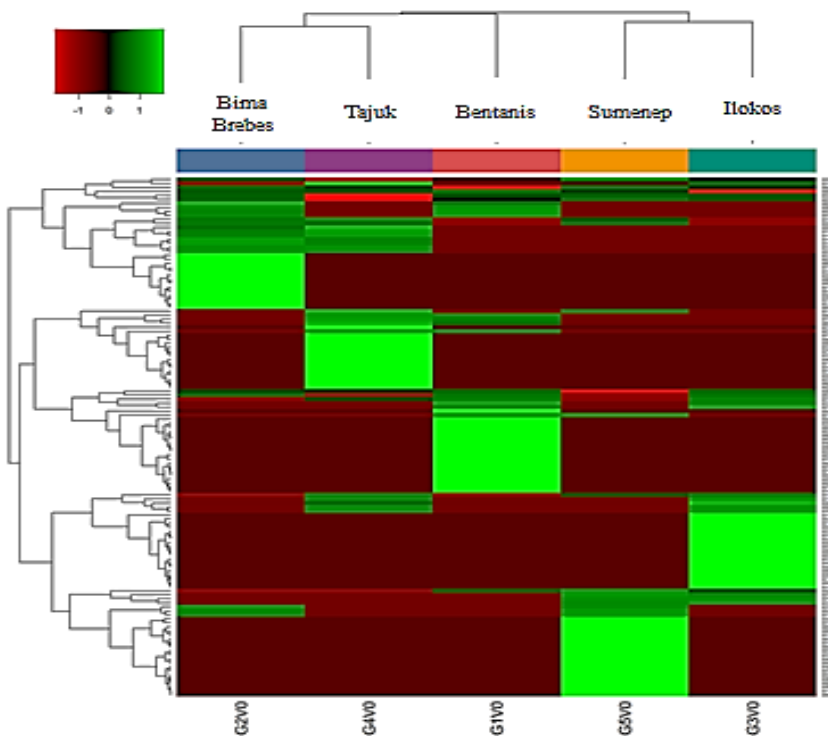


Fig.-1: Heatmap of hierarchical clustering analysis based on non-targeted metabolomic in 5 shallot genotypes of 130 metabolites in non-vernalized bulbs. Color-coded matrix represents the mean values of the metabolite intensity in 5 shallot local genotypes. Metabolite data had been transformed to log2 and mean-centered.

Commented [A7]: In this section, I not found correlation between metabolite with flowering competency in shallot? Can you added more explain, because your novelty in this research was metabolite in flowering competency in shallot. If you not found correlation with Heatmap analysis, may be analysis data can be use with simple correlation between major metabolite and flowering competency data.

Commented [A8]: Please give data in table for these metabolites?

Shallot genotypes in the same group exhibited a similar metabolite profile, and showed a relevant metabolite variability to another group. This was also confirmed by different colour of each heatmap column. Specific metabolite compounds were visualized on each genotype column with a bright green color. Hierarchical clustering analysis showed that the genotype had a significant effect on the metabolites composition of the shallot. Each genotype of shallot produces different metabolites that associated to the flowering competency. Hierarchical clustering analysis of shallot metabolites grouped shallot genotypes into three distinct genotypes, in both vernalization treatments (Figure-1 and 2). The result indicated that the presence of specific compounds produced in metabolome processes in the vegetative transition to the reproductive phase in different flowering ability.

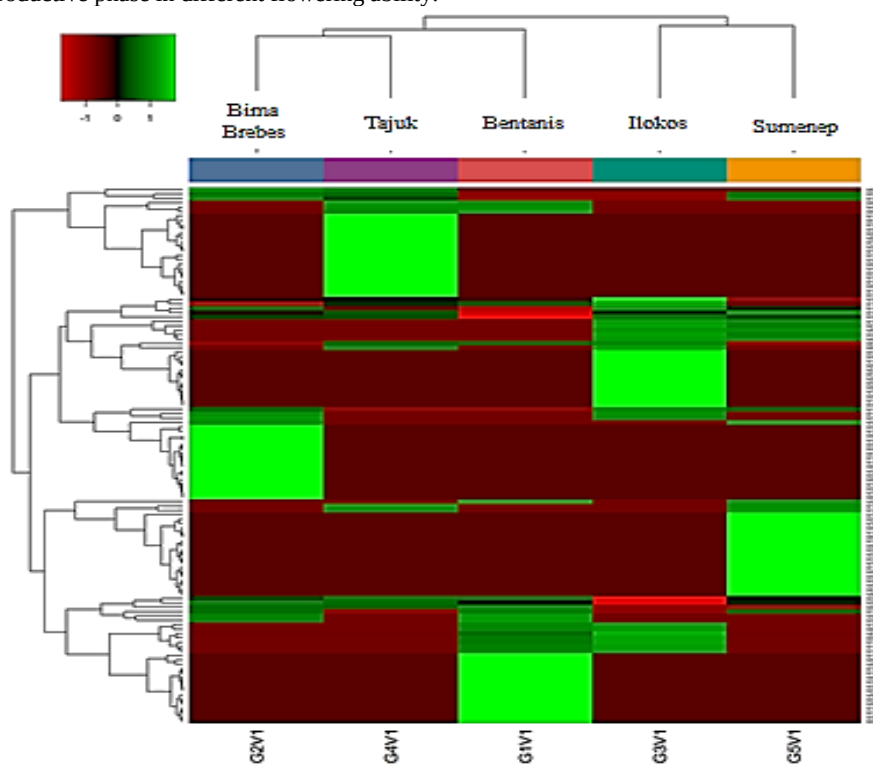


Fig.-2: Heatmap of hierarchical group analysis based on non-targeted metabolomic in 5 shallot local genotypes of 122 metabolites in vernalized bulbs. Color-coded matrix represents the mean values of the metabolite intensity in 5 shallot local genotypes. Metabolite data had been transformed to log2 and mean-centered

Shallot genotypes located in the same group showed that the genotype had the same metabolite profile, and showed significant metabolite diversity with other groups. Visualization with heatmap also confirmed in the presence of different colors from each of the heatmap columns. The genotypes included in the first group were the Bentanis genotype (G1). In the second group there was the Bima Brebes (G2) and Tajuk genotype (G4), while in the third group there was Ilokos (G3) and Sumenep genotype (G5). The Bentanis

genotype separates on its own group, and has close proximity to the Bima Brebes and Tajuk groups. These three genotypes are genotypes that have the ability to generate interest (sensitive to flowering).

Visualization with heatmap is widely used in metabolomic research because it can visualize large amounts of metabolomic data and classify it in sample groups²⁰. Specific metabolite compounds of each sample of onion are visualized on each genotype column in bright green.

Mass spectrometry methods can accurately detect compounds including identification of unknown and unexpected compounds¹⁸. Identification of the molecular structure is often given without reference compounds, making it difficult to make a real identification¹⁸. The genotypes of shallot that have the ability to produce flowers will produce the specific metabolite compounds. Metabolite compounds produced in the transition process can be an indicator to determine the ability of flowering in shallot. The distribution of metabolomic compounds produced in non-vernalized shallot genotypes is presented in Figure-3.

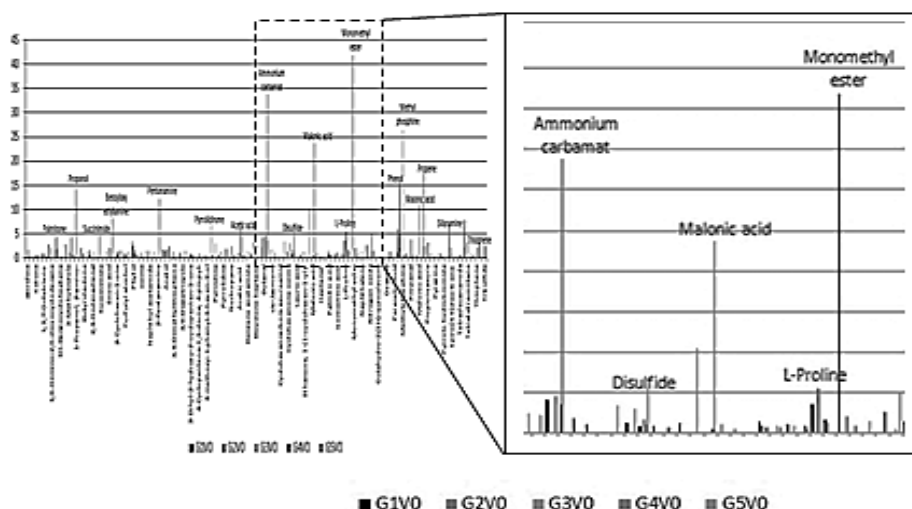


Fig.-3: Metabolite composition in non-vernalized shallot genotypes. Genotype Bentanis (G1), Bima Brebes (G2), Ilkos (G3), Tajuk (G4) and Sumenep (G5)

The results showed each genotype produced different metabolite compound. In Bentanis genotype showed the presence of monomethyl ester (41.82%) higher than Sumenep genotype (2.12%). The monomethyl ester compound, in the form of Mg-protoporphyrin IX mono-methyl ester cyclase is the catalyst required for the oxidation process of chlorophyll formation in plants²¹. The Bentanis genotype grows faster than Sumenep genotype. Bentanis genotype has robust maximum vegetative growth compared to Sumenep genotype at 5 weeks after planting. The results in Table 1 show that Bentanis genotype has higher plant height (36.96 cm) than of Sumenep (29.82 cm). The presence of monomethyl ester (Mg-protoporphyrin IX mono-methyl ester cyclase) compounds can increase the formation of chlorophyll more optimally, thus increasing the photosynthesis process for the Bentanis genotype growth. Low concentration of proline (3.55% and 5.56%) was produced in Bentanis and Tajuk genotypes (Figure-3). Proline compounds are generally produced by plants as their response to stress condition. Bentanis genotype was also produced succinimide compounds at about 4.78%, those can not be found in other genotypes. Succinimide compounds are used as intermediate compounds in the process of forming organic compounds that stimulate plant growth.

The presence of high concentrate of ammonium carboxylate compound is found in Bima Brebes genotype. Ammonium carboxylate is an important compounds in the formation of carbamoyl phosphate and the formation of ATP into ADP²². While the presence of disulfide (dipropyl disulfide) compounds was found

higher in non-sensitive flowering genotypes, such as Ilokos and Sumenep (1.69% and 5.43%), compared with other genotypes (0.8–0.14%). The content of dipropyl disulfide is an important component of activity as an antimicrobial and antioxidant and gives a distinctive aroma to shallot plant. The sulfur compounds in dipropyl disulfide is important the components of these metabolite compounds²³. The sulfur compounds are known to have important activities as antimicrobials and antioxidants^{24,25}. Derivative products of allicin compounds such as diallyl disulfide, diallyl trisulfide found in garlic essential oil indicate activity as a good antimicrobial²⁶.

Onion bulbs had the highest concentrations of propanethiol compounds having an aroma 20 times higher than dipropyl disulfide compounds²⁷. It also found in non-flowering shallot plant, Ilokos and Sumenep genotypes, they produce higher acetic acid compounds (1.04% and 5.98%) compared to the flowering type, the Bentanis genotype (1.02%).

Utilization of sensitive instruments in metabolomic analysis is an important way to detect the content of plant essential compounds. Plant metabolites consist of highly diverse chemical compounds ranging from inorganic compounds to hydrophilic, volatile alcohol and ketone compounds, amino and non-amino acids, hydrophobic lipids, and complex natural products¹⁸.

Utilization of mass spectrometry technology is a great way to solve research and analysis problems in the metabolomic field¹⁸. Metabolomic analysis was successfully to identify potential compounds extracted directly from shallot genotypes. The results showed higher concentrations of acyclic dithiophene alcohol (phytol) compounds in flowering type shallot, Bentanis genotype (8.23%), Bima Brebes (2.2%) and Tajuk (7.52%) than the Ilokos genotype (1.15%) and Sumenep (2.19). The phytol compounds is an indication that vernalization treatment has a positive effect in inducing flowering of shallot genotypes, explaining that these three genotypes are sensitive to vernalization treatment to induce flower formation. Phytol compound is a compound that serves as a precursor of vitamin E and K. The content of these vitamins plays an important role in the plant body as an enzymatic cofactor in the process of metabolism that stimulates reproductive response. The content of vitamin E in the form of tocopherol is an important compound as one of the factors in the context of a cellular antioxidant system²⁸. The differences of metabolite profile might play a key role in flowering initiation in shallot.

In flowering type of shallot genotypes, Bentanis, Bima Brebes and Tajuk also showed the formation of nitrogen oxide and semicarbazid hydrochlorid which are relatively lower than the non-flowering type, Ilokos and Sumenep. Nitrogen compound is a compound that plays an important role in the vegetative phase of the plant. Once the plant enters the reproductive phase, the nitrogen compounds in the plant body will decrease. In contrast, the Ilokos and Sumenep genotypes show the formation of high nitrogen compounds ie ammonium compounds ammonium carbamat, and nitrogen oxide. High content of nitrogen compounds in Ilokos and Sumenep genotypes explains that these two genotypes are not sensitive to vernalization treatment, thus not encouraging the flowering formation.

The results also showed that the Sumenep genotype contained high organosulfur compounds compared with other genotypes, namely thiophene (2.31%) and trisulfide (4.25%). The organosulfur is an important compound in giving aroma and spiciness upsurge in shallot, and play an important role as an antioxidant. Essential compounds in *Allium* have strong antioxidant ability. Tests on antimicrobial activity showed that all essential oils on *Allium* were able to inhibit the activity of gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria⁹.

Vernalization treatment triggered in the formation of proline compounds in the Sumenep genotype. Vernalization treatment provides a stress condition to the plants that increase the plant mechanism of adaptation by producing proline compounds. Proline accumulation in the plant body is a physiological response to stress, and as a generative tissue development²⁹. Secondary metabolite is the cellular response in plant that receives external pressure.

The metabolite profile of 5 local onion genotypes is also rich in non-volatile phytonutrients, especially the content of phenolic compounds (phenol, 2-propenamide, 3-pyridinamine, N-furfurylidene 2-phenylethyl amine, pyrrolidinedione), amide compounds aziridine-2-carbothioic acid amide) and protein compound (pyroglutamic acid). The essential components, mono and sesquiterpenes, carbohydrates, phenols, alcohols, ether, aldehydes and ketones, are responsible for biological activity and also for their fragrance³⁰. Phenols and polyphenol compounds play important roles as antioxidants in plants^{31,32,33}.

Research on *Allium rotundum* showed the presence of antioxidant activity of phenol compounds with high concentrations of up to 4%¹². Onion extract contained the highest of phenol content, at 17.18 mg GAE per gram of fresh weight³⁴, and a phenol content of 114.70 mg GAE per 100 g of different onion samples³⁵.

Metabolite compound is difference among shallot genotypes. Each plant genotype performs metabolic activities that depend on their genetic conditions and the ability to adapt to its environment. The plant biological activity may imply to proportion of metabolite containing in a plant.

CONCLUSION

Secondary metabolite is associated to the flowering competency in shallot genotypes. GC-MS analysis detected 130 metabolites compounds in non-vernalized treatment, and detected 122 metabolites in vernalization treatment in 5 genotypes of shallot. Each genotypes produce different specific metabolites which is clustered according to the flowering competency. Genotype Bentanis, Bima Brebes and Tajuk were confirmed as flower-sensitive genotypes, with a lower content of proline and nitrogen (ammonium carbamate and nitrogen oxide), and higher phytol compounds. Genotype Ilokos and Sumenep are flowering insensitive genotypes, which contain higher level of organosulfur compounds (thiophene and trisulfide). Vernalization treatment caused the Sumenep genotype produces the highest proline compound among other genotypes.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely

Dr. Marlin

Department of Crop Production, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bengkulu

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SECTION-I : Details of Manuscript

Manuscript Number:	RJC_5356
Title:	THE SECONDARY METABOLITES AND ITS RELATION TO FLOWERING COMPETENCY IN SHALOT (<i>Allium cepa</i> var. <i>aggregatum</i>)
Authors:	Marlin ^{1*} , A. Maharijaya ² , A. Purwito ² , and Sobir ² ¹ Department of Crop Production, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bengkulu, Indonesia ² Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia

SECTION-II : Comments per Section of Manuscript

Reviewer 1 Comments	Justification/Revision
General comment:	
A1. Please give “Vernalization” as your technic in flowering competency of shalot	Thank you for raising very interesting points. We have now strengthened the title with “vernalization” as follow : SECONDARY METABOLITES CHANGE UNDER VERNALIZATION AND ITS RELATION TO FLOWERING COMPETENCY IN SHALLOT (<i>Allium cepa</i> var. <i>aggregatum</i>)
A2. Data not found	Thank you for the comment. We have showed the data in results part (figure 1 and 2) that 130 of metabolites were detected in non vernalized bulbs dan 122 of metabolites were found in vernalized bulbs.
A3. What compounds that correlated with flowering competency?	Thank you for the comment. In results and discussion, we showed that diterpene alcohol (phytol) associated to flowering competency in shallot.
Introduction and Literature :	-
Research Methodology:	

A4. Are you sure, this material has been identified? Please give information such as identified or voucher specimen in your work	Thank you for the suggestion. Those material had been identified and published (Marlin et al. 2018), as describe in the text.
A5. Where location? Please give information for coordinate geography your research location.	Thank you for raising very interesting points. We have now stated that the experiments were located in Pasir Kuda research farm, Bogor Indonesia.
A6. Please give information type of your sample that injected in GC-MS? Extract or another types of your sample, please give explain more?	Thank you for the suggestion. We agree and have added more information on sample preparation, as follow : The samples were the leaves of shallot plants at 4 weeks after planting (bolting stage). Leaves were cutted for 10 g and were extracted with methanol (50 mL). The methanolic extract of shallot leaves were used as a sample in the GC-MS analysis.
Results and Discussion	
A7. In this section, I not found correlation between metabolite with flowering competency in shallot? Can you added more explain, because your novelty in this research was metabolite in flowering competency in shallot. If you not found correlation with Heatmap analysis, may be analysis data can be use with simple correlation between major metabolite and flowering competency data.	Thank you for the comment. We stated that metabolite had a correlation with flowering competency in shallot as describing in heatmap of hierarchical clustering analysis. The heatmap showed that each shallot genotype produces different metabolites associated to the flowering competency. The results indicated that there are a presence of acyclic diterpene alcohol (phytol) which were produced in metabolome processes in the vegetative transition to the reproductive phase in different flowering ability. The phytol presence in vernalized bulb is an indication that vernalization treatment has a positive effect in inducing flowering of shallot.
A8. Please give data in table for these metabolites?	Thank you for the comment. We have describe the data in figure 1 and 2. It will be redundant if the data showed in a table.
A9. Please answer your objective in this study	Thank you for the suggestion. We agree and change the conclusion.
A10. Data not found in text	Thank you for the comment. The data have clearly in Figure 1 and 2 in both vernalization treatments.

Bibliography/References	-
Others:	-

Reviewer 2 Comments	Justification/Revision
General comment: The manuscript describes the metabolite composition in leaves of 5 shallot genotypes whose bulbs were untreated and treated by vernalization. The results may have added values to the scientific community about metabolomic changes induced by vernalization that are important for breeding. #1 However, the results were not delivered in a clear state, so it is difficult to follow and understand it. For example, the author describes a particular metabolite specifically present in one genotype, but the author does not describe from which treatments the metabolite is produced. #2 In addition, significant data cited in the discussion is not present in the manuscript. The morphological data (Table 1) and data of prolin levels could not be found. #3 It is vital that the author must provide metabolite information to understand the hypothesis raised in the discussion. #4 From the title, the reader expects to have an overview that there are metabolomic changes after bulb vernalization, which may induce the	Thank you for the suggestions. #1. What we want to say is that in each genotype produces specific metabolite in difference vernalization treatments. The data were showed in heatmap of hierarchical clustering analysis in Figure 1 and 2. The heatmap showed that each shallot genotype produces different metabolites associated to the flowering competency. The results indicated that there are a presence of acyclic diterpene alcohol (phytol) which were produced in metabolome processes in the vegetative transition to the reproductive phase in different flowering ability. The phytol presence in vernalized bulb is an indication that vernalization treatment has a positive effect in inducing flowering of shallot. # 2 Thank you for the correction, we have re-checked and revised the statements in the manuscript. #3 Thank you for the suggestions. Metabolomic composition of 5 genotypes shallot have been describe in heatmap of 5 genotypes. #4 Thank you for the correction, we have revised the statements in the manuscript.

flowering time acceleration among 5 shallots. However, the discussion goes broadly to environmental stress and does not deeper to the flowering ability of 5 shallots author discuss his findings. #5 Somehow, the approach that done by the author in analyzing shallot leaf metabolites for understanding the response of vernalization is questionable, since the metabolites in leaves and generative organ could be different. It may also reconsider to analyze metabolites from the whole plant organs to get a big view of metabolites responsible for accelerating the flowering time in shallot.	#5 Thank you for the suggestions. We used shallot leaves as sample (4 weeks after planting) in generative (bolting stage) for metabolomic analysis in shallot. We do not use another generative organ due to non-flowering genotype is not produce the flower part.
Introduction and Literature a. The literature review has not included the current status of metabolomics research in <i>Allium</i>, major metabolites in leaves, bulbs and/or other organs, the importance of generative stage and logical backgrounds obstacles in producing seed from <i>Allium</i>. b. Authors mentioned the reason of using GC/MS approach is due to unavailable reference standards for identifying the observed metabolites. However, this is a weak reason. The author must explain the ultimate reasons related to the major issue that really want to unravel, i.e., metabolites related to flowering physiology. c. The stated research objective is to identify secondary metabolite composition in 5 shallots. However, this is not very clear and too broad, whereas the research scope focusses on volatile metabolites.	a. Thank you for the sugestion. Unfortunately, there is no information about current status of metabolomic composition in each plant organ of shallot. b. Thank you for the correction. We agree and have revised the statements in the manuscript. c. Thank you for the correction. We state clearly to identify the various components by GCMS.from their mass spectra. Hierarchical clustering analysis grouped shallot genotypes into three distinct genotypes, in both vernalization treatments.
Research Metodology a. It is important to put species name of samples along with information on the flowering pattern of	a. Thank you for the sugestion.

each genotype. b. The sample pretreatment and metabolite extraction steps from raw leaves into ready-injected samples should be described in the methodology. c. In methodology, it was mentioned that metabolites were normalized by log transformation. In contrast, the author stated that metabolite data were normalized by log2 transformation and mean centering. Which method is the correct one? d. When performing metabolomics data analysis, there are huge spectra data collected from the analysis. Filtering and clustering spectra data must be done before further analysis. These steps were crucial to perform prior to metabolite identification. However, these steps were not described in the methodology. Please include these steps in the method.	b. Thank you for raising very interesting points. We agree and have added more information on sample preparation. c. Thank you for the correction. We agree and re-check the consistency.
Results and Discussion a. The first sentence of Results and Discussion stated that “Metabolites in 5 shallot genotypes were significantly affected by vernalization treatment”. This sentence is a conclusion sentence which should be stated after the findings have been described and discussed. b. Sentences: “Shallot genotypes in the same group exhibited a similar metabolite profile, and showed a relevant metabolite variability to another group. This was also confirmed by different colour of each heatmap coloumn. Specific metabolite compounds were visualized on each genotype column with a bright green color” This is contrary with Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 illustrations, which are stated that the color-coded matrix represents the intensities of metabolites, i.e., red is low values and green is high values	a. Thank you for the sugestion. We agree and have change the statement b. Thank you for the correction. We agree and have change the statement. The color-coded matrix represents the intensities of metabolites content.

metabolites. The author should redefine the statements to make it clear. c. Results were organized by displaying metabolites detected in non-vernalized samples and vernalized samples (Fig. 1 & Fig 2). However, it is difficult to understand which metabolites affected/expressed by vernalization. It is important that data processing should be performed in integrated analysis and resulted in only 1 figure metabolite heatmap, supplemented by Table of metabolite identity, to get a better understanding of which metabolites upregulated or downregulated or synthesized after vernalization. d. Group names of G1, G2, G3, G4 and G5 in the text are not in line to any illustration in Fig 1 and Fig 2. Meanwhile, there are other different codes displayed in Fig. 1 and 2 which do not correspond to any information in the text. Authors should put the group codes/names which are annotated in the text. e. Paragraph 2 of the Results & Discussion: Based on metabolites, 5 shallots were clustered into 3 groups and the author claims the clustering was based on genotypes. However, this hypothesis is not provided by any strong facts, such as genotype agronomical description (origin, flowering period, etc.). On the other hand, in the next sentence, the author stated contrary to the previous statement, which said that the clustering was due to the flowering competency. These statements are confusing for readers and the author should restructure the paragraph.	c. Thank you for the suggestion. However we decided to use heatmap of HCA to display metabolites composition in each treatments. d. Thank you for raising very interesting points. Actually we have addressed these points in the results and discussion. Genotype codes of G1, G2, G3, G4, and G5 represent as Genotype Bentanis (G1), Bima Brebes (G2), Ilokos (G3), Tajuk (G4) and Sumenep (G5). we used the codes in text clearly inline to the explained data. The genotypes showed in Fig 1 were clustered in different group compared to Fig 2. It is that because the code are located in different position, depend on clustering data. e. Thank you for he suggestion. In this manuscript, we clustered shallots genotype base on metabolite compositions by GCMS analysis. We have reported another data in molecular and morphological approach to clustering shallot genotypes related to flowering competency.
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f. Fig. 3 is hardly readable, Table 1 is missing g. Paragraph 3 of Results & Discussion: There are many details in describing metabolites found in shallots. However, the explanation does not describe the metabolomic differences among groups and their correlation with the vernalization and the flowering competency. The author should reshape the discussion into the topic expressed in the title. h. Metabolites to flowering competency correlation analysis is strongly recommended to be performed in order to check and decide which whether there are correlation between leaves volatile metabolites to flowering competency.	f. Thank you for suggestion. We agree and revise g. Thank you for suggestion. h. Thank you for suggestion. As mentioned in previous response, in this experiment we used shallot leave in bolting stage (4 weeks of planting). Bolting stage of shallot indicated the transition stage of vegetative to generative. This transition periode may change metabolites compositions related to its flowering competency.
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SECONDARY METABOLITES CHANGE UNDER VERNALIZATION AND ITS RELATION TO FLOWERING COMPETENCY IN SHALLOT (*Allium cepa* var. *aggregatum*)

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ABSTRACT

Shallot extract contains a great quantity of essential oil, volatiles, and other compounds. The composition of secondary metabolite can be regarded as the ultimate reactions of biological and physiological to genetic and environmental conditions. This study was objected to identify metabolomic composition and its relation to flowering competency in 5 genotypes of shallot. The non-targetted metabolites were identified using GC-MS and assigned by matching their mass spectra with those available in the WILEY7 LIB. Data matrix was analyzed by using metabolomic package of the R software. Heatmap was visualized for a total of 130 of metabolites in non vernalized bulbs and 122 of metabolites in vernalized bulbs of 5 shallot genotypes. The composition metabolites from 5 genotypes were difference and suggested correlated to flowering competency. The 3 genotypes of flowering type of shallot produced highest concentration of phytol (dithierphene alcohol) and low concentration of nitrogen compound. Whereas, 2 genotypes of non-flowering types contained high concentration of organosulfur and nitrogen sources. Metabolite profile of 5 genotypes contained of volatile and non-volatile phytonutrients, vitamin, saturated fatty acid and organosulfur compounds.

Keywords: dissimilarity matrix, GC-MS, non-targetted metabolite, organosulfur, phytol

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INTRODUCTION

Shallot (*Allium cepa* var. *aggregatum*) is an important *Allium* plant that been used for food, ornamental, natural alternatives to food synthetic preservatives and medicinal for curing various diseases. *Allium* plants contain different sugars, amino acids, vitamins, sulfurous compounds, enzymes, flavonoids, saponins and minerals¹. *Allium* are also valued for their therapeutic properties; they are active as diuretics and laxatives and have been used to treat headaches and parasitic worms². Onion has beneficial effect as their prebiotic, and their ability to decrease levels of insulin, cholesterol, triacylglycerol and phospholipids for human health³, and considered an important vegetable and medicinal plant prescribed as an effective therapy for several complaints in healing treatment such as natural cancer treatment⁴. These beneficial effects will become an important target in shallot breeding and management practices.

Shallot genotypes may vary in flowering pattern, naturally flowering, inducible flowering, and non-inducible flowering shallot⁵. Flowering in shallot can be induced by an exogenous treatment such as vernalization. Vernalization is an important adaptation of plants to initiate flowering in response to a prolonged exposure to low temperatures^{6,7}. The principles derived from vernalization are likely to be widely relevant to epigenetic reprogramming in many organisms⁷. External condition plays important regulation in plant bioactivity and influences the metabolomic composition. Metabolomic composition in plant is various and specific, that depends on genetic and plant growth environment. Metabolomic describes plant phenotype differentiation.

Metabolomic technologies have revealed a new insights in biological systems through metabolic dynamics⁸. The metabolomic composition determines biological and physiological function of the plants. Metabolite compounds are observed in the 6 *Alliaceae* family⁹, in *Allium cepa* (onion) extracts^{10,11}, in *Allium rotundum* L¹², and in *Allium sativum* (garlic) formulations^{13,14}, and in shallot grown in tidal swampland¹⁵. Metabolomic defined as a comprehensive analysis in which all the metabolites of a biological system are identified and quantified^{15,16}. Metabolites are the end products of cellular regulatory processes. Metabolites profiling in plant can be directly extracted from a part of plant to find new molecules contents. Profiling of the metabolite composition is an important way to evaluate the contents of the medical plants, as well as their safety and efficacy^{17,18}.

Mass spectrometry is an analytical method, which allows the determination of the mass formula and structure. With mass spectrometry, individual molecules can be measured based on their molecular peak (m/z) and characteristics spectra of fragment ions^{18,17}. Mass spectrometry technology is high sensitivity to identify the unknown and unexpected of the components present in the complex biological samples^{19,18}. These fragments often provide a clue to the molecule's structure, but without a reference compound, the difficulty of making an identification increases markedly^{18,17}. The analytical strategy *gase chromatography mass spectrometry* (GC-MS) used to analyze the volatile compounds, and selected compounds were structurally measured by mass spectrometry transposing the method to GC-MS^{19,20, 21}. The mass analyzer separates the molecules or/and fragments according to their masses and the detector detects and quantifies the separated ions^{18,17}. GC-MS analysis is performed on single-quadrupole mass spectrometers, which provide nominal-mass information. Quadrupole MS spectra can be easily compared with commercial or inter-laboratories databases^{19,18}. This study was objected to identify secondary metabolite composition and its relation to flowering competency in 5 genotypes of shallot.

EXPERIMENTAL

Plant materials

Local genotypes of shallot with different pattern of flowering were selected as plant material. Shallot genotype 'Bentanis' is used as the naturally flowering, while genotypes 'Bima Brebes Ilokos, Tajuk and Sumenep' are selected as the induced flowering of shallot⁵ (Marlin *et al.*, 2018). Experiments were planted in Pasir Kuda research farm, Bogor Indonesia. Each genotypes were treated with vernalization in 8 °C temperature for 5 weeks, and no vernalization treatment as control. The bulbs were then planted in 45 cm diameter polythene bags containing 8 kg of growing media (soil: manure: husk = 2: 1: 1). Each polybag was planted with three bulbs. Before planting, shallots bulbs were soaked in a fungicide benomil 50% at a concentration of 2 g.L⁻¹ for 15 minutes. The bulbs were then soaked into solution of plant growth promoting rhizobacteria of 5 g.L⁻¹ for 15 minutes. NPK fertilizers with a ratio of 15:15:15 were applied in a dose of 600 kg.ha⁻¹ or 2.4 g per polybag.

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The samples were the leaves of shallot plants at 4 weeks after planting (bolting stage phase). Leaves were cutted for 10 g and were extracted with methanol (50 mL). The methanolic extract of shallot leaves were used as a sample in the GC-MS analysis. GC-MS unit was carried out on an GCMS-QP2010 system (Shimadzu Corporation, Japan) coupled to mass spectrometer detector. The samples were inserted into the quartz chamber in the GC-MS unit. Helium was used as a carrier gas in a constant flow mode at 0.85 ml/min. The chamber was heated in an oxygen-free environment at a temperature of 400 °C for 0.2 minutes. The reaction will produce heat-mediated cleavage of chemical bonds in the macromolecular structure and produce low molecular weight with a chemical composition that identify specific compound of metabolite. Compound mixtures were then passed through the column GC-MS analysis. The column is Rt x 5 MS, with length 60.0 m, thickness 0.25 µm, and diameter 0.25 mm. The initial temperature of the column was 50 °C, which was gradually increased by 10 °C up to 280 °C. At the end of this period, the column oven temperature was 50 °C raised up to 280 °C. Injection port temperature was ensured as 280 °C and helium flow rate as 0.85 ml/min. Mass spectrometer detector was employed to detect compounds when they were vented from the column. Temperature of the detector was 200 °C. The volatile metabolite compounds Secondary metabolites of the plant samples were then identified for each treatments.

The identification of the components of non-targeted metabolite was assigned by matching their mass spectra with those available in the WILEY7 LIB. The ~~volatile-metabolite~~ compounds of the plant samples were then identified for each genotypes. Spectra were compared with National Institute of Standard and Technology (NIST, 2005 v2.1) library to identify the unknown compounds. The data were confirmed using PubChem online database in National Center for Biotechnology Information (<https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>), chemicalbook database (<http://www.chemicalbook.com>), and NIST webbook database <http://webbook.nist.gov/>. The datasets ~~had been transformed to log2 and mean-centered~~ ~~were then log-transformed~~ in order to acquire the normalized data. Data matrix based on non-targeted metabolomic of shallot in each vernalization treatments were analyzed using Metabolomic package of the R software (R version 3.2.2 <http://www.r-project.org/>). Metabolomics package was operated to construct HCA (*hierarchical cluster analysis*) and visualized heatmap with dendrogram. HCA was performed using Euclidean distance method and complete linkage agglomerative method.

~~Metabolite compounds in 5 shallot local genotypes were affected significantly by vernalization~~

~~metabolites compound~~ treatments. A total of 130 of metabolomic compound of non-vernalized bulbs, and 122 of metabolites compound of vernalized bulbs of 5 shallot local genotypes were identified by GC-MS. Metabolite compound obtained where then visually described by metabolite heatmap (Figure-1). Heatmap is widely used in metabolomic research because it is able to visualize large amounts of metabolite data and its differences in sample groups^{22,24,26}. Heatmap of both non vernalized and vernalized bulbs clustered 5 shallot local genotypes into three groups (Figure-1). First group was G2 (Bima Brebes genotype) and G4 (Tajuk genotype), second group was G1 (Bentanis genotype), and the third group was G3 (Ilokos genotype) and G5 (Sumenep genotype).

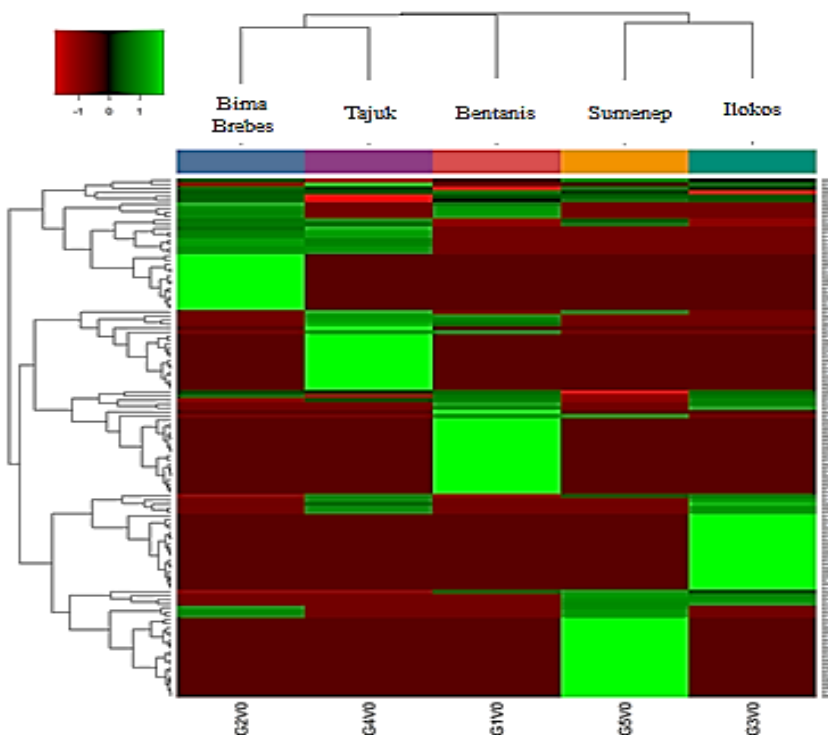


Fig.-1: Heatmap of hierarchical clustering analysis based on non-targeted metabolomic in 5 shallot genotypes of 130 metabolites in non-vernalized bulbs. Color-coded matrix represents the mean values of the metabolite intensity in 5 shallot local genotypes. Metabolite data had been transformed to log2 and mean-centered.

Shallot genotypes in the same group exhibited a similar metabolite profile, and showed a relevant metabolite variability to another group. This was also confirmed by different colour of each heatmap coloumn. Intencity of sSpecific metabolite compounds was were visualized on each genotype coloumn with a bright green color. Hierarchical clustering analysis showed that the genotype had a significant effect on the metabolites composition of the shallot. Each genotype of shallot produces different metabolites that associated to the flowering competency. Hierarchical clustering analysis of shallot metabolites grouped shallot genotypes into three distinct genotypes, in both vernalization treatments (Figure-1 and 2). The result indicated that the presence of specific compounds produced in metabolome processes in the vegetative transition to the reproductive phase in different flowering ability.

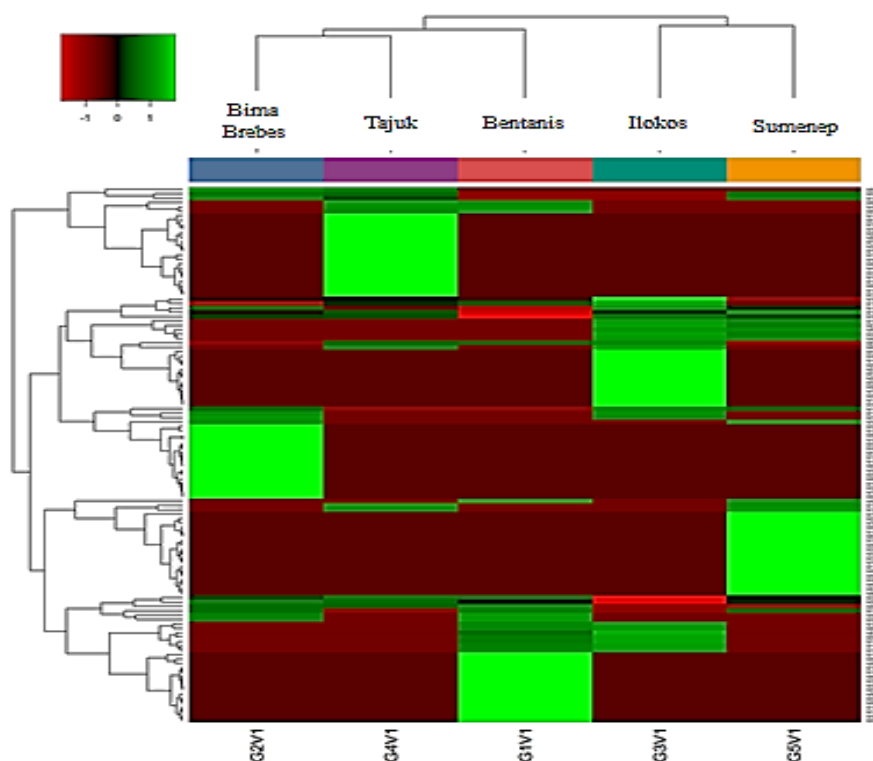


Fig.-2: Heatmap of hierarchical group analysis based on non-targeted metabolomic in 5 shallot local genotypes of 122 metabolites in vernalized bulbs. Color-coded matrix represents the mean values of the metabolite intensity in 5 shallot local genotypes. Metabolite data had been transformed to log2 and mean-centered

Shallot genotypes located in the same group showed that the genotype had the same metabolite profile, and showed significant metabolite diversity with other groups. Visualization with heatmap also confirmed in the presence of different colors from each of the heatmap columns. The genotypes included in the first group were the Bentanis genotype (G1). In the second group there was the Bima Brebes (G2) and Tajuk genotype (G4), while in the third group there was Ilokos (G3) and Sumenep genotype (G5). The Bentanis genotype separates on its own group, and has close proximity to the Bima Brebes and Tajuk groups. These three genotypes are genotypes that have the ability to generate interest (sensitive to flowering).

Visualization with heatmap is widely used in metabolomic research because it can visualize large amounts of metabolomic data and classify it in sample groups²²²¹²⁰. Sintencitis of specific metabolite compounds of each sample of onion are visualized on each genotype column in bright green color.

Mass spectrometry methods can accurately detect compounds including identification of unknown and unexpected compounds¹⁹⁴⁸. Identification of the molecular structure is often given without reference compounds, making it difficult to make a real identification¹⁹⁴⁸. The genotypes of shallot that have the ability to produce flowers will produce the specific metabolite compounds. Metabolite compounds produced in the transition process of vegetative to generative

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stage can be an indicator to determine the ability of flowering in shallot. The distribution of metabolomic compounds produced in non-vernalized shallot genotypes is presented in Figure-3.

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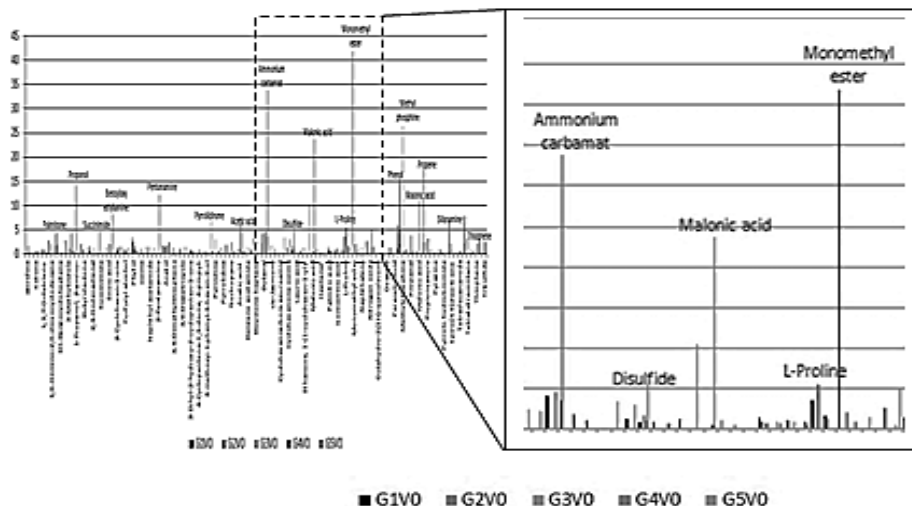


Fig.-3: Metabolite composition in non-vernalized shallot genotypes. Genotype Bentanis (G1), Bima Brebes (G2), Ilokos (G3), Tajuk (G4) and Sumenep (G5)

The results showed each genotype produced different metabolite compound. In Bentanis genotype showed the presence of monomethyl ester (41.82%) higher than Sumenep genotype (2.12%). The monomethyl ester compound, in the form of Mg-protoporphyrin IX mono-methyl ester cyclase is the catalyst required for the oxidation process of chlorophyll formation in plants^{23,22,24}. The Bentanis genotype grows faster than Sumenep genotype. Bentanis genotype has robust maximum vegetative growth compared to Sumenep genotype at 5 weeks after planting. The results in Table 1 show that Morphological investigation showed that Bentanis genotype was higher plant height (36.96 cm) than of Sumenep genotype (29.82 cm). The presence of monomethyl ester (Mg-protoporphyrin IX mono-methyl ester cyclase) compounds can increase the formation of chlorophyll more optimally, thus increasing the photosynthesis process for the Bentanis genotype growth.

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GCMS analysis showed Low concentration of proline (3.55% and 5.56%) was produced in Bentanis and Tajuk genotypes (Figure-3). Proline compounds are generally produced by plants as their response to stress condition. Bentanis genotype was also produced succinimide compounds at about 4.78%, those can not be found in other genotypes. Succinimide compounds are used as intermediate compounds in the process of forming organic compounds that stimulate plant growth.

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The presence of high concentrate of ammonium carbamate compound is found in Bima Brebes genotype. Ammonium carbamate is an important compounds in the formation of carbamoyl phosphate and the formation of ATP into ADP^{24, 22}. While the presence of disulfide (dipropyl disulfide) compounds was found higher in non-sensitive flowering genotypes, such as Ilokos and Sumenep (1.69% and 5.43%), compared with other genotypes (0.8-0.14%). The content of dipropyl disulfide is an important component of activity as an antimicrobial and antioxidant and gives a distinctive aroma to shallot plant. The sulfur compounds in dipropyl disulfide is

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important the components of these metabolite compounds^{25,24,23}. The sulfur compounds are known to have important activities as antimicrobials and antioxidants^{24,25,26,27}. Derivative products of allicin compounds such as diallyl disulfide, diallyl trisulfide found in garlic essential oil indicate activity as a good antimicrobial^{28,27,26}.

Onion bulbs had the highest concentrations of propanethiol compounds having an aroma 20 times higher than dipropyl disulfide compounds^{29,28,27}. It also found in non-flowering shallot plant, Ilokos and Sumenep genotypes, they produce higher acetic acid compounds (1.04% and 5.98%) compared to the flowering type, the Bentanis genotype (1.02%).

Utilization of sensitive instruments in metabolomic analysis is an important way to detect the content of plant essential compounds. Plant metabolites consist of highly diverse chemical compounds ranging from inorganic compounds to hydrophilic, volatile alcohol and ketone compounds, amino and non-amino acids, hydrophobic lipids, and complex natural products^{19,48}.

Utilization of mass spectrometry technology is a great way to solve research and analysis problems in the metabolomic field^{19,48}. Metabolomic analysis was successfully to identify potential compounds extracted directly from shallot genotypes. The results showed higher concentrations of acyclic dithiophene alcohol (phytol) compounds in flowering type shallot, Bentanis genotype (8.23%), Bima Brebes (2.2%) and Tajuk (7.52%) than the Ilokos genotype (1.15%) and Sumenep (2.19). The phytol compounds is an indication that vernalization treatment has a positive effect in inducing flowering of shallot genotypes, explaining that these three genotypes are sensitive to vernalization treatment to induce flower formation. Phytol compound is a compound that serves as a precursor of vitamin E and K. The content of these vitamins plays an important role in the plant body as an enzymatic cofactor in the process of metabolism that stimulates reproductive response. The content of vitamin E in the form of tocopherol is an important compound as one of the factors in the context of a cellular antioxidant system^{30,28}. The differences of metabolite profile might play a key role in flowering initiation in shallot.

In flowering type of shallot genotypes, Bentanis, Bima Brebes and Tajuk also showed the formation of nitrogen oxide and semicarbazid hydrochlorid which are relatively lower than the non-flowering type, Ilokos and Sumenep. Nitrogen compound is a compound that plays an important role in the vegetative phase of the plant. Once the plant enters the reproductive phase, the nitrogen compounds in the plant body will decrease. In contrast, the Ilokos and Sumenep genotypes show the formation of high nitrogen compounds ie ammonium compounds ammonium carbamat, and nitrogen oxide. High content of nitrogen compounds in Ilokos and Sumenep genotypes explains that these two genotypes are not sensitive to vernalization treatment, thus not encouraging the flowering formation.

The results also showed that the Sumenep genotype contained high organosulfur compounds compared with other genotypes, namely thiophene (2.31%) and trisulfide (4.25%). The organosulfur is an important compound in giving aroma and spiciness upsurge in shallot, and play an important role as an antioxidant. Essential compounds in *Allium* have strong antioxidant ability. Tests on antimicrobial activity showed that all essential oils on *Allium* were able to inhibit the activity of gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria⁹.

Vernalization treatment triggered in the formation of proline compounds in the Sumenep genotype. Vernalization treatment provides a stress condition to the plants that increase the plant mechanism of adaptation by producing proline compounds. Proline accumulation in the plant body is a physiological response to stress, and as a generative tissue development^{31,29}. Secondary metabolite is the cellular response in plant that receives external pressure.

The metabolite profile of 5 local onion genotypes is also rich in non-volatile phytonutrients, especially the content of phenolic compounds (phenol, 2-propenamide, 3-pyridinamine, N-

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furfurylidene 2-phenylethyl amine, pyrrolidinedione), amide compounds aziridine-2-carbothioic acid amide) and protein compound (pyroglutamic acid). The essential components, mono and sesquiterpenes, carbohydrates, phenols, alcohols, ether, aldehydes and ketones, are responsible for biological activity and also for their fragrance^{32,39}. Phenols and polyphenol compounds play important roles as antioxidants in plants^{33,34,35,31,32,33}. Research on *Allium rotundum* showed the presence of antioxidant activity of phenol compounds with high concentrations of up to 4%¹². Onion extract contained the highest of phenol content, at 17.18 mg GAE per gram of fresh weight^{36,34}, and a phenol content of 114.70 mg GAE per 100 g of different onion samples^{37,35}. Metabolite compound is difference among shallot genotypes. Each plant genotype performs metabolic activities that depend on their genetic conditions and the ability to adapt to its environment. The plant biological activity may imply to proportion of metabolite containing in a plant.

CONCLUSION

Secondary metabolite of 5 genotypes shallot were difference under vernalization treatment. Secondary metabolite is associated to the flowering competency in shallot genotypes. Each genotypes produce different specific metabolites which is clustered according to the flowering competency. A high concentration diterpene alcohol (phytol) found in flowering-sensitive genotypes (genotype of Bentanis, Bima Brebes and Tajuk), with a lower content of proline and nitrogen (ammonium carbamate and nitrogen oxide). While, in flowering-nonsensitive genotypes (genotype Ilokos and Sumenep) were found higher level of organosulfur compounds (thiophene and trisulfide). Vernalization treatment caused the Sumenep genotype produces the highest proline compound among other genotypes.

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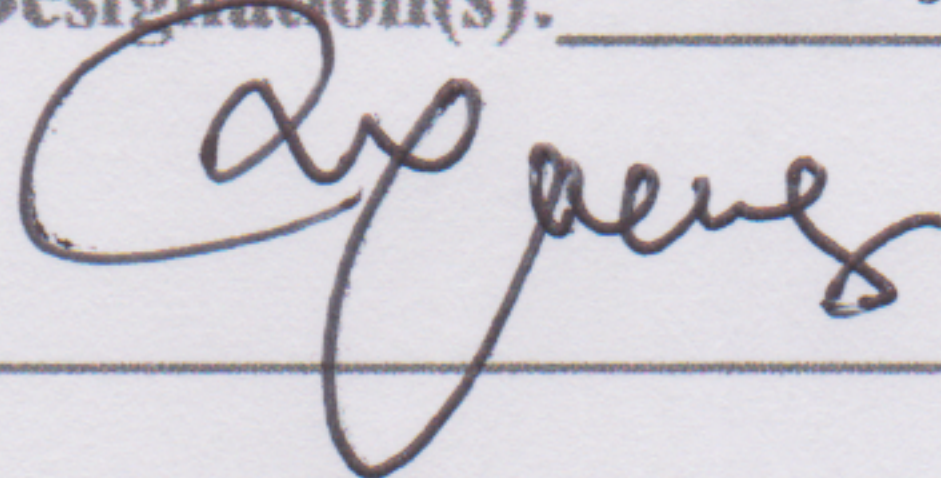
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SHALOT (*Allium cepa* var. *aggregatum*) authored by: Marlin*, A. Maharijaya, A. Purwito, and Sobir

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Complete Affiliation:	Research Center for Biotechnology, Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI)
E-Mail:	wahyuni@lipi.go.id ; wahyu004@gmail.com
Manuscript Number:	RJS 5356
Title:	THE SECONDARY METABOLITES AND ITS RELATION TO FLOWERING COMPETENCY IN SHALOT (<i>Allium cepa</i> var. aggregatum)
Authors:	Marlin1*, A. Maharijaya2, A. Purwito2, and Sobir2
Date of receiving by Reviewer:	May 12, 2019
Date of submission From Reviewer:	May 22, 2019

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	not be found. #3 It is vital that the author must provide metabolite information to understand the hypothesis raised in the discussion. #4 From the title, the reader expects to have an overview that there are metabolomic changes after bulb vernalization, which may induce the flowering time acceleration among 5 shallots. However, the discussion goes broadly to environmental stress and does not deeper to the flowering ability of 5 shallots author discuss his findings. #5 Somehow, the approach that done by the author in analyzing shallot leaf metabolites for understanding the response of vernalization is questionable, since the metabolites in leaves and generative organ could be different. It may also reconsider to analyze metabolites from the whole plant organs to get a big view of metabolites responsible for accelerating the flowering time in shallot.
Introduction and Literature Review:	a. The literature review has not included the current status of metabolomics research in <i>Allium</i>, major metabolites in leaves, bulbs and/or other organs, the importance of generative stage and logical backgrounds obstacles in producing seed from <i>Allium</i>. b. Authors mentioned the reason of using GC/MS approach is due to unavailable reference standards for identifying the observed metabolites. However, this is a weak reason. The author must explain the ultimate reasons related to the major issue that really want to unravel, i.e., metabolites related to flowering physiology. c. The stated research objective is to identify secondary metabolite composition in 5 shallots. However, this is not very clear and too broad, whereas the research scope focusses on volatile metabolites.
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	methodology. c. The sample set information, including the numbers of biological and technical replication, and the quality control samples should be provided in methods to make sure that the data set is statistically enough. d. In methodology, it was mentioned that metabolites were normalized by log transformation. In contrast, the author stated that metabolite data were normalized by log2 transformation and mean centering. Which method is the correct one? e. When performing metabolomics data analysis, there are huge spectra data collected from the analysis. Filtering and clustering spectra data must be done before further analysis. These steps were crucial to perform prior to metabolite identification. However, these steps were not described in the methodology. Please include these steps in the method.
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- e. Paragraph 2 of the Results & Discussion: Based on metabolites, 5 shallots were clustered into 3 groups and the author claims the clustering was based on genotypes. However, this hypothesis is not provided by any strong facts, such as genotype agronomical description (origin, flowering period, etc.).
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Complete Affiliation:	Research Center for Biotechnology, Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI)
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Manuscript Number:	RJS 5356
Title:	THE SECONDARY METABOLITES AND ITS RELATION TO FLOWERING COMPETENCY IN SHALOT (<i>Allium cepa</i> var. aggregatum)
Authors:	Marlin1*, A. Maharijaya2, A. Purwito2, and Sobir2
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RJC-5356

By Marlin Marlin

THE SECONDARY METABOLITES AND ITS RELATION TO FLOWERING COMPETENCY IN SHALOT

(*Allium cepa* var. *aggregatum*)

Marlin^{1*}, A. Maharijaya², A. Purwito², and Sobir²

¹Department of Crop Production, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bengkulu, Indonesia

²Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Shallot extract contains a great quantity of essential oil, volatiles, and other compounds. The composition of secondary metabolite can be regarded as the ultimate reactions of biological and physiological to genetic and environmental conditions. This study was objected to identify metabolomic composition and its relation to flowering competency in 5 genotypes of shallot. The non-targeted metabolites were identified using GC-MS and assigned by matching their mass spectra with those available in the WILEY7 LIB. Data matrix was analyzed by using metabolomic package of the R software. Heatmap was visualized for a total of 130 of metabolites in non vernalized bulbs and 122 of metabolites in vernalized bulbs of 5 shallot genotypes. The composition metabolites from 5 genotypes were difference and suggested correlated to flowering competency. The 3 genotypes of flowering type of shallot produced highest concentration of phytol (dithierphene alcohol) and low concentration of nitrogen compound. Whereas, 2 genotypes of non-flowering types contained high concentration of organosulfur and nitrogen sources. Metabolite profile of 5 genotypes contained of volatile and non-volatile phytonutrients, vitamin, saturated fatty acid and organosulfur compounds.

Keywords: dissimilarity matrix, GC-MS, non-targeted metabolite, organosulfur, phytol

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INTRODUCTION

Shallot (*Allium cepa* var. *aggregatum*) is an important *Allium* plant that been used for food, ornamental, natural alternatives to food synthetic preservatives and medicinal for curing various diseases. *Allium* plants contain different sugar, amino acids, vitamins, sulfurous compounds, enzymes, flavonoids, saponins and minerals¹. *Allium* are also valued for their therapeutic properties; they are active as diuretic and laxatives and have been used to treat headaches and parasitic worms². Onion has beneficial effect as their prebiotic, and their ability to decrease levels of insulin, cholesterol, triacylglycerol and phospholipids for human health³, and considered an important vegetable and medicinal plant prescribed as an effective therapy for several complaints in healing treatment such as natural cancer treatment⁴. These beneficial effects will become an important target in shallot breeding and management practices.

Shallot genotypes may vary in flowering pattern, naturally flowering, inducible flowering, and non-inducible flowering shallot⁵. Flowering in shallot can be induce by an exogenous treatment such as vernalization. Vernalization is an important adaptation of plants to initiate flowering in response to a prolonged exposure to low temperatures^{6,7}. The principles derived from vernalization are likely to be widely relevant to epigenetic reprogramming in many organisms⁷. External condition plays important regulation in plant bioactivity and influences the metabolomic composition. Metabolomic composition in plant is various and specific, that depends on genetic and plant growth environment. Metabolomic describes plant phenotype differentiation.

Metabolomic technologies have revealed a new insights in biological systems through metabolic dynamics⁸. The metabolomic composition determines biological and physiological function of the plants. Metabolite compounds are observed in the 6 *Alliaceae* family⁹, in *Allium cepa* (onion) extracts^{10,11}, in

Allium rotundum L.¹², and in *Allium sativum* (garlic) formulations^{13,14}. Metabolomic defined as a comprehensive analysis in which all the metabolites of a biological system are identified and quantified¹⁵. Metabolites are the end products of cellular regulatory processes. Metabolites profiling in plant can be directly extracted from a part of plant to find new molecules contents. Profiling of the metabolite composition is an important way to evaluate the contents of the medical plants, as well as their safety and efficacy¹⁶.

Mass spectrometry is an analytical method, which allows the determination of the mass formula and structure. With mass spectrometry, individual molecules can be measured based on their molecular peak (m/z) and characteristics spectra of fragment ions¹⁷. Mass spectrometry technology is high sensitivity to identify the unknown and unexpected of the components present in the complex biological samples¹⁸. These fragments often provide a clue to the molecule's structure, but without a reference compound, the difficulty of making identification increases markedly¹⁷. The analytical strategy *gase chromatography mass spectrometry* (GC-MS) used to analyze the volatile compounds, and selected compounds were structurally measured by mass spectrometry transposing the method to GC-MS¹⁹. The mass analyzer separates the molecules and fragments according to their masses and the detector detects and quantifies the separated ions¹⁷. GC-MS analysis is performed on single-quadrupole mass spectrometers, which provide nominal-mass information. Quadrupole MS spectra can be easily compared with commercial or inter-laboratories databases¹⁸. This study was objected to identify secondary metabolite composition and its relation to flowering competency in 5 genotypes of shallot.

EXPERIMENTAL

Plant materials

Local genotypes of shallot with different pattern of flowering were selected as plant material. Shallot genotype 'Bentanis' is used as the naturally flowering, while genotypes 'Bima Brebes Ilokos, Tajuk and Sumenep' are selected as the induced flowering of shallot (Marlin *et al.*, 2018). Each genotypes were treated with vernalization in 8 °C temperature for 5 weeks, and no vernalization treatment as control. The bulbs were then planted in 45 cm diameter polythene bags containing 8 kg of growing media (soil: manure: husk = 2: 1: 1). Each polybag was planted with three bulbs. Before planting, shallots bulbs were soaked in a fungicide benomil 50% at a concentration of 2 g L⁻¹ for 15 minutes. The bulbs were then soaked into solution of plant growth promoting rhizobacteria of 5 g L⁻¹ for 15 minutes. NPK fertilizers with a ratio of 15:15:15 were applied in a dose of 600 kg ha⁻¹ or 2.4 g per polybag.

Metabolomic analysis

The samples were the leaves of shallot plants at 4 weeks after planting. GC-MS unit was carried out on an GCMS-QP2010 system (Shimadzu Corporation, Japan) coupled to mass spectrometer detector. The samples were inserted into the quartz chamber in the GC-MS unit. Helium was used as a carrier gas in a constant flow mode at 0.85 ml/min. The chamber was heated in an oxygen-free environment at a temperature of 400 °C for 0.2 minutes. The reaction will produce heat-mediated cleavage of chemical bonds in the macromolecular structure and produce low molecular weight with a chemical composition that identify specific compound of metabolite. Compound mixtures were then passed through the column GC-MS analysis. The column is Rt x 5 MS, with length 60.0 m, thickness 0.25 µm, and diameter 0.25 mm. The initial temperature of the column was 50 °C, which was gradually increased by 10 °C up to 280 °C. At the end of this period, the column oven temperature was 50 °C raised up to 280 °C. Injection port temperature was ensured as 280 °C and helium flow rate as 0.85 ml/min. Mass spectrometer detector was employed to detect compounds when they were vented from the column. Temperature of the detector was 400 °C. The volatile compounds of the plant samples were then identified for each treatments.

The identification of the components of non-targeted metabolite was assigned by matching their mass spectra with those available in WILEY7 LIB. The volatile compounds of the plant samples were then identified for each genotypes. Spectra were compared with National Institute of Standard and Technology (NIST, 2005 v2.1) library to identify the unknown compounds. The data were confirmed using PubChem online database in National Center for Biotechnology Information (<https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>), chemicalbook database (<http://www.chemicalbook.com>), and NIST webbook database

<http://webbook.nist.gov/>. The datasets were then log-transformed in order to acquire the normalized data. Data matrix based on non-targeted metabolomic of shallot in each vernalization treatments were analyzed using Metabolomic package of the R software (R version 3.2.2 <http://www.r-project.org/>). Metabolomics package was operated to construct HCA (*hierarchical cluster analysis*) and visualized heatmap with dendrogram. HCA was performed using Euclidean distance method and complete linkage agglomerative method.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Metabolite compounds in 5 shallot local genotypes were affected significantly by vernalization treatments. A total of 130 of metabolomic compound of non-vernalized bulbs, and 122 of metabolites compound of vernalized bulbs of 5 shallot local genotypes were identified by GC-MS. Metabolite compound obtained where then visually described by metabolite heatmap (Figure-1). Heatmap is widely used in metabolomic research because it is able to visualize large amounts of metabolite data and its differences in sample groups²⁰. Heatmap of both non vernalized and vernalized bulbs clustered 5 shallot local genotypes into three groups (Figure-1). First group was G2 (Bima Brebes genotype) and G4 (Tajuk genotype), second group was G1 (Bentanis genotype), and the third group was G3 (Ilokos genotype) and G5 (Sumenep genotype).

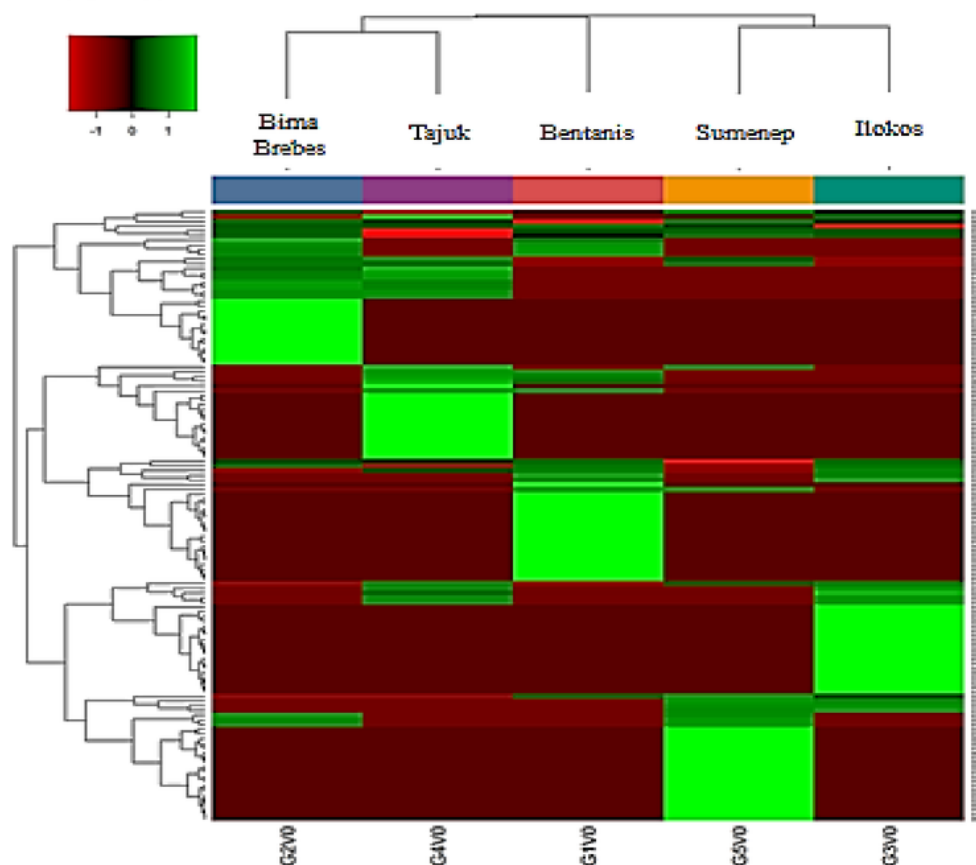


Fig.-1: Heatmap of hierarchical clustering analysis based on non-targeted metabolomic in 5 shallot genotypes of 130 metabolites in non-vernalized bulbs. Color-coded matrix represents the mean values of the metabolite intensity in 5 shallot local genotypes. Metabolite data had been transformed to log2 and mean-centered.

Shallot genotypes in the same group exhibited a similar metabolite profile, and showed a

relevant metabolite variability to another group. This was also confirmed by different colour of each heatmap column. Specific metabolite compounds were visualized on each genotype column with a bright green color. Hierarchical clustering analysis showed that the genotype had a significant effect on the metabolites composition of the shallot. Each genotype of shallot produces different metabolites that associated to the flowering competency. Hierarchical clustering analysis of shallot metabolites grouped shallot genotypes into three distinct genotypes, in both vernalization treatments (Figure-1 and 2). The result indicated that the presence of specific compounds produced in metabolome processes in the vegetative transition to the reproductive phase in different flowering ability.

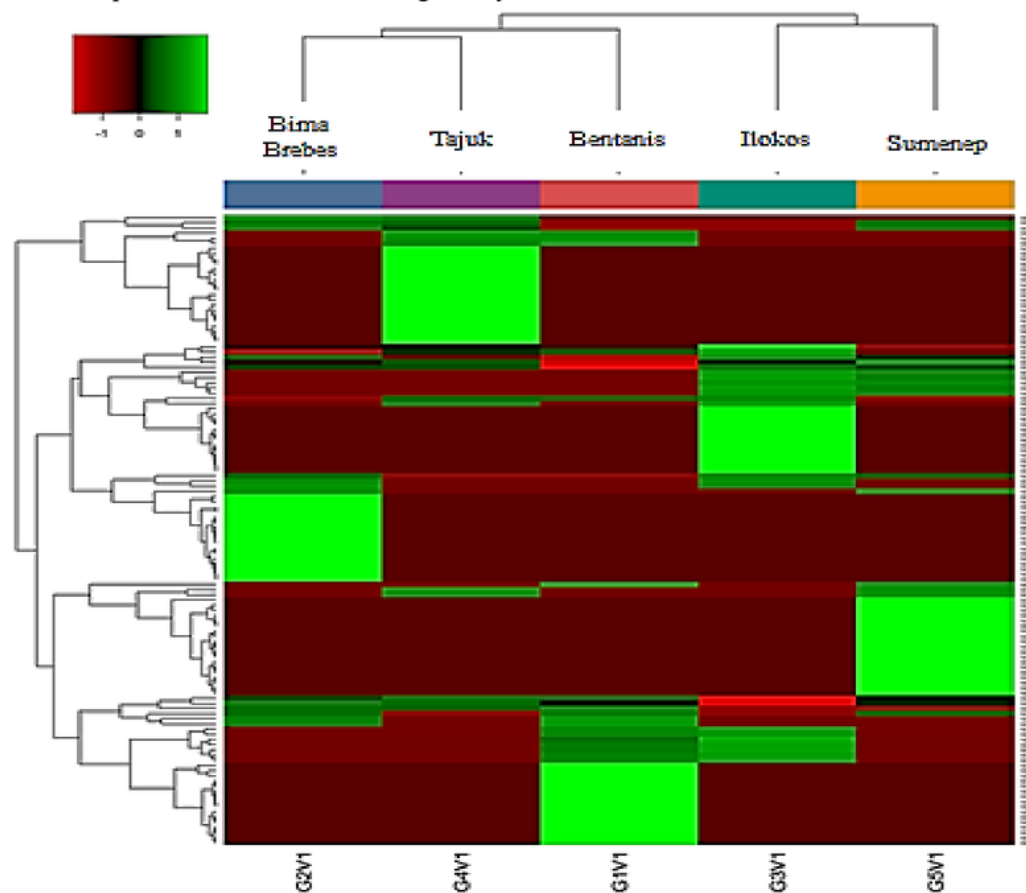


Fig.-2: Heatmap of hierarchical group analysis based on non-targeted metabolomic in 5 shallot local genotypes of 122 metabolites in vernalized bulbs. Color-coded matrix represents the mean values of the metabolite intensity in 5 shallot local genotypes. Metabolite data had been transformed to log2 and mean-centered

Shallot genotypes located in the same group showed that the genotype had the same metabolite profile, and showed significant metabolite diversity with other groups. Visualization with heatmap also confirmed in the presence of different colors from each of the heatmap columns. The genotypes included in the first group were the Bentanis genotype (G1). In the second group there was the Bima Brebes (G2) and Tajuk genotype (G4), while in the third group there was Ilokos (G3) and Sumenep genotype (G5). The Bentanis genotype separates on its own group, and has close proximity to the Bima Brebes and Tajuk groups. These three genotypes are genotypes that have the ability to generate interest (sensitive to flowering).

Visualization with heatmap is widely used in metabolomic research because it can visualize large amounts of metabolomic data and classify it in sample groups²⁰. Specific metabolite compounds of each sample of onion are visualized on each genotype column in bright green.

Mass spectrometry methods can accurately detect compounds including identification of unknown and unexpected compounds¹⁸. Identification of the molecular structure is often given without reference compounds, making it difficult to make a real identification¹⁸. The genotypes of shallot that have the ability to produce flowers will produce the specific metabolite compounds. Metabolite compounds produced in the transition process can be an indicator to determine the ability of flowering in shallot. The distribution of metabolomic compounds produced in non-vernalized shallot genotypes is presented in Figure-3.

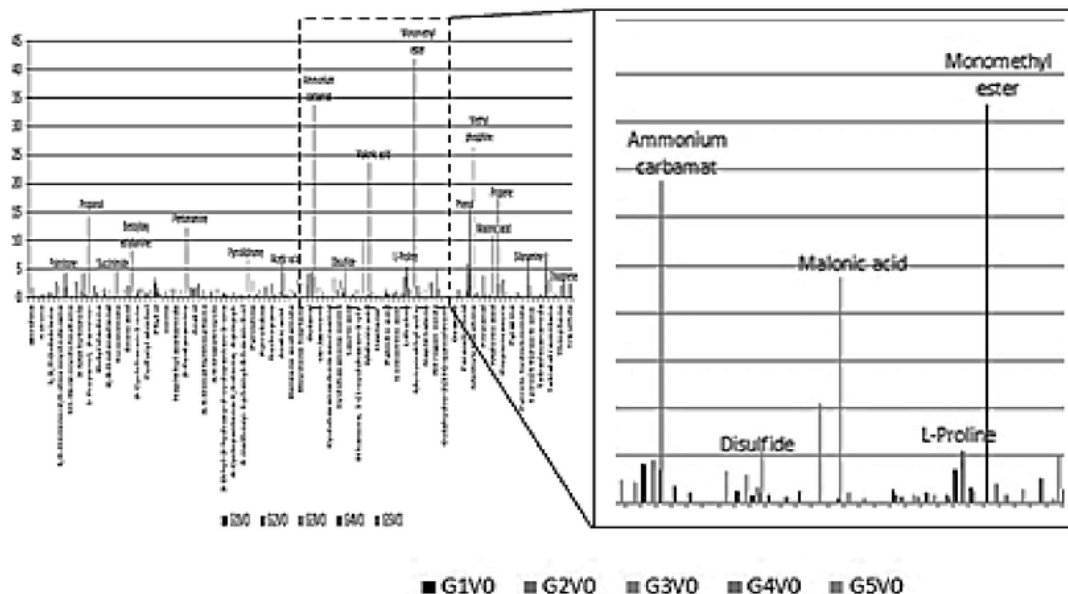


Fig.-3: Metabolite composition in non-vernalized shallot genotypes. Genotype Bentanis (G1), Bima Brebes (G2), Ilokos (G3), Tajuk (G4) and Sumenep (G5)

The results showed each genotype produced different metabolite compound. In Bentanis genotype showed the presence of monomethyl ester (21.82%) higher than Sumenep genotype (2.12%). The monomethyl ester compound, in the form of Mg-protoporphyrin IX mono-methyl ester cyclase is the catalyst required for the oxidation process of chlorophyll formation in plants²¹. The Bentanis genotype grows faster than Sumenep genotype. Bentanis genotype has robust maximum vegetative growth compared to Sumenep genotype at 5 weeks after planting. The results in Table 1 show that Bentanis genotype has higher plant height (36.96 cm) than of Sumenep (29.82 cm). The presence of monomethyl ester (Mg-protoporphyrin IX mono-methyl ester cyclase) compounds can increase the formation of chlorophyll more optimally, thus increasing the photosynthesis process for the Bentanis genotype growth. Low concentration of proline (3.55% and 5.56%) was produced in Bentanis and Tajuk genotypes (Figure-3). Proline compounds are generally produced by plants as their response to stress condition. Bentanis genotype was also produced succinimide compounds at about 4.78%, those can not be found in other genotypes. Succinimide compounds are used as intermediate compounds in the process of forming organic compounds that stimulate plant growth.

The presence of high concentrate of ammonium carbamate compound is found in Bima Brebes genotype. Ammonium carbamate is an important compounds in the formation of carbamoyl phosphate and the formation of ATP into ADP²². While the presence of disulfide (dipropyl disulfide) compounds was found higher in non-sensitive flowering genotypes, such as Ilokos and Sumenep (1.69% and 5.43%), compared with other genotypes (0.8–0.14%). The content of dipropyl disulfide is an important component of

activity as an antimicrobial and antioxidant and gives a distinctive aroma to shallot plant. The sulfur compounds in dipropyl disulfide is important the components of these metabolite compounds²³. The sulfur compounds are known to have important activities as antimicrobials and antioxidants^{24,25}. Derivative products of allicin compounds such as diallyl disulfide, diallyl trisulfide found in garlic essential oil indicate activity as a good antimicrobial²⁶.

Onion bulbs had the highest concentrations of propanethiol compounds having an aroma 20 times higher than dipropyl disulfide compounds²⁷. It also found in non-flowering shallot plant, Ilokos and Sumenep genotypes, they produce higher acetic acid compounds (1.04% and 5.98%) compared to the flowering type, the Bentanis genotype (1.02%).

Utilization of sensitive instruments in metabolomic analysis is an important way to detect the content of plant essential compounds. Plant metabolites consist of highly diverse chemical compounds ranging from inorganic compounds to hydrophilic, volatile alcohol and ketone compounds, amino and non-amino acids, hydrophobic lipids, and complex natural products¹⁸.

Utilization of mass spectrometry technology is a great way to solve research and analysis problems in the metabolomic field¹⁸. Metabolomic analysis was successfully to identify potential compounds extracted directly from shallot genotypes. The results showed higher concentrations of acyclic dithiophene alcohol (phytol) compounds in flowering type shallot, Bentanis genotype (8.23%), Bima Brebes (2.2%) and Tajuk (7.52%) than the Ilokos genotype (1.15%) and Sumenep (2.19). The phytol compounds is an indication that vernalization treatment has a positive effect in inducing flowering of shallot genotypes, explaining that these three genotypes are sensitive to vernalization treatment to induce flower maturation. Phytol compound is a compound that serves as a precursor of vitamin E and K. The content of these vitamins plays an important role in the plant body as an enzymatic cofactor in the process of metabolism that stimulates reproductive response. The content of vitamin E in the form of tocopherol is an important compound as one of the factors in the context of a cellular antioxidant system²⁸. The differences of metabolite profile might play a key role in flowering initiation in shallot.

In flowering type of shallot genotypes, Bentanis, Bima Brebes and Tajuk also showed the formation of nitrogen oxide and semicarbazid hydrochlorid which are relatively lower than the non-flowering type, Ilokos and Sumenep. Nitrogen compound is a compound that plays an important role in the vegetative phase of the plant. Once the plant enters the reproductive phase, the nitrogen compounds in the plant body will decrease. In contrast, the Ilokos and Sumenep genotypes show the formation of high nitrogen compounds ie ammonium compounds ammonium carbamat, and nitrogen oxide. High content of nitrogen compounds in Ilokos and Sumenep genotypes explains that these two genotypes are not sensitive to vernalization treatment, thus not encouraging the flowering formation.

The results also showed that the Sumenep genotype contained high organosulfur compounds compared with other genotypes, namely thiophene (2.31%) and trisulfide (4.25%). The organosulfur is an important compound in giving aroma and spiciness upsurge in shallot, and play an important role as an antioxidant. Essential compounds in *Allium* have strong antioxidant ability. Tests on antimicrobial activity showed that all essential oils on *Allium* were able to inhibit the activity of gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria⁹.

Vernalization treatment triggered in the formation of proline compounds in the Sumenep genotype. Vernalization treatment provides a stress condition to the plants that increase the plant mechanism of adaptation by producing proline compounds. Proline accumulation in the plant body is a physiological response to stress, and as a generative tissue development²⁹. Secondary metabolite is the cellular response in plant that receives external pressure.

The metabolite profile of 5 local onion genotypes is also rich in non-volatile phytonutrients, especially the content of phenolic compounds (phenol, 2-propenamide, 3-pyridinamine, N-furfurylidene 2-phenylethyl amine, pyrrolidinedione), amide compounds aziridine-2-carbothioic acid amide) and protein compound (pyroglutamic acid). The essential components, mono and sesquiterpenes, carbohydrates, phenols, alcohols, ether, aldehydes and ketones, are responsible for biological activity and also for their fragrance³⁰. Phenols and polyphenol compounds play important roles as antioxidants in plants^{31,32,33}. Research on *Allium rotundum* showed the presence of antioxidant activity of phenol compounds with high concentrations of up to 4%¹². Onion extract contained the highest of phenol content, at 17.18 mg

GAE per gram of fresh weight³⁴, and a phenol content of 114.70 mg GAE per 100 g of different onion samples³⁵.

Metabolite compound is difference among shallot genotypes. Each plant genotype performs metabolic activities that depend on their genetic conditions and the ability to adapt to its environment. The plant biological activity may imply to proportion of metabolite containing in a plant.

CONCLUSION

Secondary metabolite is associated to the flowering competency in shallot genotypes. GC-MS analysis detected 130 metabolites compounds in non-vernalized treatment, and detected 122 metabolites in vernalization treatment in 5 genotypes of shallot. Each genotypes produce different specific metabolites which is clustered according to the flowering competency. Genotype Bentanis, Bima Brebes and Tajuk were confirmed as flower-sensitive genotypes, with a lower content of proline and nitrogen (ammonium carbamate and nitrogen oxide), and higher phytol compounds. Genotype Ilokos and Sumenep are flowering insensitive genotypes, which contain higher level of organosulfur compounds (thiophene and trisulfide). Vernalization treatment caused the Sumenep genotype produces the highest proline compound among other genotypes.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Dear Editors,

Thank you very much for sending me the Revision 2. In general, we really thank the editor and reviewers for the very constructive comments.

We have now revised the manuscript as suggested by reviewers.

I attach the more detail of the specific responses.

Thank you

Dr. Marlin

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SECTION-I : Details of Manuscript

Manuscript Number:	RJC_5356
Title:	THE SECONDARY METABOLITES AND ITS RELATION TO FLOWERING COMPETENCY IN SHALOT (<i>Allium cepa</i> var. <i>aggregatum</i>)
Authors:	Marlin ^{1*} , A. Maharijaya ² , A. Purwito ² , and Sobir ² ¹ Department of Crop Production, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bengkulu, Indonesia ² Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia

SECTION-II : Comments per Section of Manuscript

Reviewer 1 Comments	Justification/Revision
General comment:	
A1. Please give “Vernalization” as your technic in flowering competency of shalot	Thank you for raising very interesting points. We have now strengthened the title with “vernalization” as follow : SECONDARY METABOLITES CHANGE UNDER VERNALIZATION AND ITS RELATION TO FLOWERING COMPETENCY IN SHALLOT (<i>Allium cepa</i> var. <i>aggregatum</i>)
A2. Data not found	Thank you for the comment. We have showed the data in results part (figure 1 and 2) that 130 of metabolites were detected in non vernalized bulbs dan 122 of metabolites were found in vernalized bulbs.
A3. What compounds that correlated with flowering competency?	Thank you for the comment. In results and discussion, we showed that diterpene alcohol (phytol) associated to flowering competency in shallot.
Introduction and Literature :	-
Research Methodology:	

A4. Are you sure, this material has been identified? Please give information such as identified or voucher specimen in your work	Thank you for the suggestion. Those material had been identified and published (Marlin et al. 2018), as describe in the text.
A5. Where location? Please give information for coordinate geography your research location.	Thank you for raising very interesting points. We have now stated that the experiments were located in Pasir Kuda research farm, Bogor Indonesia.
A6. Please give information type of your sample that injected in GC-MS? Extract or another types of your sample, please give explain more?	Thank you for the suggestion. We agree and have added more information on sample preparation, as follow : The samples were the leaves of shallot plants at 4 weeks after planting (bolting stage). Leaves were cutted for 10 g and were extracted with methanol (50 mL). The methanolic extract of shallot leaves were used as a sample in the GC-MS analysis.
Results and Discussion	
A7. In this section, I not found correlation between metabolite with flowering competency in shallot? Can you added more explain, because your novelty in this research was metabolite in flowering competency in shallot. If you not found correlation with Heatmap analysis, may be analysis data can be use with simple correlation between major metabolite and flowering competency data.	Thank you for the comment. We stated that metabolite had a correlation with flowering competency in shallot as describing in heatmap of hierarchical clustering analysis. The heatmap showed that each shallot genotype produces different metabolites associated to the flowering competency. The results indicated that there are a presence of acyclic ditherpene alcohol (phytol) which were produced in metabolome processes in the vegetative transition to the reproductive phase in different flowering ability. The phytol presence in vernalized bulb is an indication that vernalization treatment has a positive effect in inducing flowering of shallot.
A8. Please give data in table for these metabolites?	Thank you for the comment. We have describe the data in figure 1 and 2. It will be redundant if the data showed in a table.
A9. Please answer your objective in this study	Thank you for the suggestion. We agree and change the conclusion.
A10. Data not found in text	Thank you for the comment. The data have clearly in Figure 1 and 2 in both vernalization treatments.

Bibliography/References	-
Others:	-

Reviewer 2 Comments	Justification/Revision
General comment: The manuscript describes the metabolite composition in leaves of 5 shallot genotypes whose bulbs were untreated and treated by vernalization. The results may have added values to the scientific community about metabolomic changes induced by vernalization that are important for breeding. #1 However, the results were not delivered in a clear state, so it is difficult to follow and understand it. For example, the author describes a particular metabolite specifically present in one genotype, but the author does not describe from which treatments the metabolite is produced. #2 In addition, significant data cited in the discussion is not present in the manuscript. The morphological data (Table 1) and data of prolin levels could not be found. #3 It is vital that the author must provide metabolite information to understand the hypothesis raised in the discussion. #4 From the title, the reader expects to have an overview that there are metabolomic changes after bulb vernalization, which may induce the	Thank you for the suggestions. #1. What we want to say is that in each genotype produces specific metabolite in difference vernalization treatments. The data were showed in heatmap of hierarchical clustering analysis in Figure 1 and 2. The heatmap showed that each shallot genotype produces different metabolites associated to the flowering competency. The results indicated that there are a presence of acyclic diterpene alcohol (phytol) which were produced in metabolome processes in the vegetative transition to the reproductive phase in different flowering ability. The phytol presence in vernalized bulb is an indication that vernalization treatment has a positive effect in inducing flowering of shallot. # 2 Thank you for the correction, we have re-checked and revised the statements in the manuscript. #3 Thank you for the suggestions. Metabolomic composition of 5 genotypes shallot have been describe in heatmap of 5 genotypes. #4 Thank you for the correction, we have revised the statements in the manuscript.

flowering time acceleration among 5 shallots. However, the discussion goes broadly to environmental stress and does not deeper to the flowering ability of 5 shallots author discuss his findings. #5 Somehow, the approach that done by the author in analyzing shallot leaf metabolites for understanding the response of vernalization is questionable, since the metabolites in leaves and generative organ could be different. It may also reconsider to analyze metabolites from the whole plant organs to get a big view of metabolites responsible for accelerating the flowering time in shallot.	#5 Thank you for the suggestions. We used shallot leaves as sample (4 weeks after planting) in generative (bolting stage) for metabolomic analysis in shallot. We do not use another generative organ due to non-flowering genotype is not produce the flower part.
Introduction and Literature a. The literature review has not included the current status of metabolomics research in <i>Allium</i>, major metabolites in leaves, bulbs and/or other organs, the importance of generative stage and logical backgrounds obstacles in producing seed from <i>Allium</i>. b. Authors mentioned the reason of using GC/MS approach is due to unavailable reference standards for identifying the observed metabolites. However, this is a weak reason. The author must explain the ultimate reasons related to the major issue that really want to unravel, i.e., metabolites related to flowering physiology. c. The stated research objective is to identify secondary metabolite composition in 5 shallots. However, this is not very clear and too broad, whereas the research scope focusses on volatile metabolites.	a. Thank you for the sugestion. Unfortunately, there is no information about current status of metabolomic composition in each plant organ of shallot. b. Thank you for the correction. We agree and have revised the statements in the manuscript. c. Thank you for the correction. We state clearly to identify the various components by GCMS.from their mass spectra. Hierarchical clustering analysis grouped shallot genotypes into three distinct genotypes, in both vernalization treatments.
Research Metodology a. It is important to put species name of samples along with information on the flowering pattern of	a. Thank you for the sugestion.

each genotype. b. The sample pretreatment and metabolite extraction steps from raw leaves into ready-injected samples should be described in the methodology. c. In methodology, it was mentioned that metabolites were normalized by log transformation. In contrast, the author stated that metabolite data were normalized by log2 transformation and mean centering. Which method is the correct one? d. When performing metabolomics data analysis, there are huge spectra data collected from the analysis. Filtering and clustering spectra data must be done before further analysis. These steps were crucial to perform prior to metabolite identification. However, these steps were not described in the methodology. Please include these steps in the method.	b. Thank you for raising very interesting points. We agree and have added more information on sample preparation. c. Thank you for the correction. We agree and re-check the consistency.
Results and Discussion a. The first sentence of Results and Discussion stated that “Metabolites in 5 shallot genotypes were significantly affected by vernalization treatment”. This sentence is a conclusion sentence which should be stated after the findings have been described and discussed. b. Sentences: “Shallot genotypes in the same group exhibited a similar metabolite profile, and showed a relevant metabolite variability to another group. This was also confirmed by different colour of each heatmap coloumn. Specific metabolite compounds were visualized on each genotype column with a bright green color” This is contrary with Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 illustrations, which are stated that the color-coded matrix represents the intensities of metabolites, i.e., red is low values and green is high values	a. Thank you for the sugestion. We agree and have change the statement b. Thank you for the correction. We agree and have change the statement. The color-coded matrix represents the intensities of metabolites content.

metabolites. The author should redefine the statements to make it clear. c. Results were organized by displaying metabolites detected in non-vernalized samples and vernalized samples (Fig. 1 & Fig 2). However, it is difficult to understand which metabolites affected/expressed by vernalization. It is important that data processing should be performed in integrated analysis and resulted in only 1 figure metabolite heatmap, supplemented by Table of metabolite identity, to get a better understanding of which metabolites upregulated or downregulated or synthesized after vernalization. d. Group names of G1, G2, G3, G4 and G5 in the text are not in line to any illustration in Fig 1 and Fig 2. Meanwhile, there are other different codes displayed in Fig. 1 and 2 which do not correspond to any information in the text. Authors should put the group codes/names which are annotated in the text. e. Paragraph 2 of the Results & Discussion: Based on metabolites, 5 shallots were clustered into 3 groups and the author claims the clustering was based on genotypes. However, this hypothesis is not provided by any strong facts, such as genotype agronomical description (origin, flowering period, etc.). On the other hand, in the next sentence, the author stated contrary to the previous statement, which said that the clustering was due to the flowering competency. These statements are confusing for readers and the author should restructure the paragraph.	c. Thank you for the suggestion. However we decided to use heatmap of HCA to display metabolites composition in each treatments. d. Thank you for raising very interesting points. Actually we have addressed these points in the results and discussion. Genotype codes of G1, G2, G3, G4, and G5 represent as Genotype Bentanis (G1), Bima Brebes (G2), Ilokos (G3), Tajuk (G4) and Sumenep (G5). we used the codes in text clearly inline to the explained data. The genotypes showed in Fig 1 were clustered in different group compared to Fig 2. It is that because the code are located in different position, depend on clustering data. e. Thank you for he suggestion. In this manuscript, we clustered shallots genotype base on metabolite compositions by GCMS analysis. We have reported another data in molecular and morphological approach to clustering shallot genotypes related to flowering competency.
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f. Fig. 3 is hardly readable, Table 1 is missing g. Paragraph 3 of Results & Discussion: There are many details in describing metabolites found in shallots. However, the explanation does not describe the metabolomic differences among groups and their correlation with the vernalization and the flowering competency. The author should reshape the discussion into the topic expressed in the title. h. Metabolites to flowering competency correlation analysis is strongly recommended to be performed in order to check and decide which whether there are correlation between leaves volatile metabolites to flowering competency.	f. Thank you for suggestion. We agree and revise g. Thank you for suggestion. h. Thank you for suggestion. As mentioned in previous response, in this experiment we used shallot leave in bolting stage (4 weeks of planting). Bolting stage of shallot indicated the transition stage of vegetative to generative. This transition periode may change metabolites compositions related to its flowering competency.
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SECONDARY METABOLITES CHANGE UNDER VERNALIZATION AND ITS RELATION TO FLOWERING COMPETENCY IN SHALLOT (*Allium cepa* var. *aggregatum*)

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ABSTRACT

Shallot extract contains a great quantity of essential oil, volatiles, and other compounds. The composition of secondary metabolite can be regarded as the ultimate reactions of biological and physiological to genetic and environmental conditions. This study was objected to identify metabolomic composition and its relation to flowering competency in 5 genotypes of shallot. The non-targetted metabolites were identified using GC-MS and assigned by matching their mass spectra with those available in the WILEY7 LIB. Data matrix was analyzed by using metabolomic package of the R software. Heatmap was visualized for a total of 130 of metabolites in non vernalized bulbs and 122 of metabolites in vernalized bulbs of 5 shallot genotypes. The composition metabolites from 5 genotypes were difference and suggested correlated to flowering competency. The 3 genotypes of flowering type of shallot produced highest concentration of phytol (ditherphene alcohol) and low concentration of nitrogen compound. Whereas, 2 genotypes of non-flowering types contained high concentration of organosulfur and nitrogen sources. Metabolite profile of 5 genotypes contained of volatile and non-volatile phytonutrients, vitamin, saturated fatty acid and organosulfur compounds.

Keywords: dissimilarity matrix, GC-MS, non-targetted metabolite, organosulfur, phytol

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INTRODUCTION

Shallot (*Allium cepa* var. *aggregatum*) is an important *Allium* plant that been used for food, ornamental, natural alternatives to food synthetic preservatives and medicinal for curing various diseases. *Allium* plants contain different sugars, amino acids, vitamins, sulfurous compounds, enzymes, flavonoids, saponins and minerals¹. *Allium* are also valued for their therapeutic properties; they are active as diuretics and laxatives and have been used to treat headaches and parasitic worms². Onion has beneficial effect as their prebiotic, and their ability to decrease levels of insulin, cholesterol, triacylglycerol and phospholipids for human health³, and considered an important vegetable and medicinal plant prescribed as an effective therapy for several complaints in healing treatment such as natural cancer treatment⁴. These beneficial effects will become an important target in shallot breeding and management practices.

Shallot genotypes may vary in flowering pattern, naturally flowering, inducible flowering, and non-inducible flowering shallot⁵. Flowering in shallot can be induced by an exogenous treatment such as vernalization. Vernalization is an important adaptation of plants to initiate flowering in response to a prolonged exposure to low temperatures^{6,7}. The principles derived from vernalization are likely to be widely relevant to epigenetic reprogramming in many organisms⁷. External condition plays important regulation in plant bioactivity and influences the metabolomic composition. Metabolomic composition in plant is various and specific, that depends on genetic and plant growth environment. Metabolomic describes plant phenotype differentiation.

Metabolomic technologies have revealed a new insights in biological systems through metabolic dynamics⁸. The metabolomic composition determines biological and physiological function of the plants. Metabolite compounds are observed in the 6 *Alliaceae* family⁹, in *Allium cepa* (onion) extracts^{10,11}, in *Allium rotundum* L¹², and in *Allium sativum* (garlic) formulations^{13,14}, and in shallot grown in tidal swampland¹⁵. Metabolomic defined as a comprehensive analysis in which all the metabolites of a biological system are identified and quantified^{15,16}. Metabolites are the end products of cellular regulatory processes. Metabolites profiling in plant can be directly extracted from a part of plant to find new molecules contents. Profiling of the metabolite composition is an important way to evaluate the contents of the medical plants, as well as their safety and efficacy^{17,18}. Mass spectrometry is an analytical method, which allows the determination of the mass formula and structure. With mass spectrometry, individual molecules can be measured based on their molecular peak (m/z) and characteristics spectra of fragment ions^{18,19}. Mass spectrometry technology is high sensitivity to identify the unknown and unexpected of the components present in the complex biological samples^{19,20}. These fragments often provide a clue to the molecule's structure, but without a reference compound, the difficulty of making an identification increases markedly^{18,19}. The analytical strategy *gas chromatography mass spectrometry* (GC-MS) used to analyze the volatile compounds, and selected compounds were structurally measured by mass spectrometry transposing the method to GC-MS^{19,20, 21}. The mass analyzer separates the molecules or/and fragments according to their masses and the detector detects and quantifies the separated ions^{18,19}. GC-MS analysis is performed on single-quadrupole mass spectrometers, which provide nominal-mass information. Quadrupole MS spectra can be easily compared with commercial or inter-laboratories databases^{19,20}. This study was objected to identify secondary metabolite composition and its relation to flowering competency in 5 genotypes of shallot.

EXPERIMENTAL

Plant materials

Local genotypes of shallot with different pattern of flowering were selected as plant material. Shallot genotype 'Bentanis' is used as the naturally flowering, while genotypes 'Bima Brebes Ilokos, Tajuk and Sumenep' are selected as the induced flowering of shallot⁵ (Marlin *et al.*, 2018). Experiments were planted in Pasir Kuda research farm, Bogor Indonesia. Each genotypes were treated with vernalization in 8 °C temperature for 5 weeks, and no vernalization treatment as control. The bulbs were then planted in 45 cm diameter polythene bags containing 8 kg of growing media (soil: manure: husk = 2: 1: 1). Each polybag was planted with three bulbs. Before planting, shallots bulbs were soaked in a fungicide benomil 50% at a concentration of 2 g.L⁻¹ for 15 minutes. The bulbs were then soaked into solution of plant growth promoting rhizobacteria of 5 g.L⁻¹ for 15 minutes. NPK fertilizers with a ratio of 15:15:15 were applied in a dose of 600 kg.ha⁻¹ or 2.4 g per polybag.

Metabolomic analysis

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The identification of the components of non-targeted metabolite was assigned by matching their mass spectra with those available in the WILEY7 LIB. The ~~volatile metabolite~~ compounds of the plant samples were then identified for each genotypes. Spectra were compared with National Institute of Standard and Technology (NIST, 2005 v2.1) library to identify the unknown compounds. The data were confirmed using PubChem online database in National Center for Biotechnology Information (<https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>), chemicalbook database (<http://www.chemicalbook.com>), and NIST webbook database <http://webbook.nist.gov/>. The datasets, ~~had been transformed to log2 and mean-centered~~ ~~were then log transformed~~ in order to acquire the normalized data. Data matrix based on non-targeted metabolomic of shallot in each vernalization treatments were analyzed using Metabolomic package of the R software (R version 3.2.2 <http://www.r-project.org/>). Metabolomics package was operated to construct HCA (*hierarchical cluster analysis*) and visualized heatmap with dendrogram. HCA was performed using Euclidean distance method and complete linkage agglomerative method.

Metabolite compounds in 5 shallot local genotypes were affected significantly by vernalization treatments. A total of 130 of metabolomic compound of non-vernalized bulbs, and 122 of metabolites compound of vernalized bulbs of 5 shallot local genotypes were identified by GC-MS. Metabolite compound obtained where then visually described by metabolite heatmap (Figure-1). Heatmap is widely used in metabolomic research because it is able to visualize large amounts of metabolite data and its differences in sample groups²²³¹²⁰. Heatmap of both non vernalized and vernalized bulbs clustered 5 shallot local genotypes into three groups (Figure-1). First group was G2 (Bima Brebes genotype) and G4 (Tajuk genotype), second group was G1 (Bentanis genotype), and the third group was G3 (Ilokos genotype) and G5 (Sumenep genotype).

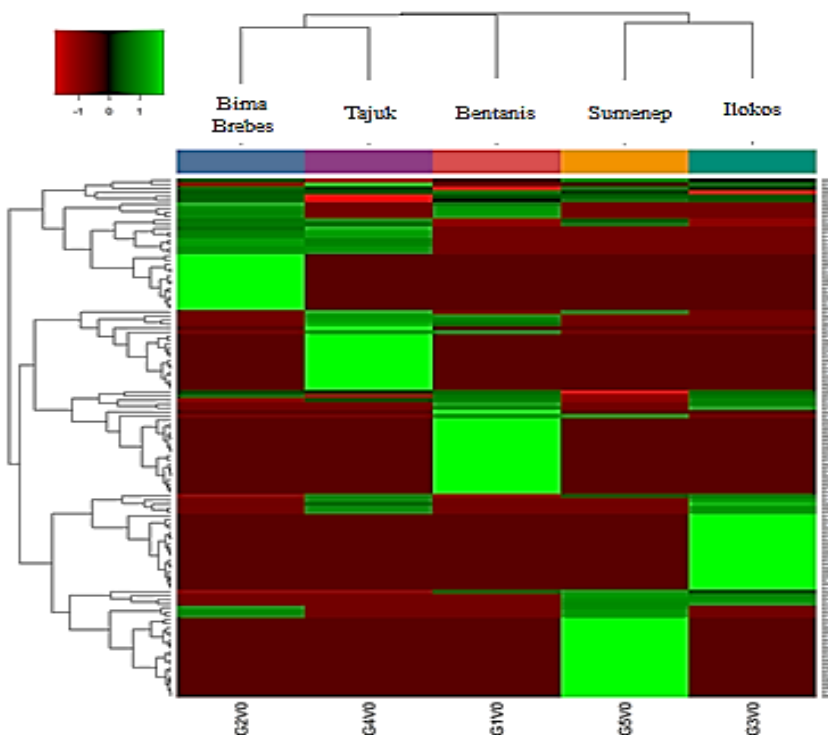


Fig.-1: Heatmap of hierarchical clustering analysis based on non-targeted metabolomic in 5 shallot genotypes of 130 metabolites in non-vernalized bulbs. Color-coded matrix represents the mean values of the metabolite intensity in 5 shallot local genotypes. Metabolite data had been transformed to log₂ and mean-centered.

Shallot genotypes in the same group exhibited a similar metabolite profile, and showed a relevant metabolite variability to another group. This was also confirmed by different colour of each heatmap column. Intensity of specific metabolite compounds was were visualized on each genotype column with a bright green color. Hierarchical clustering analysis showed that the genotype had a significant effect on the metabolites composition of the shallot. Each genotype of shallot produces different metabolites that associated to the flowering competency. Hierarchical clustering analysis of shallot metabolites grouped shallot genotypes into three distinct genotypes, in both vernalization treatments (Figure-1 and 2). The result indicated that the presence of specific compounds produced in metabolome processes in the vegetative transition to the reproductive phase in different flowering ability.

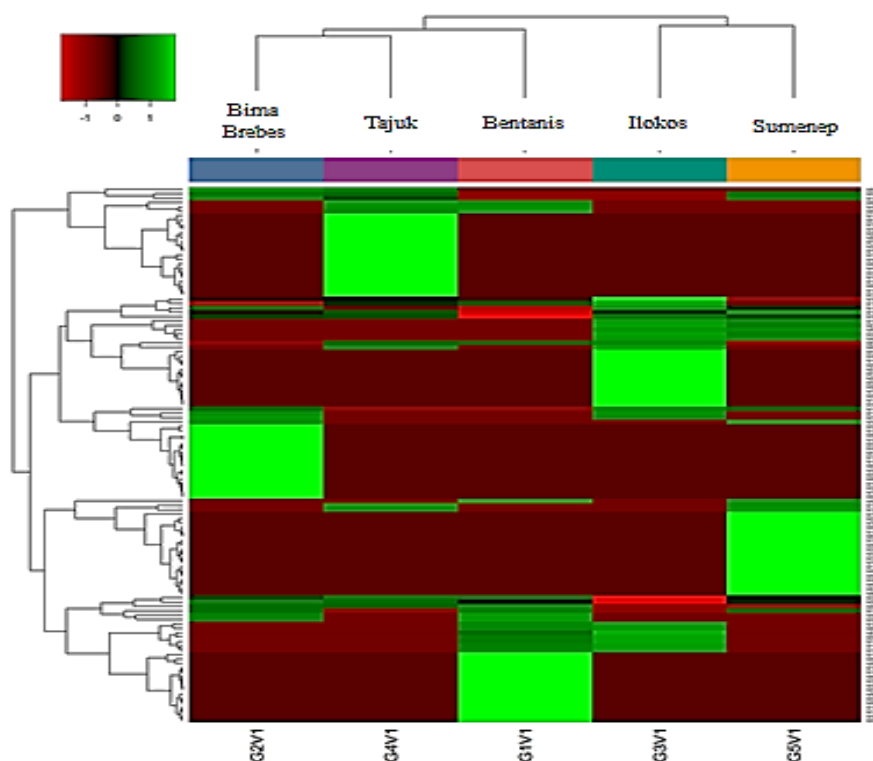


Fig.-2: Heatmap of hierarchical group analysis based on non-targeted metabolomic in 5 shallot local genotypes of 122 metabolites in vernalized bulbs. Color-coded matrix represents the mean values of the metabolite intensity in 5 shallot local genotypes. Metabolite data had been transformed to log2 and mean-centered

Shallot genotypes located in the same group showed that the genotype had the same metabolite profile, and showed significant metabolite diversity with other groups. Visualization with heatmap also confirmed in the presence of different colors from each of the heatmap columns. The genotypes included in the first group were the Bentanis genotype (G1). In the second group there was the Bima Brebes (G2) and Tajuk genotype (G4), while in the third group there was Ilokos (G3) and Sumenep genotype (G5). The Bentanis genotype separates on its own group, and has close proximity to the Bima Brebes and Tajuk groups. These three genotypes are genotypes that have the ability to generate interest (sensitive to flowering).

Visualization with heatmap is widely used in metabolomic research because it can visualize large amounts of metabolomic data and classify it in sample groups²²²⁻²⁴⁰. Sintencitis of specific metabolite compounds of each sample of onion are visualized on each genotype column in bright green color.

Mass spectrometry methods can accurately detect compounds including identification of unknown and unexpected compounds¹⁹⁴⁸. Identification of the molecular structure is often given without reference compounds, making it difficult to make a real identification¹⁹⁴⁸. The genotypes of shallot that have the ability to produce flowers will produce the specific metabolite compounds. Metabolite compounds produced in the transition process of vegetative to generative stage can be

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an indicator to determine the ability of flowering in shallot. The distribution of metabolomic compounds produced in non-vernalized shallot genotypes is presented in Figure-3.

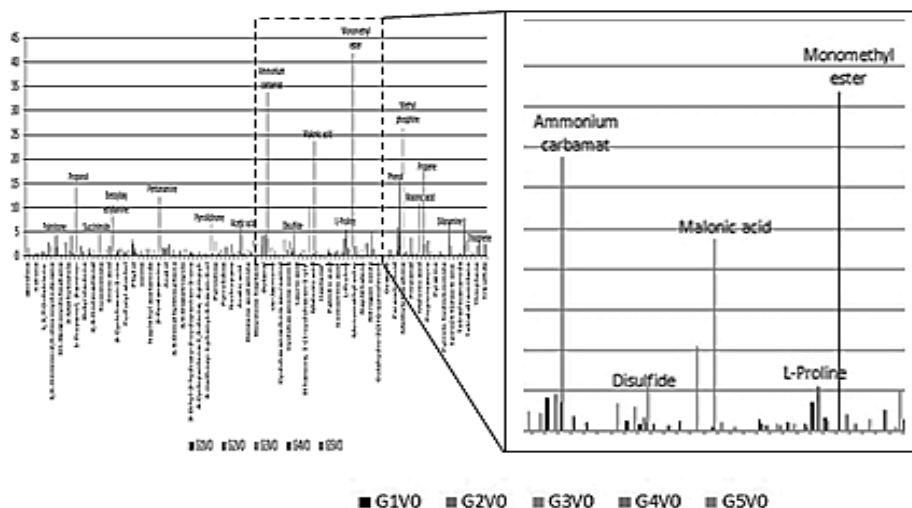


Fig.-3: Metabolite composition in non-vernalized shallot genotypes. Genotype Bentanis (G1), Bima Brebes (G2), Ilokos (G3), Tajuk (G4) and Sumenep (G5)

The results showed each genotype produced different metabolite compound. In Bentanis genotype showed the presence of monomethyl ester (41.82%) higher than Sumenep genotype (2.12%). The monomethyl ester compound, in the form of Mg-protoporphyrin IX mono-methyl ester cyclase is the catalyst required for the oxidation process of chlorophyll formation in plants^{23,22,24}. The Bentanis genotype grows faster than Sumenep genotype. Bentanis genotype has robust maximum vegetative growth compared to Sumenep genotype at 5 weeks after planting. The results in Table 1 show that Morphological investigation showed that Bentanis genotype was higher plant height (36.96 cm) than of Sumenep genotype (29.82 cm). The presence of monomethyl ester (Mg-protoporphyrin IX mono-methyl ester cyclase) compounds can increase the formation of chlorophyll more optimally, thus increasing the photosynthesis process for the Bentanis genotype growth.

GCMS analysis showed Low concentration of proline (3.55% and 5.56%) was produced in Bentanis and Tajuk genotypes (Figure-3). Proline compounds are generally produced by plants as their response to stress condition. Bentanis genotype was also produced succinimide compounds at about 4.78%, those can not be found in other genotypes. Succinimide compounds are used as intermediate compounds in the process of forming organic compounds that stimulate plant growth. The presence of high concentrate of ammonium carbamate compound is found in Bima Brebes genotype. Ammonium carbamate is an important compounds in the formation of carbamoyl phosphate and the formation of ATP into ADP^{24, 22}. While the presence of disulfide (dipropyl disulfide) compounds was found higher in non-sensitive flowering genotypes, such as Ilokos and Sumenep (1.69% and 5.43%), compared with other genotypes (0.8–0.14%). The content of dipropyl disulfide is an important component of activity as an antimicrobial and antioxidant and gives a distinctive aroma to shallot plant. The sulfur compounds in dipropyl disulfide is important the components of these metabolite compounds^{25,24,23}. The sulfur compounds are known to have

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important activities as antimicrobials and antioxidants^{24,25,26,27}. Derivative products of allicin compounds such as diallyl disulfide, diallyl trisulfide found in garlic essential oil indicate activity as a good antimicrobial^{28,27,26}.

Onion bulbs had the highest concentrations of propanethiol compounds having an aroma 20 times higher than dipropyl disulfide compounds^{29,28,27}. It also found in non-flowering shallot plant, Ilokos and Sumenep genotypes, they produce higher acetic acid compounds (1.04% and 5.98%) compared to the flowering type, the Bentanis genotype (1.02%).

Utilization of sensitive instruments in metabolomic analysis is an important way to detect the content of plant essential compounds. Plant metabolites consist of highly diverse chemical compounds ranging from inorganic compounds to hydrophilic, volatile alcohol and ketone compounds, amino and non-amino acids, hydrophobic lipids, and complex natural products^{19,48}.

Utilization of mass spectrometry technology is a great way to solve research and analysis problems in the metabolomic field^{19,48}. Metabolomic analysis was successfully to identify potential compounds extracted directly from shallot genotypes. The results showed higher concentrations of acyclic dithiophene alcohol (phytol) compounds in flowering type shallot, Bentanis genotype (8.23%), Bima Brebes (2.2%) and Tajuk (7.52%) than the Ilokos genotype (1.15%) and Sumenep (2.19). The phytol compounds is an indication that vernalization treatment has a positive effect in inducing flowering of shallot genotypes, explaining that these three genotypes are sensitive to vernalization treatment to induce flower formation. Phytol compound is a compound that serves as a precursor of vitamin E and K. The content of these vitamins plays an important role in the plant body as an enzymatic cofactor in the process of metabolism that stimulates reproductive response. The content of vitamin E in the form of tocopherol is an important compound as one of the factors in the context of a cellular antioxidant system^{30,28}. The differences of metabolite profile might play a key role in flowering initiation in shallot.

In flowering type of shallot genotypes, Bentanis, Bima Brebes and Tajuk also showed the formation of nitrogen oxide and semicarbazid hydrochlorid which are relatively lower than the non-flowering type, Ilokos and Sumenep. Nitrogen compound is a compound that plays an important role in the vegetative phase of the plant. Once the plant enters the reproductive phase, the nitrogen compounds in the plant body will decrease. In contrast, the Ilokos and Sumenep genotypes show the formation of high nitrogen compounds ie ammonium compounds ammonium carbamat, and nitrogen oxide. High content of nitrogen compounds in Ilokos and Sumenep genotypes explains that these two genotypes are not sensitive to vernalization treatment, thus not encouraging the flowering formation.

The results also showed that the Sumenep genotype contained high organosulfur compounds compared with other genotypes, namely thiophene (2.31%) and trisulfide (4.25%). The organosulfur is an important compound in giving aroma and spiciness upsurge in shallot, and play an important role as an antioxidant. Essential compounds in *Allium* have strong antioxidant ability. Tests on antimicrobial activity showed that all essential oils on *Allium* were able to inhibit the activity of gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria⁹.

Vernalization treatment triggered in the formation of proline compounds in the Sumenep genotype. Vernalization treatment provides a stress condition to the plants that increase the plant mechanism of adaptation by producing proline compounds. Proline accumulation in the plant body is a physiological response to stress, and as a generative tissue development^{31,29}. Secondary metabolite is the cellular response in plant that receives external pressure.

The metabolite profile of 5 local onion genotypes is also rich in non-volatile phytonutrients, especially the content of phenolic compounds (phenol, 2-propenamide, 3-pyridinamine, N-furfurylidene 2-phenylethyl amine, pyrrolidinedione), amide compounds aziridine-2-carbothioic

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acid amide) and protein compound (pyroglutamic acid). The essential components, mono and sesquiterpenes, carbohydrates, phenols, alcohols, ether, aldehydes and ketones, are responsible for biological activity and also for their fragrance^{32,40}. Phenols and polyphenol compounds play important roles as antioxidants in plants^{33,34,35,31,32,33}. Research on *Allium rotundum* showed the presence of antioxidant activity of phenol compounds with high concentrations of up to 4%¹². Onion extract contained the highest of phenol content, at 17.18 mg GAE per gram of fresh weight^{36,34}, and a phenol content of 114.70 mg GAE per 100 g of different onion samples^{37,35}. Metabolite compound is difference among shallot genotypes. Each plant genotype performs metabolic activities that depend on their genetic conditions and the ability to adapt to its environment. The plant biological activity may imply to proportion of metabolite containing in a plant.

CONCLUSION

Secondary metabolite of 5 genotypes shallot were difference under vernalization treatment. Secondary metabolite is associated to the flowering competency in shallot genotypes. Each genotypes produce different specific metabolites which is clustered according to the flowering competency. A high concentration ditherpene alcohol (phytol) found in flowering-sensitive genotypes (genotype of Bentanis, Bima Brebes and Tajuk), with a lower content of proline and nitrogen (ammonium carbamate and nitrogen oxide). While, in flowering-nonsensitive genotypes (genotype Ilokos and Sumenep) were found higher level of organosulfur compounds (thiophene and trisulfide). Vernalization treatment caused the Sumenep genotype produces the highest proline compound among other genotypes.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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SECONDARY METABOLITES CHANGE UNDER VERNALIZATION AND ITS RELATION TO FLOWERING COMPETENCY IN SHALLOT (*Allium cepa* var. *aggregatum*)

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ABSTRACT

Shallot extract contains a great quantity of essential oil, volatiles, and other compounds. The composition of a secondary metabolite can be regarded as the ultimate reactions of biological and physiological to genetic and environmental conditions. This study was objected to identifying metabolomic composition and its relation to flowering competency in 5 genotypes of shallot. The non-targetted metabolites were identified using GC-MS and assigned by matching their mass spectra with those available in the WILEY7 LIB. Data matrix was analyzed by using a metabolomic package of the R software. Heatmap was visualized for a total of 130 of metabolites in non vernalized bulbs and 122 of metabolites in vernalized bulbs of 5 shallot genotypes. The composition metabolites from 5 genotypes were the difference and suggested correlated to flowering competency. The 3 genotypes of flowering type of shallot produced the highest concentration of phytol(ditherphene alcohol) and low concentration of nitrogen compound. Whereas, 2 genotypes of non-flowering types contained a high concentration of organosulfur and nitrogen sources. Metabolite profile of 5 genotypes contained volatile and non-volatile phytonutrients, vitamin, saturated fatty acid and organosulfur compounds.

Keywords: Dissimilarity Matrix, GC-MS, Non-targetted Metabolite, Organosulfur, Phytol

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INTRODUCTION

Shallot (*Allium cepa* var. *aggregatum*) is an important *Allium* plant that been used for food, ornamental, natural alternatives to food synthetic preservatives and medicinal for curing various diseases. *Allium* plants contain different sugars, amino acids, vitamins, sulfurous compounds, enzymes, flavonoids, saponins and minerals¹. *Allium* is also valued for their therapeutic properties; they are active as diuretics and laxatives and have been used to treat headaches and parasitic worms². Onion has a beneficial effect as their prebiotic, and their ability to decrease levels of insulin, cholesterol, triacylglycerol and phospholipids for human health³, and considered an important vegetable and medicinal plant prescribed as an effective therapy for several complaints in healing treatment such as natural cancer treatment⁴. These beneficial effects will become an important target in shallot breeding and management practices. Shallot genotypes may vary in flowering pattern, naturally flowering, inducible flowering, and non-inducible flowering shallot⁵. Flowering in shallot can be induced by an exogenous treatment such as vernalization. Vernalization is an important adaptation of plants to initiate flowering in response to prolonged exposure to low temperatures^{6,7}. The principles derived from vernalization are likely to be widely relevant to epigenetic reprogramming in many organisms⁷. External condition plays an important regulation in plant bioactivity and influences the metabolomic composition. Metabolomic composition in the plant is various and specific, that depends on genetic and plant growth environment. Metabolomic describes plant phenotype differentiation. Metabolomic technologies have revealed new insights in biological systems through metabolic dynamics⁸. The metabolomic composition determines the biological

and physiological function of the plants. Metabolite compounds are observed in the 6 *Alliaceae* family⁹, in *Allium cepa* (onion) extracts^{10,11}, in *Allium rotundum* L¹², in *Allium sativum* (garlic) formulations^{13,14}, and in shallot grown in tidal swampland¹⁵. Metabolomic defined as a comprehensive analysis in which all the metabolites of a biological system are identified and quantified¹⁶. Metabolites are the end products of cellular regulatory processes. Metabolites profiling in plants can be directly extracted from a part of plant to find new molecules contents. Profiling of the metabolite composition is an important way to evaluate the contents of the medical plants, as well as their safety and efficacy¹⁷.

Mass spectrometry is an analytical method, which allows the determination of the mass formula and structure. With mass spectrometry, individual molecules can be measured based on their molecular peak (m/z) and characteristics spectra of fragment ions¹⁸. Mass spectrometry technology is high sensitivity to identify the unknown and unexpected of the components present in the complex biological samples¹⁹. These fragments often provide a clue to the molecule's structure, but without a reference compound, the difficulty of making an identification increases markedly¹⁸. The analytical strategy *gase chromatography mass spectrometry* (GC-MS) used to analyze the volatile compounds, and selected compounds were structurally measured by mass spectrometry transposing the method to GC-MS^{20, 21}. The mass analyzer separates the molecules or/and fragments according to their masses and the detector detects and quantifies the separated ions¹⁸. GC-MS analysis is performed on single-quadrupole mass spectrometers, which provide nominal-mass information. Quadrupole MS spectra can be easily compared with commercial or inter-laboratories databases¹⁹. This study was objected to identify secondary metabolite composition and its relation to flowering competency in 5 genotypes of shallot.

EXPERIMENTAL

Plant materials

Local genotypes of shallot with a different pattern of flowering were selected as plant material. Shallot genotype 'Bentanisi' is used as the naturally flowering, while genotypes 'Bima Brebes Ilokos, Tajuk and Sumenep' are selected as the induced flowering of shallot⁵. Experiments were planted in Pasir Kuda research farm, Bogor Indonesia. Each genotypes were treated with vernalization in 8 °C temperature for 5 weeks, and no vernalization treatment as control. The bulbs were then planted in 45 cm diameter polythene bags containing 8 kg of growing media (soil: manure: husk = 2: 1: 1). Each polybag was planted with three bulbs. Before planting, shallots bulbs were soaked in a fungicide benomil 50% at a concentration of 2 g.L⁻¹ for 15 minutes. The bulbs were then soaked into solution of plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria of 5 g.L⁻¹ for 15 minutes. NPK fertilizers with a ratio of 15:15:15 were applied in a dose of 600 kg.ha⁻¹ or 2.4 g per polybag.

Metabolomic Analysis

The samples were the leaves of shallot plants at 4 weeks after planting (bolting stage). Leaves were cutted for 10 g and were extracted with methanol (50 mL). The methanolic extract of shallot leaves were used as a sample in the GC-MS analysis. GC-MS unit was carried out on an GCMS-QP2010 system (Shimadzu Corporation, Japan) coupled to mass a spectrometer detector. The samples were inserted into the quartz chamber in the GC-MS unit. Helium was used as a carrier gas in a constant flow mode at 0.85 ml/min. The chamber was heated in an oxygen-free environment at a temperature of 400 °C for 0.2 minutes. The reaction will produce heat-mediated cleavage of chemical bonds in the macromolecular structure and produce low molecular weight with a chemical composition that identify specific compound of metabolite. Compound mixtures were then passed through the column GC-MS analysis. The column is Rt x 5 MS, with length 60.0 m, thickness 0.25 µm, and diameter 0.25 mm. The initial temperature of the column was 50 °C, which was gradually increased by 10 °C up to 280 °C. At the end of this period, the column oven temperature was 50 °C raised up to 280 °C. Injection port temperature was ensured as 280 °C and helium flow rate as 0.85 ml/min. Mass spectrometer detector was employed to detect compounds when they were vented from the column. Temperature of the detector was 200 °C. Secondary metabolites of the plant samples were then identified for each treatments.

The identification of the components of the non-targeted metabolite was assigned by matching their mass spectra with those available in the WILEY7 LIB. The metabolite compounds of the plant samples were

then identified for each genotypes. Spectra were compared with National the Institute of Standard and Technology (NIST, 2005 v2.1) library to identify the unknown compounds. The data were confirmed using PubChem online database in National Center for Biotechnology Information (<https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>), chemicalbook database (<http://www.chemicalbook.com>), and NIST webbook database <http://webbook.nist.gov/>. The datasets had been transformed to log2 and mean-centered in order to acquire the normalized data. Data matrix based on non-targetted metabolomic of shallot in each vernalization treatments were analyzed using Metabolomic package of the R software (R version 3.2.2 <http://www.r-project.org/>). Metabolomics package was operated to construct HCA (*hierarchical cluster analysis*) and visulized heatmap with dendrogram. HCA was performed using Euclidean distance method and complete linkage agglomerative method.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 130 of metabolomic compound of non-vernalized bulbs, and 122 of metabolites of vernalized bulbs of 5 shallot local genotypes were identified by GC-MS. Metabolite compound obtained where then visually described by metabolite heatmap (Figure-1). Heatmap is widely used in metabolomic research because it is able to visualize large amounts of metabolite data and its differences in sample groups²². Heatmap of both non vernalized and vernalized bulbs clustered 5 shallot local genotypes into three groups (Figure-1). First group was G2 (Bima Brebes genotype) and G4 (Tajuk genotype), second group was G1 (Bentanis genotype), and the third group was G3 (Ilokos genotype) and G5 (Sumenep genotype).

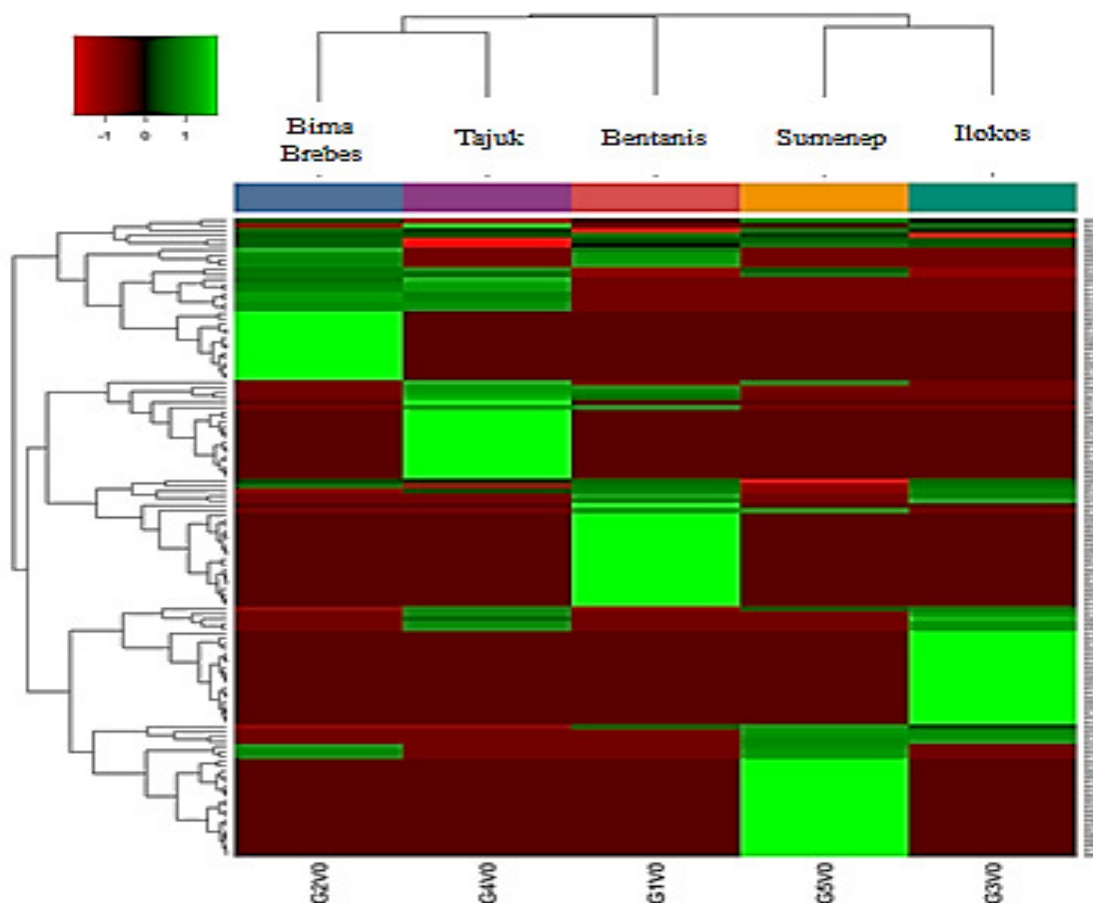


Fig.-1: Heatmap of hierarchical clustering analysis based on non-targeted metabolomic in 5 shallot genotypes of 130 metabolites in non-vernalized bulbs. Color-coded matrix represents the mean values of the metabolite intensity in 5 shallot local genotypes. Metabolite data had been transformed to log2 and mean-centered.

Shallot genotypes in the same group exhibited a similar metabolite profile, and showed a relevant metabolite variability to another group. This was also confirmed by the different color of each heatmap

column. The intensity of specific metabolite was visualized on each genotype column with a bright green color. Hierarchical clustering analysis showed that the genotype had a significant effect on the metabolites composition of the shallot. Each genotype of shallot produces different metabolites that associated to the flowering competency. Hierarchical clustering analysis of shallot metabolites grouped shallot genotypes into three distinct genotypes, in both vernalization treatments (Figure-1 and 2). The result indicated that the presence of specific compounds produced in metabolome processes in the vegetative transition to the reproductive phase in different flowering ability.

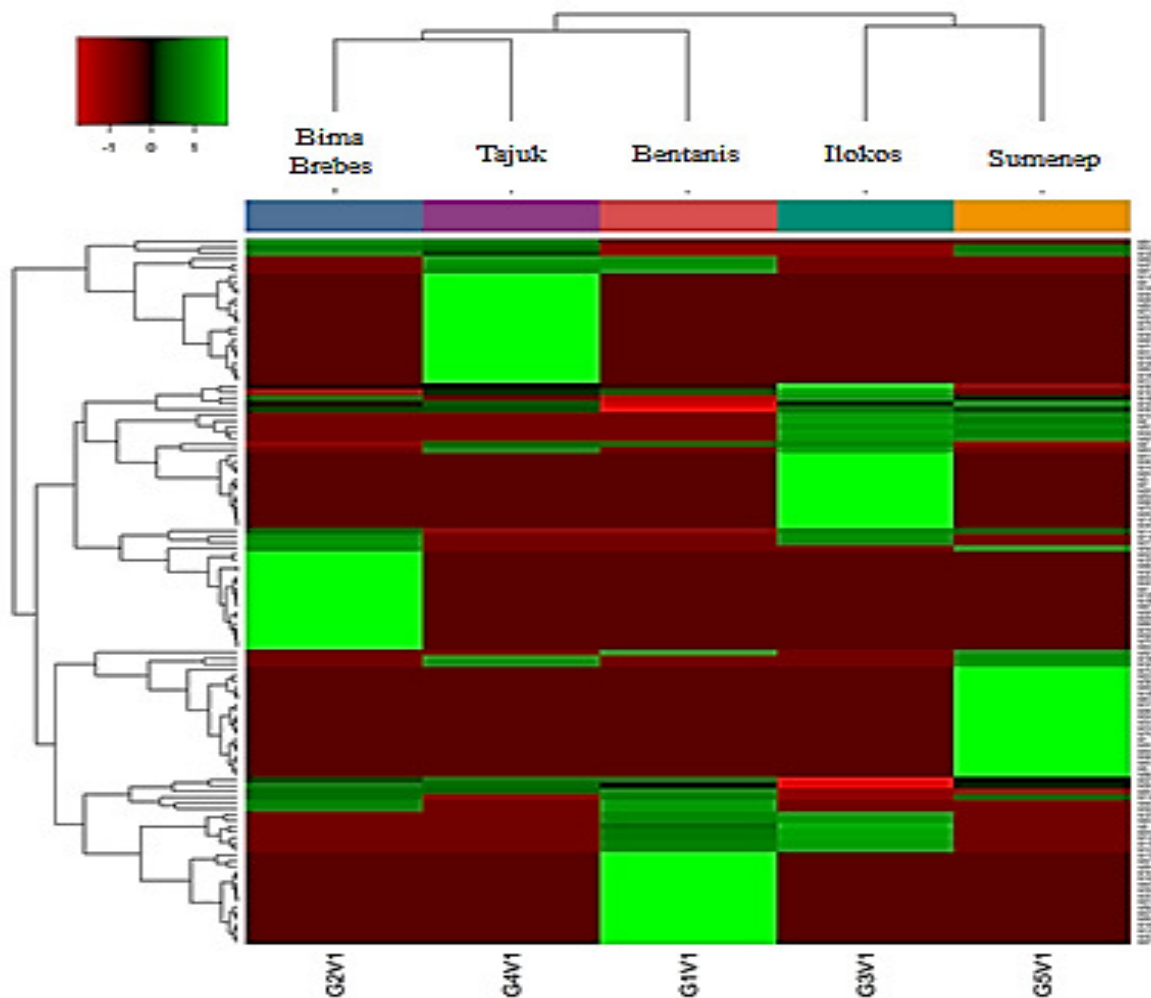


Fig.-2: Heatmap of hierarchical group analysis based on non-targeted metabolomic in 5 shallot local genotypes of 122 metabolites in vernalized bulbs. Color-coded matrix represents the mean values of the metabolite intensity in 5 shallot local genotypes. Metabolite data had been transformed to log2 and mean-centered

Shallot genotypes located in the same group showed that the genotype had the same metabolite profile, and showed significant metabolite diversity with other groups. Visualization with heatmap also confirmed in the presence of different colors from each of the heatmap columns. The genotypes included in the first group were the Bentanis genotype (G1). In the second group, there was the Bima Brebes (G2) and Tajuk genotype (G4), while in the third group there was Ilokos (G3) and Sumenep genotype (G5). The Bentanis genotype separates on its own group, and has close proximity to the Bima Brebes and Tajuk groups. These three genotypes are genotypes that have the ability to generate interest (sensitive to flowering).

Visualization with heatmap is widely used in metabolomic research because it can visualize large amounts of metabolomic data and classify it in sample groups²². intensities of a specific metabolite of each sample of onion are visualized on each genotype column in bright green color.

Mass spectrometry methods can accurately detect compounds including identification of unknown and

unexpected compounds¹⁹. Identification of the molecular structure is often given without reference compounds, making it difficult to make a real identification¹⁹. The genotypes of shallot that have the ability to produce flowers will produce the specific metabolite compounds. Metabolite compounds produced in the transition process of vegetative to generative stage can be an indicator to determine the ability of flowering in shallot. The distribution of metabolomic compounds produced in non-vernalized shallot genotypes is presented in Fig.-3.

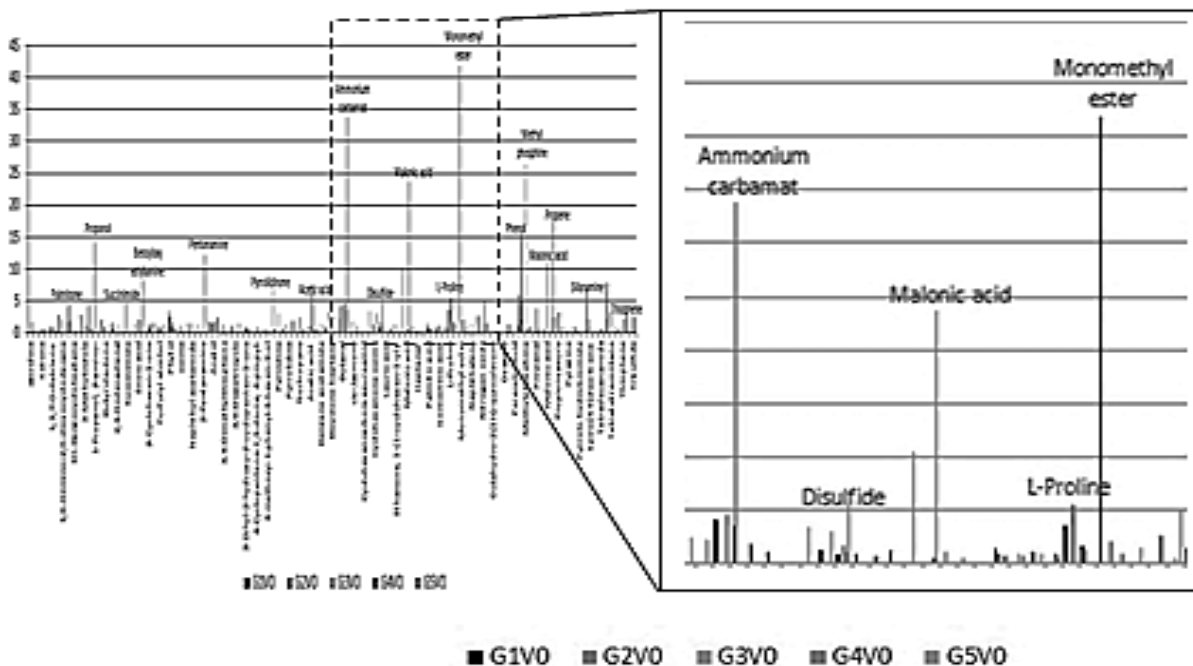


Fig.-3: Metabolite composition in non-vernalized shallot genotypes. Genotype Bentanis (G1), Bima Brebes (G2), Ilokos (G3), Tajuk (G4) and Sumenep (G5)

The results showed each genotype produced different metabolite compound. In Bentanis genotype showed the presence of monomethyl ester (41.82%) higher than Sumenep genotype (2.12%). The monomethyl ester compound, in the form of Mg-protoporphyrin IX mono-methyl ester cyclase is the catalyst required for the oxidation process of chlorophyll formation in plants²³. The Bentanis genotype grows faster than Sumenep genotype. Bentanis genotype has robust maximum vegetative growth compared to Sumenep genotype at 5 weeks after planting. Morphological investigation showed that Bentanis genotype was higher (36.96 cm) than of Sumenep genotype (29.82 cm). The presence of monomethyl ester (Mg-protoporphyrin IX mono-methyl ester cyclase) compounds can increase the formation of chlorophyll more optimally, thus increasing the photosynthesis process for the Bentanis genotype growth.

GCMS analysis showed a low concentration of proline (3.55% and 5.56%) was produced in Bentanis and Tajuk genotypes (Figure-3). Proline compounds are generally produced by plants as their response to stress condition. Bentanis genotype was also produced succinimide compounds at about 4.78%, those can not be found in other genotypes. Succinimide compounds are used as intermediate compounds in the process of forming organic compounds that stimulate plant growth.

The presence of high concentration of ammonium carbamate compound is found in Bima Brebes genotype. Ammonium carbamate is an important compound in the formation of carbamoyl phosphate and the formation of ATP into ADP²⁴. While the presence of disulfide (dipropyl disulfide) compounds was found higher in non-sensitive flowering genotypes, such as Ilokos and Sumenep (1.69% and 5.43%), compared with other genotypes (0.8–0.14%). The content of dipropyl disulfide is an important component of activity as an antimicrobial and antioxidant and gives a distinctive aroma to shallot plant. The sulfur compounds in dipropyl disulfide are important components of these metabolite compounds²⁵. The sulfur compounds are known to have important activities as antimicrobials and antioxidants^{26,27}. Derivative

products of allicin compounds such as diallyl disulfide, diallyl trisulfide found in garlic essential oil indicate activity as a good antimicrobial²⁸.

Onion bulbs had the highest concentrations of propanethiol compounds having an aroma 20 times higher than dipropyl disulfide compounds²⁹. It also found in non-flowering shallot plant, Ilokos and Sumenep genotypes, they produce higher acetic acid compounds (1.04% and 5.98%) compared to the flowering type, the Bentanis genotype (1.02%).

Utilization of sensitive instruments in the metabolomic analysis is an important way to detect the content of plant essential compounds. Plant metabolites consist of highly diverse chemical compounds ranging from inorganic compounds to hydrophilic, volatile alcohol and ketone compounds, amino and non-amino acids, hydrophobic lipids, and complex natural products¹⁹.

Utilization of mass spectrometry technology is a great way to solve research and analysis problems in the metabolomic field¹⁹. Metabolomic analysis was successfully to identify potential compounds extracted directly from shallot genotypes. The results showed higher concentrations of acyclic dithiophene alcohol (phytol) compounds in flowering type shallot, Bentanis genotype (8.23%), Bima Brebes (2.2%) and Tajuk (7.52%) than the Ilokos genotype (1.15%) and Sumenep (2.19). The phytol compounds is an indication that vernalization treatment has a positive effect in inducing flowering of shallot genotypes, explaining that these three genotypes are sensitive to vernalization treatment to induce flower formation. Phytol compound is a compound that serves as a precursor of vitamin E and K. The content of these vitamins plays an important role in the plant body as an enzymatic cofactor in the process of metabolism that stimulates a productive response. The content of vitamin E in the form of tocopherol is an important compound as one of the factors in the context of a cellular antioxidant system³⁰. The differences of metabolite profile might play a key role in flowering initiation in shallot.

In flowering type of shallot genotypes, Bentanis, Bima Brebes and Tajuk also showed the formation of nitrogen oxide and semicarbazid hydrochlorid which are relatively lower than the non-flowering type, Ilokos and Sumenep. Nitrogen compound is a compound that plays an important role in the vegetative phase of the plant. Once the plant enters the reproductive phase, the nitrogen compounds in the plant body will decrease. In contrast, the Ilokos and Sumenep genotypes show the formation of high nitrogen compounds ie ammonium compounds ammonium carbamat, and nitrogen oxide. The high content of nitrogen compounds in Ilokos and Sumenep genotypes explains that these two genotypes are not sensitive to vernalization treatment, thus not encouraging the flowering formation.

The results also showed that the Sumenep genotype contained high organosulfur compounds compared with other genotypes, namely thiophene (2.31%) and trisulfide (4.25%). The organosulfur is an important compound in giving aroma and spiciness upsurge in shallot, and play an important role as an antioxidant. Essential compounds in *Allium* have strong antioxidant ability. Tests on antimicrobial activity showed that all essential oils on *Allium* were able to inhibit the activity of gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria⁹.

Vernalization treatment triggered in the formation of proline compounds in the Sumenep genotype. Vernalization treatment provides a stress condition to the plants that increase the plant mechanism of adaptation by producing proline compounds. Proline accumulation in the plant body is a physiological response to stress, and as a generative tissue development³¹. Secondary metabolite is the cellular response in plant that receives external pressure.

The metabolite profile of 5 local onion genotypes is also rich in non-volatile phytonutrients, especially the content of phenolic compounds (phenol, 2-propenamide, 3-pyridinamine, N-furfurylidene 2-phenylethyl amine, pyrrolidinedione), amide compounds aziridine-2-carbothioic acid amide) and protein compound (pyroglutamic acid). The essential components, mono and sesquiterpenes, carbohydrates, phenols, alcohols, ether, aldehydes and ketones, are responsible for biological activity and also for their fragrance³². Phenols and polyphenol compounds play important roles as antioxidants in plants^{33,34,35}. Research on *Allium rotundum* showed the presence of antioxidant activity of phenol compounds with high concentrations of up to 4%¹². Onion extract contained the highest of phenol content, at 17.18 mg GAE per gram of fresh weight³⁶, and a phenol content of 114.70 mg GAE per 100 g of different onion samples³⁷.

Metabolite compound is the difference among shallot genotypes. Each plant genotype performs metabolic activities that depend on their genetic conditions and the ability to adapt to its environment. The plant biological activity may imply to the proportion of metabolite containing a plant.

CONCLUSION

A secondary metabolite of 5 genotypes shallot was difference under vernalization treatment. Each genotypes produce different specific metabolites which is clustered according to the flowering competency. A high concentration diterpene alcohol (phytol) found in flowering-sensitive genotypes (genotype of Bentanis, Bima Brebes and Tajuk), with a lower content of proline and nitrogen (ammonium carbamate and nitrogen oxide). While, in flowering-nonsensitive genotypes (genotype Ilokos and Sumenep) were found a higher level of organosulfur compounds (thiophene and trisulfide). Vernalization treatment caused the Sumenep genotype produces the highest proline compound among other genotypes.

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SECONDARY METABOLITES **CHANGE UNDER** **VERNALIZATION AND ITS RELATION TO FLOWERING** **COMPETENCY IN SHALLOT** (*Allium cepa* var. *aggregatum*)

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ABSTRACT

Shallot extract contains a great quantity of essential oil, volatiles, and other compounds. The composition of a secondary metabolite can be regarded as the ultimate reactions of biological and physiological to genetic and environmental conditions. This study was objected to identifying metabolomic composition and its relation to flowering competency in 5 genotypes of shallot. The non-targeted metabolites were identified using GC-MS and assigned by matching their mass spectra with those available in the WILEY7 LIB. Data matrix was analyzed by using a metabolomic package of the R software. Heatmap was visualized for a total of 130 of metabolites in non vernalized bulbs and 122 of metabolites in vernalized bulbs of 5 shallot genotypes. The composition metabolites from 5 genotypes were the difference and suggested correlated to flowering competency. The 3 genotypes of flowering type of shallot produced the highest concentration of phytol (diterpene alcohol) and low concentration of nitrogen compound. Whereas, 2 genotypes of non-flowering types contained a high concentration of organosulfur and nitrogen sources. Metabolite profile of 5 genotypes contained volatile and non-volatile phytonutrients, vitamin, saturated fatty acid and organosulfur compounds.

Keywords: Dissimilarity Matrix, GC-MS, Non-targeted Metabolite, Organosulfur, Phytol

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INTRODUCTION

Shallot (*Allium cepa* var. *aggregatum*) is an important *Allium* plant that been used for food, ornamental, natural alternatives to food synthetic preservatives and medicinal for curing various diseases. *Allium* plants contain different sugars, amino acids, vitamins, sulfurous compounds, enzymes, flavonoids, saponins and minerals¹. *Allium* is also valued for their therapeutic properties; they are active as diuretics and laxatives and have been used to treat headaches and parasitic worms². Onion has a beneficial effect as their prebiotic, and their ability to decrease levels of insulin, cholesterol, triacylglycerol and phospholipids for human health³, and considered an important vegetable and medicinal plant prescribed as an effective therapy for several complaints in healing treatment such as natural cancer treatment⁴. These beneficial effects will become an important target in shallot breeding and management practices. Shallot genotypes may vary in flowering pattern, naturally flowering, inducible flowering, and non-inducible flowering shallot⁵. Flowering in shallot can be induced by an exogenous treatment such as vernalization. Vernalization is an important adaptation of plants to initiate flowering in response to prolonged exposure to low temperatures^{6,7}. The principles derived from vernalization are likely to be widely relevant to epigenetic reprogramming in many organisms⁷. External condition plays an important regulation in plant bioactivity and influences the metabolomic composition. Metabolomic composition in the plant is various and specific, that depends on genetic and plant growth environment. Metabolomic describes plant phenotype differentiation. Metabolomic technologies have revealed new insights in

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biological systems through metabolic dynamics⁸. The metabolomic composition determines the biological and physiological function of the plants. Metabolite compounds are observed in the 6 *Alliaceae* family⁹, in *Allium cepa* (onion) extracts^{10,11}, in *Allium rotundum* L¹², and in *Allium sativum* (garlic) formulations^{13,14}, and in shallot grown in tidal swampland¹⁵. Metabolomic defined as a comprehensive analysis in which all the metabolites of a biological system are identified and quantified^{4,5,16}. Metabolites are the end products of cellular regulatory processes. Metabolites profiling in plants can be directly extracted from a part of plant to find new molecules contents. Profiling of the metabolite composition is an important way to evaluate the contents of the medical plants, as well as their safety and efficacy^{17,18}. Mass spectrometry is an analytical method, which allows the determination of the mass formula and structure. With mass spectrometry, individual molecules can be measured based on their molecular peak (m/z) and characteristics spectra of fragment ions^{18,17}. Mass spectrometry technology is high sensitivity to identify the unknown and unexpected of the components present in the complex biological samples^{19,18}. These fragments often provide a clue to the molecule's structure, but without a reference compound, the difficulty of making an identification increases markedly^{18,17}. The analytical strategy *gase chromatography mass spectrometry* (GC-MS) used to analyze the volatile compounds, and selected compounds were structurally measured by mass spectrometry transposing the method to GC-MS^{19,20, 21}. The mass analyzer separates the molecules or/and fragments according to their masses and the detector detects and quantifies the separated ions^{18,17}. GC-MS analysis is performed on single-quadrupole mass spectrometers, which provide nominal-mass information. Quadrupole MS spectra can be easily compared with commercial or inter-laboratories databases^{19,18}. This study was objected to identify secondary metabolite composition and its relation to flowering competency in 5 genotypes of shallot.

EXPERIMENTAL

Plant materials

Local genotypes of shallot with a different pattern of flowering were selected as plant material. Shallot genotype 'Bentanis' is used as the naturally flowering, while genotypes 'Bima Brebes Ilokos, Tajuk and Sumenep' are selected as the induced flowering of shallot⁵ (Marlin *et al.*, 2018). Experiments were planted in Pasir Kuda research farm, Bogor Indonesia. Each genotypes were treated with vernalization in 8°C temperature for 5 weeks, and no vernalization treatment as control. The bulbs were then planted in 45 cm diameter polythene bags containing 8 kg of growing media (soil: manure: husk = 2: 1: 1). Each polybag was planted with three bulbs. Before planting, shallots bulbs were soaked in a fungicide benomil 50% at a concentration of 2 g.L⁻¹ for 15 minutes. The bulbs were then soaked into solution of plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria of 5 g.L⁻¹ for 15 minutes. NPK fertilizers with a ratio of 15:15:15 were applied in a dose of 600 kg.ha⁻¹ or 2.4 g per polybag.

Metabolomic Analysis

The samples were the leaves of shallot plants at 4 weeks after planting (bolting stage phase). Leaves were cutted for 10 g and were extracted with methanol (50 mL). The methanolic extract of shallot leaves were used as a sample in the GC-MS analysis. GC-MS unit was carried out on an GCMS-QP2010 system (Shimadzu Corporation, Japan) coupled to mass a spectrometer detector. The samples were inserted into the quartz chamber in the GC-MS unit. Helium was used as a carrier gas in a constant flow mode at 0.85 ml/min. The chamber was heated in an oxygen-free environment at a temperature of 400°C for 0.2 minutes. The reaction will produce heat-mediated cleavage of chemical bonds in the macromolecular structure and produce low molecular weight with a chemical composition that identify specific compound of metabolite. Compound mixtures were then passed through the column GC-MS analysis. The column is Rt x 5 MS, with length 60.0 m, thickness 0.25 µm, and diameter 0.25 mm. The initial temperature of the column was 50 °C, which was gradually increased by 10 °C up to 280 °C. At the end of this period, the column oven temperature was 50 °C raised up to 280 °C. Injection port temperature was ensured as 280 °C and helium flow rate as 0.85 ml/min. Mass spectrometer detector was employed to detect compounds when they were vented from the column. Temperature of the detector was 200 °C. The volatile metabolite compounds Secondary metabolites of the plant samples were then identified for each treatments.

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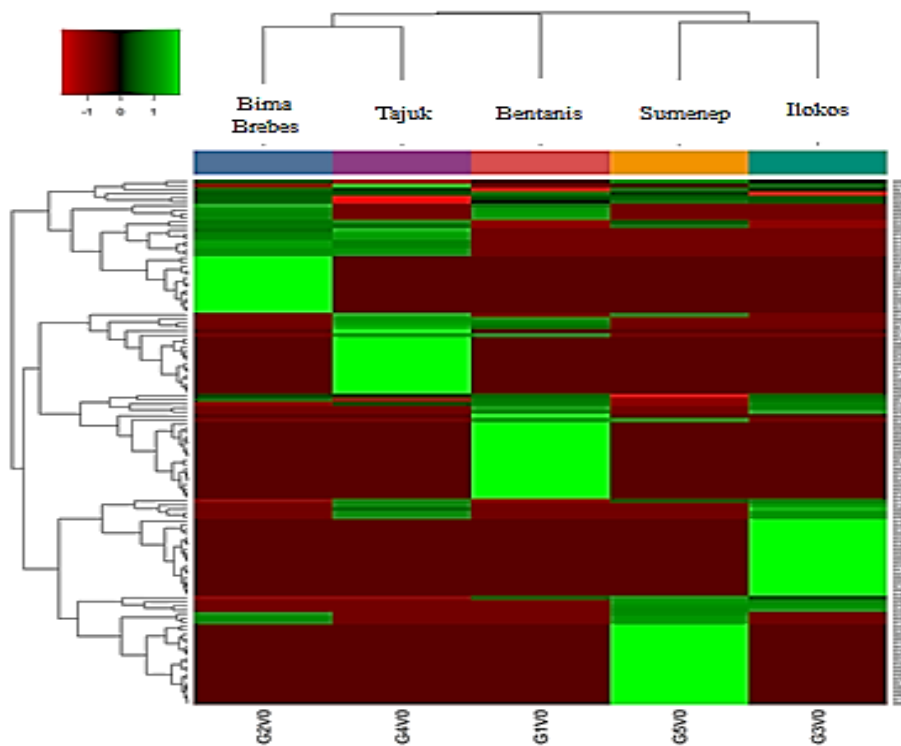
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The identification of the components of the non-targeted metabolite was assigned by matching their mass spectra with those available in the WILEY7 LIB. The volatile metabolite compounds of the plant samples were then identified for each genotypes. Spectra were compared with National the Institute of Standard and Technology (NIST, 2005 v2.1) library to identify the unknown compounds. The data were confirmed using PubChem online database in National Center for Biotechnology Information (<https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>), chemicalbook database (<http://www.chemicalbook.com>), and NIST webbook database (<http://webbook.nist.gov/>). The datasets had been transformed to log2 and mean-centered were then log transformed in order to acquire the normalized data. Data matrix based on non-targeted metabolomic of shallot in each vernalization treatments were analyzed using Metabolomic package of the R software (R version 3.2.2 <http://www.r-project.org/>). Metabolomics package was operated to construct HCA (hierarchical cluster analysis) and visualized heatmap with dendrogram. HCA was performed using Euclidean distance method and complete linkage agglomerative method.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Metabolite compounds in 5 shallot local genotypes were affected significantly by vernalization treatments. A total of 130 of metabolomic of non-vernalized bulbs, and 122 of metabolites compound of vernalized bulbs of 5 shallot local genotypes were identified by GC-MS. Metabolite compound obtained where then visually described by metabolite heatmap (Figure-1). Heatmap is widely used in metabolomic research because it is able to visualize large amounts of metabolite data and its differences in sample groups. Heatmap of both non vernalized and vernalized bulbs clustered 5 shallot local genotypes into three groups (Figure-1). First group was G2 (Bima Brebes genotype) and G4 (Tajuk genotype), second group was G1 (Bentanis genotype), and the third group was G3 (Ilokos genotype) and G5 (Sumenep genotype).



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Fig.-1: Heatmap of hierarchical clustering analysis based on non-targeted metabolomic in 5 shallot genotypes of 130 metabolites in non-vernalized bulbs. Color-coded matrix represents the mean values of the metabolite intensity in 5 shallot local genotypes. Metabolite data had been transformed to log2 and mean-centered.

Shallot genotypes in the same group exhibited a similar metabolite profile, and showed a relevant metabolite variability to another group. This was also confirmed by the different color of each heatmap column. The intensity of specific metabolite compounds were visualized on each genotype column with a bright green color. Hierarchical clustering analysis showed that the genotype had a significant effect on the metabolites composition of the shallot. Each genotype of shallot produces different metabolites that associated to the flowering competency. Hierarchical clustering analysis of shallot metabolites grouped shallot genotypes into three distinct genotypes, in both vernalization treatments (Figure-1 and 2). The result indicated that the presence of specific compounds produced in metabolome processes in the vegetative transition to the reproductive phase in different flowering ability.

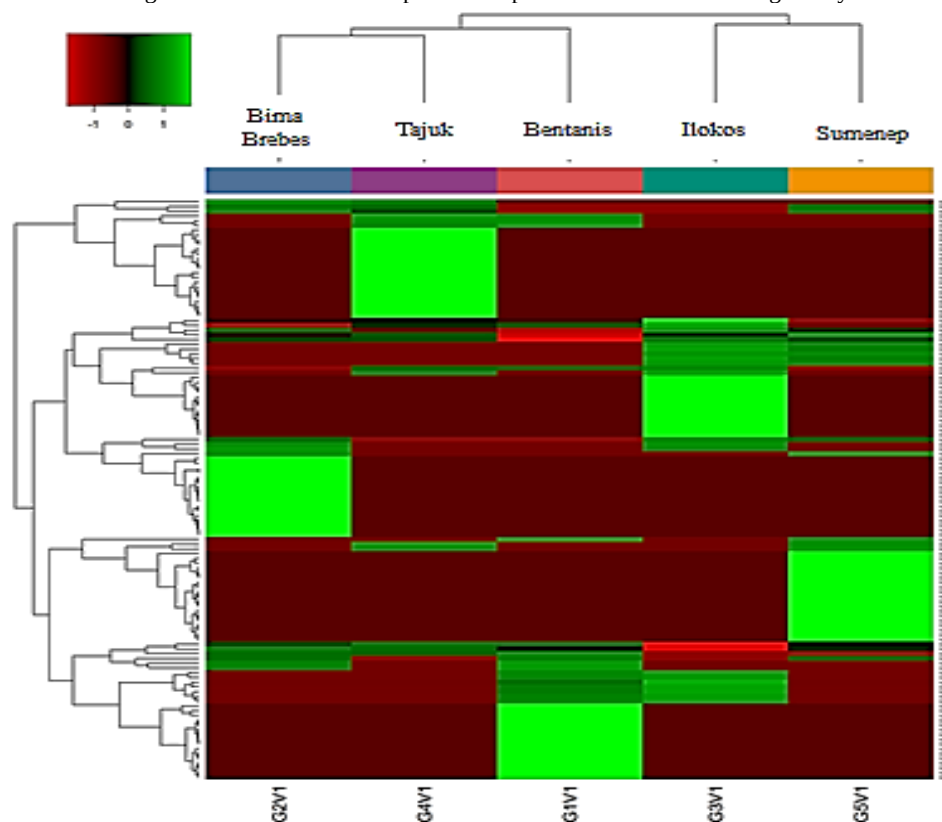


Fig.-2: Heatmap of hierarchical group analysis based on non-targeted metabolomic in 5 shallot local genotypes of 122 metabolites in vernalized bulbs. Color-coded matrix represents the mean values of the metabolite intensity in 5 shallot local genotypes. Metabolite data had been transformed to log2 and mean-centered

Shallot genotypes located in the same group showed that the genotype had the same metabolite profile, and showed significant metabolite diversity with other groups. Visualization with heatmap also confirmed in the presence of different colors from each of the heatmap columns. The genotypes included in the first group were the Bentanis genotype (G1). In the second group, there was the Bima Brebes (G2) and Tajuk genotype (G4), while in the third group there was Ilokos (G3) and Sumenap genotype (G5). The Bentanis

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genotype separates on its own group, and has close proximity to the Bima Brebes and Tajuk groups. These three genotypes are genotypes that have the ability to generate interest (sensitive to flowering). Visualization with heatmap is widely used in metabolomic research because it can visualize large amounts of metabolomic data and classify it in sample groups²²²⁴²⁰. Intensities of a specific metabolite compounds of each sample of onion are visualized on each genotype column in bright green color. Mass spectrometry methods can accurately detect compounds including identification of unknown and unexpected compounds¹⁹⁴⁸. Identification of the molecular structure is often given without reference compounds, making it difficult to make a real identification¹⁹⁴⁸. The genotypes of shallot that have the ability to produce flowers will produce the specific metabolite compounds. Metabolite compounds produced in the transition process of vegetative to generative stage can be an indicator to determine the ability of flowering in shallot. The distribution of metabolomic compounds produced in non-vernalized shallot genotypes is presented in Figure-3.

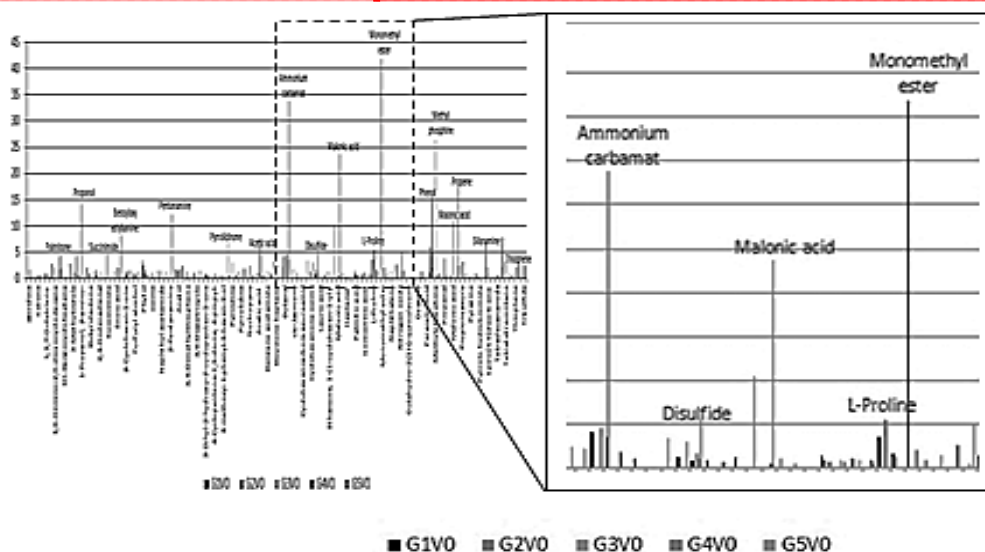


Fig.-3: Metabolite composition in non-vernalized shallot genotypes. Genotype Bentanis (G1), Bima Brebes (G2), Ilokos (G3), Tajuk (G4) and Sumenep (G5)

The results showed each genotype produced different metabolite compound. In Bentanis genotype showed the presence of monomethyl ester (41.82%) higher than Sumenep genotype (2.12%). The monomethyl ester compound, in the form of Mg-protoporphyrin IX mono-methyl ester cyclase is the catalyst required for the oxidation process of chlorophyll formation in plants²³²²²⁴. The Bentanis genotype grows faster than Sumenep genotype. Bentanis genotype has robust maximum vegetative growth compared to Sumenep genotype at 5 weeks after planting. The results in Table 1 show that Morphological investigation showed that Bentanis genotype was higher plant height (36.96 cm) than of Sumenep genotype (29.82 cm). The presence of monomethyl ester (Mg-protoporphyrin IX mono-methyl ester cyclase) compounds can increase the formation of chlorophyll more optimally, thus increasing the photosynthesis process for the Bentanis genotype growth. GCMS analysis showed a low concentration of proline (3.55% and 5.56%) was produced in Bentanis and Tajuk genotypes (Figure-3). Proline compounds are generally produced by plants as their response to stress condition. Bentanis genotype was also produced succinimide compounds at about 4.78%, those can not be found in other genotypes. Succinimide compounds are used as intermediate compounds in the process of forming organic compounds that stimulate plant growth. The presence of high concentrate of ammonium carbamate compound is found in Bima Brebes genotype. Ammonium carbamate is an important compound in the formation of carbamoyl phosphate and the

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formation of ATP into ADP^{24, 22}. While the presence of disulfide (dipropyl disulfide) compounds was found higher in non-sensitive flowering genotypes, such as Ilokos and Sumenep (1.69% and 5.43%), compared with other genotypes (0.8–0.14%). The content of dipropyl disulfide is an important component of activity as an antimicrobial and antioxidant and gives a distinctive aroma to shallot plant. The sulfur compounds indipropyl disulfide is important the components of these metabolite compounds^{25, 24, 23}. The sulfur compounds are known to have important activities as antimicrobials and antioxidants^{24, 25, 26, 27}. Derivative products of allicin compounds such as diallyl disulfide, diallyl trisulfide found in garlic essential oil indicate activity as a good antimicrobial^{28, 27, 26}.

Onion bulbs had the highest concentrations of propanethiol compounds having an aroma 20 times higher than dipropyl disulfide compounds^{29, 28, 27}. It also found in non-flowering shallot plant, Ilokos and Sumenep genotypes, they produce higher acetic acid compounds (1.04% and 5.98%) compared to the flowering type, the Bentanis genotype (1.02%).

Utilization of sensitive instruments in the metabolomic analysis is an important way to detect the content of plant essential compounds. Plant metabolites consist of highly diverse chemical compounds ranging from inorganic compounds to hydrophilic, volatile alcohol and ketone compounds, amino and non-amino acids, hydrophobic lipids, and complex natural products^{19, 18}.

Utilization of mass spectrometry technology is a great way to solve research and analysis problems in the metabolomic field^{19, 18}. Metabolomic analysis was successfully to identify potential compounds extracted directly from shallot genotypes. The results showed higher concentrations of acyclic ditherphenol alcohol (phytol) compounds in flowering type shallot, Bentanis genotype (8.23%), Bima Brebes (2.2%) and Tajuk (7.52%) than the Ilokos genotype (1.15%) and Sumenep (2.19). The phytol compounds is an indication that vernalization treatment has a positive effect in inducing flowering of shallot genotypes, explaining that these three genotypes are sensitive to vernalization treatment to induce flower formation. Phytol compound is a compound that serves as a precursor of vitamin E and K. The content of these vitamins plays an important role in the plant body as an enzymatic cofactor in the process of metabolism that stimulates a productive response. The content of vitamin E in the form of tocopherol is an important compound as one of the factors in the context of a cellular antioxidant system^{30, 28}. The differences of metabolite profile might play a key role in flowering initiation in shallot.

In flowering type of shallot genotypes, Bentanis, Bima Brebes and Tajuk also showed the formation of nitrogen oxide and semicarbazid hydrochlorid which are relatively lower than the non-flowering type, Ilokos and Sumenep. Nitrogen compound is a compound that plays an important role in the vegetative phase of the plant. Once the plant enters the reproductive phase, the nitrogen compounds in the plant body will decrease. In contrast, the Ilokos and Sumenep genotypes show the formation of high nitrogen compounds ie ammonium compounds ammonium carbamat, and nitrogen oxide. The high content of nitrogen compounds in Ilokos and Sumenep genotypes explains that these two genotypes are not sensitive to vernalization treatment, thus not encouraging the flowering formation.

The results also showed that the Sumenep genotype contained high organosulfur compounds compared with other genotypes, namely thiophene (2.31%) and trisulfide (4.25%). The organosulfur is an important compound in giving aroma and spiciness upsurge in shallot, and play an important role as an antioxidant. Essential compounds in *Allium* have strong antioxidant ability. Tests on antimicrobial activity showed that all essential oils on *Allium* were able to inhibit the activity of gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria⁹.

Vernalization treatment triggered in the formation of proline compounds in the Sumenep genotype. Vernalization treatment provides a stress condition to the plants that increase the plant mechanism of adaptation by producing proline compounds. Proline accumulation in the plant body is a physiological response to stress, and as a generative tissue development^{31, 29}. Secondary metabolite is the cellular response in plant that receives external pressure.

The metabolite profile of 5 local onion genotypes is also rich in non-volatile phytonutrients, especially the content of phenolic compounds (phenol, 2-propenamide, 3-pyridinamine, N-furfurylidene 2-phenylethyl amine, pyrrolidinedione), amide compounds aziridine-2-carboxylic acid amide) and protein compound (pyroglutamic acid). The essential components, mono and sesquiterpenes, carbohydrates, phenols, alcohols, ether, aldehydes and ketones, are responsible for biological activity and also for their

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fragrance^{32,34}. Phenols and polyphenol compounds play important roles as antioxidants in plants^{33,34,35}. Research on *Allium rotundum* showed the presence of antioxidant activity of phenol compounds with high concentrations of up to 4%¹². Onion extract contained the highest of phenol content, at 17.18 mg GAE per gram of fresh weight^{36,34}, and a phenol content of 114.70 mg GAE per 100 g of different onion samples^{37,35}.

Metabolite compound is the difference among shallot genotypes. Each plant genotype performs metabolic activities that depend on their genetic conditions and the ability to adapt to its environment. The plant biological activity may imply to the proportion of metabolite containing a plant.

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CONCLUSION

A secondary metabolite of 5 genotypes shallot was difference under vernalization treatment. Secondary metabolite is associated to the flowering competency in shallot genotypes. Each genotypes produce different specific metabolites which is clustered according to the flowering competency. A high concentration ditherpene alcohol (phytol) found in flowering-sensitive genotypes (genotype of Bentanis, Bima Brebes and Tajuk), with a lower content of proline and nitrogen (ammonium carbamate and nitrogen oxide). While, in flowering-nonsensitive genotypes (genotype Ilokos and Sumenep) were found a higher level of organosulfur compounds (thiophene and trisulfide). Vernalization treatment caused the Sumenep genotype produces the highest proline compound among other genotypes.

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