









PRIMAL CUTS OF CARCASS AND MEAT CHARACTERISTICS OF KACANG GOAT FED TOTAL MIXED RATION CONTAINING DIFFERENT SOURCES OF RUMINALLY UNDEGRADED PROTEIN

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➤ Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: This study was designed to evaluate the effect of feed quality improvement using gliricidia and different sources of protein in total mixed ration (TMR) on the primal cuts, loin eye area, and fatty acids profile of goat meat. This study used twenty yearling Kacang goats weighing 17.42 ± 1.63 kg. The goats were randomly allocated into 4 different treatments in a completely randomized design. The treatments involved the use of natural grass from rangeland (NGFR; control) as well as improving the quality of feed through TMR containing various ruminally undegraded protein sources, i.e. TMR contains fish meal (TMR-FM), TMR contains soybean meal (TMR-SBM) and TMR contains formaldehyde treated soybean meal (TMR-TSBM). The parameters observed were primal cuts yield, loin eye area, meat, fat, bone of primal cuts, and fatty acids profile. Data were analyzed using a one-way analysis of variance. The results showed that the goats fed TMR-FM and TMR-TSBM produced significantly higher meat percentage than control goats. The meat yield of TMR-SBM and TMR-TSBM goats were significantly higher than those of control goats. Goats fed TMR-SBM produced the highest primal cuts yield and shoulder weight, while the weight of rib, loin, and leg of TMR-SBM goats were similar to those of TMR-TSBM goats. Loin eye area was similar between the treatments. Saturated fatty acids content in TMR groups was similar to those in control. It can be concluded that improved feed quality using TMR-SBM produced significantly higher primal cuts weight, while TMR-TSBM had better meat-to-bone ratio than control. TMR-TSBM goats produced significantly leaner meat than TMR-SBM goats. Fatty acid profiles were similar between treatments.

Keywords: Fatty acids, Fish meal, Goat meat, Meat quality, Total mixed ration.

INTRODUCTION

Goats are widely raised traditionally by farmers in Indonesia. They are usually kept in the yard and fed natural forages from the rangeland, so that they have low growth rate. Nevertheless, they produce high quality of meat (Slimani et al., 2022) due to their high content of unsaturated fatty acids (Makmur et al., 2020). Goat meat is considered a healthier meat compared to other red meat products for its leanness (Slimani et al., 2022; Gawat et al., 2023), and has a higher ratio of polyunsaturated fatty acids to saturated fatty acid (PUFA/SFA) when fed with forage-based diet (Lee et al., 2023). Lee et al. (2023) reported that dietary nutrient contents influence fatty acids composition of Korean native black goat meat, and forage-based diet increased PUFA to SFA ratio. To increase the goat production, Slimani et al. (2022) added concentrate and hay for pasture grazing goats. Low production of goats kept extensively was caused by the scarcity of good quality forages, limited of herbaceous plants and the low quality of shrubs (Slimani et al., 2022). Goats are selective eaters, preferring wild grass over soft grass (Lee et al., 2019) and showing a preference for woody plants (Chebli et al., 2022). Fish meal (FM) and soybean meal (SBM) are common protein sources in animal diet. Fish meal tends to be less degraded in the rumen than SBM (Falihatizow et al., 2015), but it is more expensive than SBM. Additionally, goats do not favor diets containing FM (Adiwinarti et al., 2016). Therefore, a better option is to use total mixed ration (TMR) for blending feed ingredients, ensuring that animals cannot selectively choose the feed based on their preference (Fluharty et al., 2017; Santana et al., 2017). Total mixed ration can be formulated based on the animals need. Santana et al. (2017) stated that TMR could maintain nutrient content in the ration. Protein in SBM is easily degraded in the rumen (Wang et al., 2021; Phesatcha et al., 2022) and provide about 65% of rumen-degradable protein (Phesatcha et al., 2022). In order to improve carcass weight, primal cuts and meat yield, protein in feed must be efficiently utilized by reducing rumen protein digestibility, so that post-rumen utilization of protein is more optimal. There have been many studies have been done to reduce the degradability of SBM in the rumen. Rooke et al. (1983) reported that degradability of formaldehyde-treated SBM was lower than that of untreated SBM. Widyobroto et al. (2010) stated that formaldehyde protected SBM increased rumen undegraded protein about 50-80%, but the formaldehyde protected SBM did not decrease the degradability in the small intestine. This study was set up to improve carcass weight, primal cuts yield, meat yield, and goat meat quality by enhancing the feed quality using TMR. Natural grass from rangeland (forage-based diet) was used as control to represent the common practice of goat rearing in the rural area, while improved feed quality involved TMR consisting of Napier grass, gliricidia, and concentrate with different protein sources (fish meal, SBM, and formaldehyde-treated SBM). The objectives of this study were to evaluate the carcass weight, primal cuts yield, meat yield, and meat

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quality of goats fed with forage-based diet compared to those fed with higher-quality feed (TMR containing different protein sources: fish meal, SBM, and formaldehyde-treated SBM).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Animals, feeds, and experimental design

Twenty yearling Kacang goats with the initial body weight of 17.42 ± 1.63 kg were reared 95 days before being slaughtered. The goats were randomly allocated into 4 different treatments using completely randomized design. The treatments were: 100% natural grass from rangeland (NGFR) as the control and 3 improved feed quality used total mixed ration consisted of 30% Napier grass, 30% gliricidia leaves, and 40% concentrate with different sources of protein, i.e. TMR containing fish meal (TMR-FM), TRM containing soybean (TMR-SBM) and TMR containing formaldehyde treated soybean meal (TMR-TSBM) (Table 1). A 1% of formaldehyde treated soybean meal was made by using formalin and it was formulated to contain 1% of formaldehyde that was used to treat SBM in dry matter bases calculation.

Animals care and management

In order to protect from internal and external parasites, all goats were treated orally with 1.5 mL/head of Valbendazol and injected by 0.5 mL/head of Intermetctin. Goats were housed individually, provided feed and water *ad libitum* given at 8:00 AM, 12:00 PM, and 4:00 PM.

Table 1 - The composition of feed ingredients, chemical composition and Fatty acids composition (%) of the rations

Parameters	NGFR	TMR-FM	TMR-SBM	TMR-TSBM
Feed ingredients composition				
Natural grass from rangeland	100	-	-	-
Napier grass	-	30	30	30
Gliricidia leaves	-	30	30	30
Concentrate feed consisted of:	-	40	40	40
Cassava waste product		50.2	48.0	48.0
Wheat bran		34.4	34.5	34.5
Fish meal		15.4	0	0
Soybean meal		0	17.5	0
Formaldehyde treated soybean meal		0	0	17.5
Chemical composition				
Dry matter	18.6	91.3	91.5	91.4
Crude protein	10.9	15.3	15.6	14.3
Total digestible nutrients	63.2	56.2	58.0	60.1
Fatty acids composition				
Myristic acid (C14:0)	14.76	1.70	0.00	3.95
Palmitic acid (C16:0)	53.62	29.02	28.56	28.93
Stearic acid (C18:0)	12.54	11.97	9.34	10.62
Palmitoleic acid (C16:1)	0.00	0.64	0.00	0.57
Oleic acid (C18:1)	3.80	18.76	19.85	14.27
Linoleic acid (C18:2)	15.27	24.37	29.50	28.48
Linolenic acid (C18:3)	0.00	13.54	12.75	13.19
SFA (saturated fatty acids)	80.93	42.69	37.91	43.50
MUFA (mono unsaturated fatty acids)	3.80	19.40	19.85	14.84
PUFA (poly unsaturated fatty acids)	15.27	37.91	42.25	41.66
UFA (unsaturated fatty acids)	3.71	36.48	32.63	29.78

NGFR: natural grass from rangeland, TMR-FM: total mixed ration containing fish meal, TMR-SBM: total mixed ration containing soybean meal, TMR-TSBM: total mixed ration containing formaldehyde treated soybean meal

During the experimental period, two goats from the TMR-FM and TMR-TSBM groups became ill and died, resulting in only 18 goats being available for data collection. After a treatment periods of 95 days, the goats were deprived of feed and given only clean water for 12 hours. Subsequently, the goats were weighed and slaughtered. Goats were slaughtered to obtain carcass, which was then cooled at a temperature of 4 °C for 12 hours before further carcass observation were conducted. Carcass were cut and the primal cuts (shoulder, rib, loin, leg) were dissected for meat, fat, and bone separation to observe weight and percentage of carcass composition (meat, fat, and bone). Loin eye areas were measured following the method of [Rezende et al. \(2020\)](#).

Sampling and sample analysis

Samples from *Biceps femoris* muscle were frozen before fatty acids analysis. Fatty acids composition was analyzed using Gas Chromatography-mass Spectrometry ([Stashenko and Martinez, 2014](#)).

Statistical analysis

Data were analyzed by a one-way analysis of variance using significance level based on $p < 0.05$ ([Steel and Torrie, 1980](#)). If there was a significantly different between the treatments, Duncan's Multiple Range test was used for further analysis ([Steel and Torrie, 1980](#)).

Table 2 – Performance, carcass, and primal cuts characteristics of goats fed natural grass and total mixed ration

Parameters	NGFR	TMR-FM	TMR-SBM	TMR-TSBM	P-value
Performance					
Dry matter intake (g)	485.27 ^b ±58.31	620.71 ^{ab} ±47.54	740.24 ^a ±132.16	648.00 ^a ±106.29	0.007
Protein intake (g)	53.00 ^c ±6.37	94.72 ^b ±7.25	115.43 ^a ±20.61	92.40 ^b ±15.16	0.0001
Total digestible nutrients intake (g)	309.28 ^b ±42.89	349.55 ^{ab} ±40.33	438.19 ^a ±101.57	388.55 ^{ab} ±58.86	0.053
Average daily gain (g)	28.92 ^c ±7.05	57.56 ^b ±21.42	78.54 ^a ±10.23	56.19 ^b ±4.94	0.0001
feed conversion ratio	17.60 ^a ±4.67	12.52 ^{ab} ±6.35	9.45 ^b ±1.30	11.48 ^b ±1.11	0.035
Slaughter weight (kg)	20.04 ^c ±1.66	20.59 ^c ±1.72	25.09 ^a ±1.33	22.97 ^{bc} ±0.55	0.0001
Carcass weight (g)	7,174.80 ^c ±1,076.00	7,979.75 ^{bc} ±1,288.16	10,042.20 ^a ±1,021.03	8,882.75 ^{ab} ±703.26	0.005
Primal cuts (% carcass)	74.25±2.02	73.68±1.32	75.48±1.36	72.47±3.13	0.218
Primal cuts yield (g)	5,322.29^c±770.19	5,868.42^{bc}±863.04	7,573.89^a±699.17	6,434.48^b±541.31	0.002
Shoulder (g)	1,983.02 ^b ±323.04	2,271.63 ^b ±547.55	2,842.38 ^a ±252.23	2,314.69 ^b ±280.65	0.015
Rib (g)	553.98 ^b ±125.82	595.60 ^b ±57.94	850.42 ^a ±214.31	723.95 ^{ab} ±41.91	0.019
Loin (g)	636.04 ^b ±168.13	670.56 ^b ±89.49	925.54 ^a ±85.19	826.59 ^{ab} ±169.77	0.016
Leg (g)	2,149.26 ^b ±289.18	2,330.63 ^b ±227.17	2,955.55 ^a ±491.55	2,569.25 ^{ab} ±261.80	0.014
Primal cuts composition					
Meat (g)	3,758.10 ^c ±560.60	4,371.55 ^{bc} ±789.55	5,458.95 ^a ±445.56	4,815.94 ^{ab} ±384.64	0.002
Meat (%)	70.58 ^b ±1.24	74.21 ^a ±2.53	72.17 ^{ab} ±3.16	74.87 ^a ±0.51	0.039
Fat (g)	381.17 ^b ±133.70	322.29 ^b ±56.58	661.89 ^a ±186.73	420.71 ^b ±182.34	0.019
Fat (%)	7.06±2.00	5.59±1.29	8.72±2.33	6.47±2.38	0.182
Bone (g)	1,183.02±163.40	1,174.58±89.05	1,453.04±243.81	1,197.83±120.25	0.069
Bone (%)	22.36 ^a ±2.40	20.19 ^{ab} ±1.79	19.11 ^b ±1.70	18.67 ^b ±1.88	0.053
Edible portion (%)	77.64 ^b ±2.40	79.81 ^{ab} ±1.79	80.89 ^a ±1.70	81.33 ^a ±1.88	0.053
Meat-bone ratio	3.19 ^b ±0.36	3.70 ^{ab} ±0.44	3.81 ^{ab} ±0.46	4.04 ^a ±0.39	0.043
Meat+fat-bone ratio	3.51±0.47	3.98±0.44	4.27±0.46	4.40±0.55	0.058
Loin eye area (cm ²)	4.75±1.32	5.47±1.82	7.72±2.96	7.22±1.80	0.140

NGFR: natural grass from rangeland, TMR-FM: total mixed ration containing fish meal, TMR-SBM: total mixed ration containing soybean meal, TMR-TSBM: total mixed ration containing formaldehyde treated soybean meal

Table 3 - Fatty acids concentration of goat meat

Parameters	NGFR	TMR-FM	TMR-SBM	TMR-TSBM	P-value	Average
SFA (%)	52.77±1.63	43.45±8.92	42.25±6.72	42.93±10.27	0.127	45.59
Myristic acid (%)	1.24±0.89	1.92±1.69	1.38±1.04	1.29±0.64	0.798	1.44
Palmitic acid (%)	21.43±1.72	19.12±5.45	17.59±3.21	21.87±3.36	0.259	19.95
Stearic acid (%)	30.10±1.29	22.40±2.25	23.28±5.19	19.77±13.34	0.176	24.20
MUFA (%)	46.07±2.09	49.40±11.89	57.06±6.76	56.34±10.80	0.169	52.15
Palmitoleic acid (%)	1.58±0.97	1.66±0.76	1.61±0.84	1.82±1.10	0.981	1.66
Oleic acid (%)	44.50±2.32	47.74±11.14	55.45±7.47	54.52±9.83	0.153	50.49
PUFA (%)	1.16±0.60	0.77±0.91	0.69±0.34	0.73±0.55	0.602	0.85
Linolenic acid (%)	0.16±0.35	0.44±0.75	0.19±0.21	0	0.521	0.17
Arachidonic acid (%)	1.00±0.52	0.33±0.29	0.51±0.16	0.73±0.55	0.167	1.44
UFA (MUFA+PUFA) (%)	47.23±1.63	56.55±8.92	57.75±6.72	57.07±10.27	0.127	54.41
MUFA/SFA	0.88±0.07	1.19±0.45	1.41±0.45	1.43±0.68	0.235	1.22
PUFA/SFA	0.02±0.01	0.02±0.03	0.02±0.01	0.02±0.01	0.856	0.02

NGFR: natural grass from rangeland; TMR-FM: total mixed ration containing fish meal; TMR-SBM: total mixed ration containing soybean meal; TMR-TSBM: total mixed ration containing formaldehyde treated soybean meal; SFA: saturated fatty acids; MUFA: monounsaturated fatty acids; PUFA: polyunsaturated fatty acids; UFA: unsaturated fatty acids.

RESULTS

After being raised for 95 days, the performance of the goats including feed intake, growth rate, and feed conversion ratio are presented in the Table 2. Those parameters were significantly different between the treatments ($P < 0.05$). The slaughter weights of the goats were significantly different between the treatments ($P < 0.01$). Carcass weights and primal cuts yield also showed significant differences between the treatments ($P < 0.01$) (Table 2). In fact, the primal cut percentages were similar across all treatments. Additionally, there were significant differences in the meat-to-bone ratio of primal cuts between the treatments ($P < 0.05$). The fatty acids composition (%) of the rations is presented in the Table 1. The main fatty acids identified in goat meat in this study included myristic acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid, palmitoleic acid, oleic acid, linolenic acid, and arachidonic acid. Myristic acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid are grouped into saturated fatty acids (SFA), while palmitoleic acid and oleic acid belong to the category of mono-unsaturated fatty acids (MUFA), and linolenic acid and arachidonic acid are poly-unsaturated fatty acids (PUFA). There were no significant differences observed in the fatty acids content between the treatments (Table 3).

DISCUSSION

Productivity of goats fed natural grass and total mixed ration

Carcass weight of goats fed TMR containing SBM and TSBM were higher than those of control goats (NGFR) (Table 2). The higher carcass weight because of their average daily gain were higher than those of control goats. In addition, the faster growth of TMR goats was caused by the more dry matter and protein intake (Table 2).

Primal cuts were used as a parameter of goat production in this study because they represent about $74.07 \pm 2.16\%$ of the total carcass. Primal cuts consisted of shoulder, rib, loin, and leg (Rezende et al., 2020). Total primal cuts yield (g) and shoulder (g) of TMR-SBM were higher than other treatments, while the weight of rib, loin, and leg (g) of TMR-SBM were similar to those of TMR-TSBM. This indicated that improved feed quality using TMR-SBM and TMR-TSBM produced higher product than control.

Goats in TMR-SBM and TMR-TSBM produced more primal cuts meat compared to control. In fact, the meat percentage of TMR-TSBM and TMR-FM was higher than those of control (Table 2). Goats from TMR-SBM and TMR-TSBM had bone percentage that was lower than control. In addition, the meat-to-bone ratio and the percentage of edible portion in TMR-TSBM were higher compared to the control group. However, the fat content in TMR-SBM was the highest ($p < 0.05$) compared to the other treatments. These findings suggest that goats fed TMR produced better product than those in the control group, particularly when TMR containing SBM and TSBM. The meat from TMR-TSBM goats also appeared leaner compared to the meat from the TMR-SBM goats. Bambou et al. (2021) stated that diet is one of the factors influencing meat production. Goats fed with TMR-TSBM might increase the bypass protein level, thereby enhancing meat production. Rooke et al. (1983) reported that the degradation rate of formaldehyde-treated SBM decreased from 0.90 (untreated SBM) to 0.40 (formaldehyde-treated SBM). Widjibroto et al. (2010) stated that formaldehyde protected SBM can increase rumen undegraded protein by about 50-80%. However, it is essential to note that formaldehyde treatment did not reduce the protein degradation ability in the small intestine. Therefore, undegraded rumen protein can be efficiently utilized to enhance meat production. Additionally, tannin in gliricidia might reduce the digestibility of dry matter, organic matter, and crude protein as reported by Aguerre et al. (2016). Adiwintarti et al. (2019) reported that retained protein to meat conversion ratio of goat fed ration containing 50% untreated SBM+50% formaldehyde treated SBM is better than those of goats fed a diet containing untreated SBM or those of goats fed a diet containing treated SBM.

The meat content (%) in this study was relatively similar to the findings of Bambou et al. (2021), who reported values ranging from approximately 69.1% to 75.1%. The meat-to-bone ratio of primal cuts in TMR goats was higher compared to the meat-to-bone ratio reported by Cruz et al. (2023), which ranged between 3.08 to 3.28. However, Bambou et al. (2021) reported that the muscle-to-bone ratio in the left shoulder is between 2.8 and 4.2.

Loin eye area of goats was relatively similar between the treatments. Loin eye area of NGFR (4.75 cm^2) and TMR-FM (5.47 cm^2) were smaller than those reported by Cruz et al. (2023), but those of TMR-SBM (7.72 cm^2) and TMR-TSBM (7.22 cm^2) were relatively similar. Some researchers reported that loin eye areas are $7.35\text{-}8.00 \text{ cm}^2$ in goat having 21.8 to 23.4 kg of body weight (Cruz et al., 2023), $8.51\text{-}9.36 \text{ cm}^2$ in growing period and $12.81\text{-}13.01 \text{ cm}^2$ in fattening period of Nubian goats (Chen et al., 2022), $13.91\text{-}15.12 \text{ cm}^2$ in goat with body weight of 44.9 to 48.4 kg (Kafle et al., 2021).

Fatty acids of goats fed natural grass and total mixed ration

The main SFA of goat meat in this study consisted of stearic and palmitic acid, while the main UFA was oleic acid. Previous studies also reported that the dominant fatty acids in goat meat are palmitic acids, stearic acids, and oleic acids (Kafle et al., 2021; Akbas et al., 2022), along with linoleic acid and arachidonic acids (Kim et al., 2019). According to Kafle et al. (2021), palmitic acids, stearic acids, and oleic acids contribute approximately 80-85% of the total fatty acids.

In this study, goat meat had a higher content of SFA and MUFA compared to PUFA, aligning with the findings reported by Dinh et al. (2021). The high presence of SFA in ruminants was attributed to the biohydrogenation process in their

rumens. [Slimeni et al. \(2022\)](#) also reported that extensively raised goats had a higher proportion of SFA, while semi-intensively raised goats produced more MUFA in goat meat.

The SFA content in goat meat from the goats in control group was relatively similar to that in the TMR group (Table 3), although the SFA content in natural grass from rangeland (control) was higher than those in TMR diets (Table 1). The average SFA content in TMR goat meat was 42.83% that was lower than the findings in [Bambou et al. \(2021\)](#) or [Slimeni et al. \(2022\)](#), but comparable to [Lee et al. \(2023\)](#) and higher than in [Akbas et al. \(2022\)](#). [Slimeni et al. \(2022\)](#) reported that extensively raised goat had 50.3% SFA, while semi intensively raised goat had 44.6% SFA. [Bambou et al. \(2021\)](#) reported SFA content in Creole goat meat ranging from about 42.8% to 52.6%. [Lee et al. \(2023\)](#) reported an SFA concentration of 42.48%, while [Akbas et al. \(2022\)](#) reported around 38.9%. [Akbas et al. \(2022\)](#) stated that low concentration of lauric acids, miristic acids, palmitic acids, and stearic acids indicated better meat quality. The concentration of UFA in the TMR group was relatively similar to those reported by [García et al. \(2019\)](#) and [Lee et al. \(2023\)](#). The MUFA concentration in this study was higher compared to the findings reported by [García et al. \(2019\)](#): 42.9%, [Akbas et al. \(2022\)](#): 43.53%, and [Lee et al. \(2023\)](#): 36.27%. Meanwhile, the concentration of PUFA was lower compared to the results of [García et al. \(2019\)](#), [Akbas et al. \(2022\)](#), and [Lee et al. \(2023\)](#). [Akbas et al. \(2022\)](#) reported a PUFA content of 14.85%, [Lee et al. \(2023\)](#) reported 21.25%, [García et al. \(2019\)](#) reported 6.57%.

In this study PUFA/SFA ratio of forage diet (NGFR) was similar to other treatments. However, [Lee et al. \(2023\)](#) mentioned that different diets can influence the fatty acid composition of native Korean black goats meat, and a forage-based diet can enhance the PUFA/SFA ratio. The PUFA/SFA ratio in this study was lower compared to other researchers (0.08 reported by [Guzmàn et al. \(2020\)](#) and between 0.1 to 0.15 reported by [García et al. \(2019\)](#)).


The ratio of MUFA to SFA between treatments did not show significant differences. The MUFA/SFA ratio in goats fed with TMR (1.19 to 1.43) was higher compared to the findings of [García et al. \(2019\)](#), [Guzmàn et al. \(2020\)](#) and [Akbas et al. \(2022\)](#) who reported MUFA/SFA ratios ranging from 0.32 to 0.83 ([Guzmàn et al., 2020](#)), 0.81 to 0.92 ([García et al., 2019](#)), and 1.07 to 1.15 ([Akbas et al., 2022](#)).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, improving feed quality by using TMR-SBM (total mixed ration containing soybean meal) resulted in higher primal cuts weight, while TMR-TSBM (total mixed ration containing formaldehyde treated soybean meal) displayed a better meat-to-bone ratio compared to the control. Goats fed with TMR-TSBM produced leaner meat compared to those fed with TMR-SBM. The fatty acid profiles were similar between the treatments.

DECLARATIONS

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Ethical considerations

This experiment procedures related to the use of animals have been approved by the committee of animal ethics in the Animal and Agricultural Science, Universitas Diponegoro (59-04/A-08/KEP-FPP) and the authors have complied with the ARRIVE guidelines.

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Authors' contribution

R.Adiwinarti designed the research, supervised the fieldwork, analyzed the data, prepared and wrote the manuscript.

Kustantinah and Rusman participated in designing the research, reviewed and edited the manuscript.

E.Rianto and A.Purnomoadi participated in supervising the fieldwork, reviewed and edited the manuscript.

M.Arifin and Sutaryo contributed to review and edit the manuscript.

V.Restitrisnani supervised the fieldwork and lab work.

All authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

Competing interests

There are no competing interests regarding the publication of this article.

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