

DNA BARCODING COUPLED WITH HIGH RESOLUTION MELTING (BAR-HRM)
ANALYSIS FOR DIFFERENTIATION WHITE KWAO KHRUEA (*PUERARIA CANDOLLEI*),
BLACK KWAO KHRUEA (*MUCUNA MACROCARPA*), AND RED KWAO KHRUEA
(*BUTEA SUPERBA*)



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การใช้แถบรหัสดีเอ็นเอร่วมกับการวิเคราะห์การหลอมเหลวความละเอียดสูง (BAR-HRM) เพื่อ
แยกแยะระหว่างกวาวเครือขาว กวาวเครือดำ และกวาวเครือแดง



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กวาวเครือเป็นพืชสมุนไพรที่มีสรรพคุณเป็นยาอายุวัฒนะ กวาวเครือที่ใช้ในทางการแพทย์แผนไทย ได้แก่ กวาวเครือขาว (*Pueraria candollei* Wall. ex Benth.) กวาวเครือดำ (*Mucuna macrocarpa* Wall.) และกวาวเครือแดง (*Butea superba* Roxb. ex Willd.) โดยกวาวเครือแต่ละชนิดมีองค์ประกอบทางเคมีที่แตกต่างกัน กวาวเครือขาวมีสารออกฤทธิ์คล้ายฮอร์โมนเอสโตรเจน ส่วนกวาวเครือดำและกวาวเครือแดงมีสารออกฤทธิ์คล้ายฮอร์โมนเทสโทสเตอโรน โดยกวาวเครือดำมีฤทธิ์แรงกว่ากวาวเครือแดง การที่มีชื่อเรียกคล้ายกันแต่มีองค์ประกอบทางเคมีต่างกัน ทำให้มีความจำเป็นที่ต้องระบุชนิดของสมุนไพรให้ถูกต้องเพื่อประสิทธิภาพและความปลอดภัยของผู้บริโภค การศึกษานี้เป็นการระบุชนิดของสมุนไพรโดยใช้ข้อมูลทางพันธุกรรม โดยการศึกษาแถบรหัสดีเอ็นเอจำนวนสี่บริเวณ ได้แก่ ยีนแมทเค ยีนอาร์บีซีแอล ดีเอ็นเอระหว่างยีนทีอาร์เอ็นเอและพีเอสบีเอ และดีเอ็นเอบริเวณไอทีเอส ผลการศึกษาพบว่าแถบรหัสดีเอ็นเอทั้งสี่บริเวณสามารถแยกแยะชนิดของกวาวเครือขาว กวาวเครือดำ และกวาวเครือแดงได้ นอกจากนี้ ได้มีการพัฒนาการตรวจระบุเอกลักษณ์ของกวาวเครือทั้งสามชนิดด้วยการใช้แถบรหัสดีเอ็นเอร่วมกับการวิเคราะห์การหลอมเหลวความละเอียดสูงของผลผลิตพืชที่ได้จากปฏิกิริยาลูกโซ่พอลิเมอไรสในสภาพจริงของยีนแมทเคและไอทีเอส พบค่าอุณหภูมิหลอมเหลวของผลผลิตพืชที่เพิ่มปริมาณจากยีนแมทเคของกวาวเครือแดง กวาวเครือขาว และกวาวเครือดำที่อุณหภูมิ 73.6, 74.7 และ 74.8 องศาเซลเซียส ตามลำดับ ส่วนอุณหภูมิหลอมเหลวของผลผลิตพืชที่เพิ่มปริมาณจากดีเอ็นเอบริเวณไอทีเอสร่วมกับการวิเคราะห์การหลอมเหลวความละเอียดสูงนั้น พบอุณหภูมิหลอมเหลวที่ 88.1, 85.6 และ 84.5 องศาเซลเซียส ตามลำดับ กล่าวโดยสรุป การศึกษานี้ประสบความสำเร็จในการตรวจระบุชนิดของกวาวเครือในตัวอย่างผลิตภัณฑ์เสริมอาหารและยาแผนโบราณที่มีสมุนไพรกวาวเครือเป็นส่วนประกอบหลักโดยการใช้แถบรหัสดีเอ็นเอร่วมกับการวิเคราะห์การหลอมเหลวความละเอียดสูง ซึ่งสามารถใช้วิธีที่พัฒนาขึ้นนี้ในการตรวจสอบชนิดของสมุนไพรก่อนขึ้นทะเบียนผลิตภัณฑ์สมุนไพรกวาวเครือได้

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The development of economics and scientific progress currently provide the advancement in medical technology allowing an increasing number of global elders and aging societies (Karako K, 2019). Elder people normally require more physical and medical supports to be able to maintain their normal activities. Hormones is the key factor that maintains the system of the body. There are many types of herbal products to maintain their health, both contemporary and traditional. In Thailand, traditional Thai medicine or the use of herbal products is often an alternative for health promotion of people; especially elders. Authenticated herbs are therefore very important for safety, efficacy and quality for the elderly people who have an imbalanced function of the body systems. Various herbal products claimed to enhance health performance are commercially available, for example, turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L.), black galingale (*Kaempferia parviflora* Wall. ex Baker.), brahmi (*Bacopa monnieri* (L.) Wettst.), shatavari (*Asparagus racemosus* Willd.), heart wood of sappan (*Caesalpinia sappan* L.), wan chak motluk (*Curcuma zanthorrhiza* Roxb.) and crude drugs named “Kwao Khrua”.

Many herbs have been used for general health improvement whereas some of them have been claimed for gender-specific effects. Since hormones are one of the key factors that maintain the system of the body, herbs that affect male and female performances mostly accumulate hormones-like compounds. Herbs that have long been known to improve male health are Malasian ginseng (*Eurycoma longifolia* Jack) and saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens* (W.Bartram) Small) while soybean (*Glycine max* (L.) Merr.) has beneficial effects on females.

In Thai traditional medicine, the tuberous roots called “Kwao Khrua” are used for rejuvenation. However, there are three types of Kwao Khrua: white (*Pueraria candollei* Wall. Ex Benth.), red (*Butea superba* Roxb.ex Willd.) and black (*Mucuna macrocarpa* Wall.). They belong to the family Fabaceae. Although all of these species are indicated for health revitalization, each differs in its medicinal properties. Two

varieties of *P. candollei*, var. *mirifica* and var. *candollei*, affect females, whereas *B. superba* and *M. macrocarpa* exhibit effects on males. Therefore, the correct differentiation of these plant at the first step is fundamental for efficacy and safety in a later application.



Figure 1 Kwao Khrua crude drugs. White Kwao Khrua (A) Black Kwao Khrua (B) and Red Kwao Khrua (C)

The appearance of three Kwao Khrua fresh plants is different; however, the root as commonly used parts of these plants share similarities in the features (figure 1). Additionally, the roots in terms of crude drugs are normally available in shredded or powdered form leading to excessive difficulty in identifying species of their origins. A previous study showed that the roots of white Kwao Khrua (*Pueraria candollei* Wall. ex Benth.) (figure 1A) accumulates several estrogen-like compounds including miroestrol, deoxymiroestrol, coumestrol, daizein, genistein, kwakhurin and mirificoumestan which are all benefit for females (Yusakul G, 2011). As reported in another study, the roots of black Kwao Khrua (*Mucuna macrocarpa* Wall.) (figure 1B) and red Kwao Khrua (*Butea superba* Roxb. ex Willd.) (figure 1C) exhibited effects on males due to an accumulation of phytoandrogens which are flavonoid-rich compounds including butenin, formononetin and prunetin. These phytoandrogens exhibited biological functions similar

to testosterone in men (Roengsumran et al., 2000). Once these three Kwao Khrueta plants are misidentification and misused, adverse and toxic effects are conceivably occurred due to their gender-specific chemicals.

Traditional ways to differentiate the plants are using morphological and microscopic analyses that require expertise for the operation. Besides, a chemical analysis is also exploited to help identify plants by providing only chemical information retrieved from samples. Traditional DNA analysis methods, random amplification of polymorphic DNA (RAPD) and PCR-Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (PCR-RFLP), are still in practice for plant species identification but become less recognized due to several steps of operations and analyses.

DNA barcoding is a current and promising technique capable to identify individual species. One of the plant DNA sequences that is most frequently used for DNA barcoding is *matK* gene (Jing & Zou, 2011). There have been many reports on plant authentication and differentiation issues using this area but, in some cases, using only a region is insufficient to differentiate species. Many researchers use four regions that are known as DNA core barcode regions including *matK*, *rbcL*, *psbA-trnH* intergenic spacer and internal transcribed spacer (ITS). To simplify the differentiation method base on DNA barcode information, the Bar-HRM analysis is a preferable technique since it provides a rapid and low-cost detection.

This study was aimed to discriminate white Kwao Khrueta, black Kwao Khrueta and red Kwao Khrueta by using DNA barcoding of 4 areas coupled with high resolution melting (Bar-HRM) analysis. Herbal products containing Kwao Khrueta were also examined to prove the concept for an application of this technique.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEWS

In this chapter, background information including morphology and chemical constituent of three Kwao Khrueta species are described. Besides, both chemical and DNA methods for plant identification are also provided.

2.1 Kwao Khrueta herbs

Three species of Kwao Khrueta (**Figure 2, Figure 3**); white Kwao Khrueta (*Pueraria candollei* Wall. ex Benth.) black Kwao Khrueta (*Mucuna macrocarpa* Wall.) and red Kwao Khrueta (*Butea superba* Roxb. ex Willd.), are used in Thai medical therapy. All of them are liana in family Fabaceae that accumulate their active compounds in their tuberous roots.

2.1.1 Morphology of Kwao Khrueta herbs

White Kwao Khrueta have two variety *P. candollei* Graham ex Benth. var. *mirifica* (Airy Shew Savat.) (**Figure 2A**) and *P. candollei* Graham ex Benth. var. *candollei*, (**Figure 2B**) both of them have a similar morphology except their pods were different. They are woody climber that the leaves are trifoliate pinnately compound leave and stipulate; terminal leaflet. They have white tuberous roots that are varied in sizes and shapes depending on environmental conditions. The flowers (**Figure 3A**) are bluish-purple in legume shaped. The flower season will be due on late January to early April. The pods are slender typically short or elongate, with hairs (var. *mirifica*) or no hair (var. *candollei*), including 1-10 single seeds when fully developed and turn into brown color when dried. (Yodpetch, 2007) *P. candollei* Graham ex Benth. var. *mirifica* is widely spread in Saraburi province their

fruits have longer hair than *P. candollei* Graham ex Benth. var. *candollei* that widely spread in Lampang and Kanchanaburi (Chandorn, 2016).

Black Kwao Khrua (*M. macrocarpa*) (Figure 2C) is a woody climber (up to 70 m), which the stems and petioles with sparse to dense cover with light brown or red-brown fine pubescence. The leaves are trifoliate pinnately compound with terminal leaflets that are in the elliptic to ovate (or obovate) shape. Lateral leaflets usually markedly asymmetrical, young leaflets are hairy like the stem. The stipes of the leaf is absent. The root is black and tuberous with black latex. Flowers (Figure 3B) are inflorescences from old wood and usually bicolored in form of papilionaceous with conspicuously pubescent petal margins at the apex, fruit woody, greenish, linear-oblong 6-15 seeded with margins constricted between seed and linear with thickened but unwinged margin. (Wallich et al., 1830; Wilmot-Dear, 1992).

Red Kwao Khrua (*B. superba*) (Figure 2D) is large size woody climber or shrub, trifoliate pinnately compound leaf, acuminate leaflet and long leafstalk. The tuberous root containing red sap that appears when it causes a wound. The flowers (Figure 3C) cinnabarine with yellowish-orange color. The fruits are legumes oblong with silvery silky short hair and have one seed at the top. The bark has red latex (Chen et al., 2014).

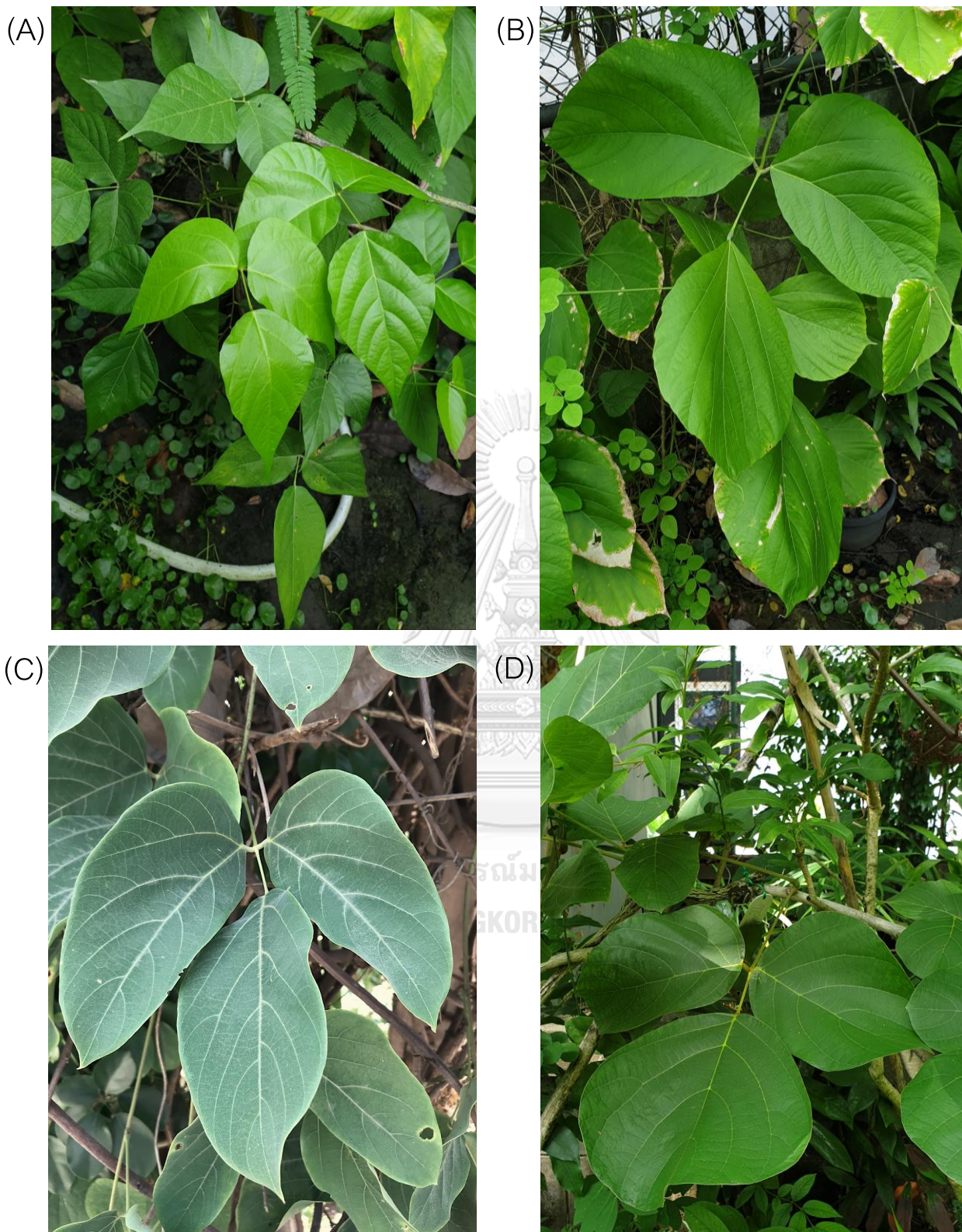


Figure 2 *Pueraria candollei* Wall. ex Benth. var. *mirifica* (A) *Pueraria candollei* Wall. ex Benth. var. *candollei* (B) *Mucuna macrocarpa* Wall. (C) and *Butea superba* Roxb. ex Willd. (D)

(A)



(B)



(C)

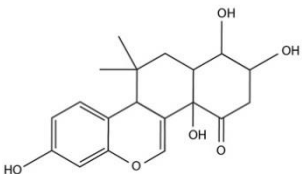
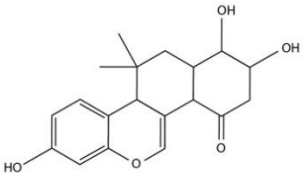


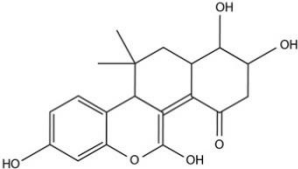
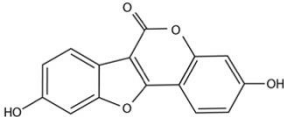
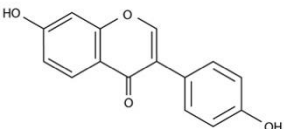
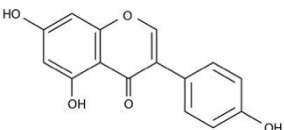
Figure 3 Kwao Khrua Flower White Kwao Khrua (A) Black Kwao Khrua (B) and Red Kwao Khrua (C)

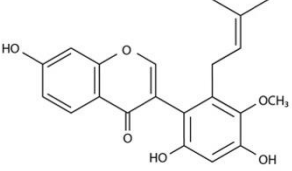
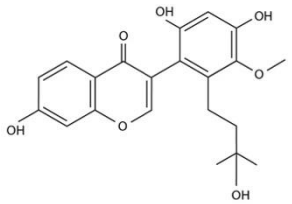
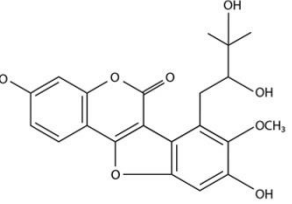
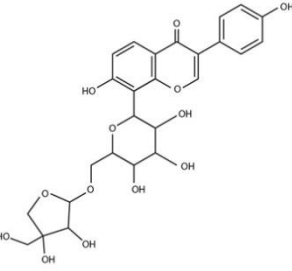
2.1.2 Chemical constituents and bioactivities of Kwao Khrueta herbs

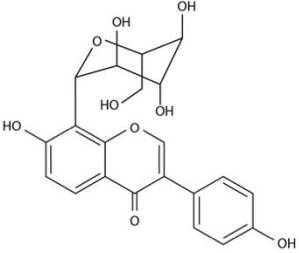
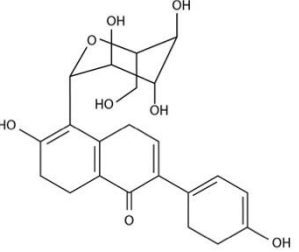
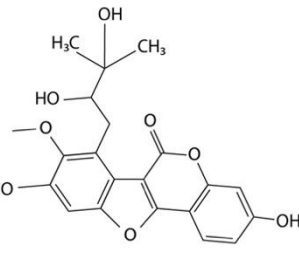
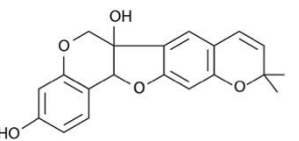
White Kwao Khrueta was found to accumulate several estrogen-like compounds which are all beneficial for females (Yusakul G, 2011). Both black and red Kwao Khrueta showed effects on males due to phytoandrogens (Roengsumran et al., 2000). These substances are classified into several phytochemical groups based on their chemical structures. Various bioactivities of these compounds were observed in a number of researches. The chemical constituents and bioactivities of the three Kwao Khrueta herbs are showed on **Table 1**.

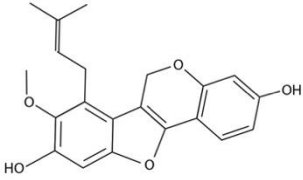
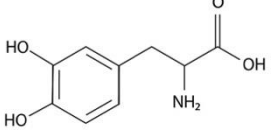
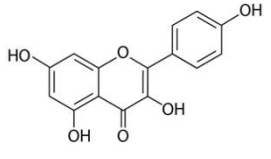
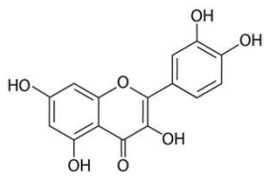
Table 1 Chemical constituent and bioactivities of Kwao Khrueta herbs

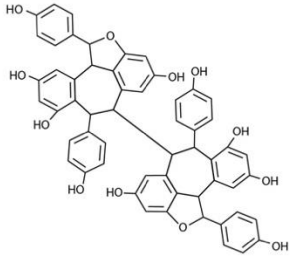
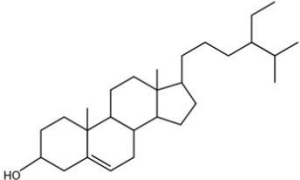
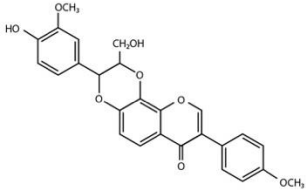
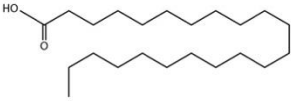
Plant sample	Chemical structure and their name	Classification	Bioactivities	References
white Kwao Khrueta (<i>Pueraria candollei</i> Wall. ex Benth.)	 <p>Miroestrol</p>	Chromene	Fulfillment of the processes in pharmacokinetics	(Chansakao w et al., 2000a)
	 <p>Deoxymiroestrol</p>	Chromene	Effects on MCF-7 human breast cancer cells	(Chansakao w et al., 2000b)




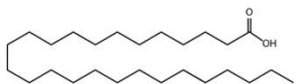
Plant sample	Chemical structure and their name	Classification	Bioactivities	References
	 <p>Isomiroestrol</p>	Chromene	Estrogen steroid hormone biosynthesis pathway	(J. H. Lee et al., 2017)
	 <p>Coumesttol</p>	Coumestan	Fulfillment of the processes in pharmacokinetics	(Chansakao w et al., 2000a)
	 <p>Daidzein</p>	Isoflavone glycoside	Inhibit key enzymes in the steroid metabolism pathway	(Poschner et al., 2017)
	 <p>Genistein</p>	Isoflavone glycoside	Angiogenesis inhibitor	(Coward, Barnes, Setchell, & Barnes, 1993)

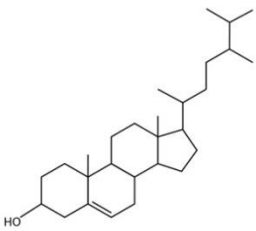
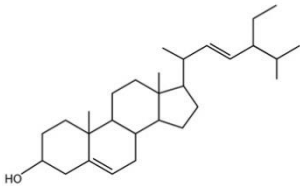
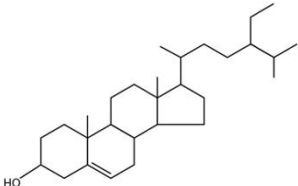
Plant sample	Chemical structure and their name	Classification	Bioactivities	References
	 <p>Kwakhurin</p>	Isoflavone	Exhibited cytotoxicity effect for MCF-7 cells	(Selepe & Van Heerden, 2013)
	 <p>Kwakhurin hydrate</p>	Isoflavone	Inhibition of LDL-cholesterol oxidation Anti-platelet aggregation	(Kapiotis et al., 1997)
	 <p>Mirificoumestan</p>	Coumestan	Fulfillment of the processes in pharmacokinetics	(Ingham, Tahara, & Dziedzic, 1988)
	 <p>Mirificin</p>	Isoflavone glycoside	Inhibition LDL-cholesterol oxidation Anti-platelet aggregation	(Kapiotis et al., 1997)

Plant sample	Chemical structure and their name	Classification	Bioactivities	References
	 <p>Puerarin</p>	Isoflavone glycoside	Inhibition of LDL-cholesterol oxidation	(Kapiotis et al., 1997)
	 <p>Puerarin-6''-monoacetate</p>	Isoflavone glycoside	Inhibit LDL-cholesterol oxidation	(Kapiotis et al., 1997)
	 <p>Mirificoumestan glycol</p>	Coumestan	Fulfillment of the processes in pharmacokinetics	(Kapiotis et al., 1997)
	 <p>Tuberosin</p>	Pterocarpene	Antioxidation	(Ingham et al., 1988)

Plant sample	Chemical structure and their name	Classification	Bioactivities	References
	 <p data-bbox="485 748 692 781">Puemircarpene</p>	Isoflavone	Low estrogenic activity	(Shimokawa et al., 2013)
black Kwao Khrua (<i>Mucuna macrocarpa</i> Wall.)	 <p data-bbox="437 1128 740 1229">L-3, 4- dihydroxyphenylalanine</p>	Amino acid	Increased urinary morphine, codeine and tetrahydropapaveroline in Parkinsonian patient	(Matsubara, Collins, & Neafsey, 1992)
	 <p data-bbox="517 1576 660 1610">Kaempferol</p>	Flavonoid	Lowing blood sugar levels	(Roengsumran et al., 2001)
	 <p data-bbox="517 1957 660 1991">Quercetin</p>	Polyphenols	Antioxidation	(Roengsumran et al., 2001)

Plant sample	Chemical structure and their name	Classification	Bioactivities	References
	 <p data-bbox="475 725 647 757">Hopeaphenol</p>	Stilbenoid	Antioxidation	(Roengsumran et al., 2001)
red Kwao Khrua (<i>Butea superba</i> Roxb. ex Willd.)	 <p data-bbox="469 1115 654 1146">Beta-sitosterol</p>	Flavonoid	cAMP phosphodiesterase inhibitor Induction of penile erection	(Tocharus, Jamsuwan, Tocharus, Changtam, & Suksamrarn, 2012)
	 <p data-bbox="485 1527 638 1559">Butesuperin</p>	Flavonoid	Anti-estrogenic activity (aphrodisiac effect)	(Tocharus et al., 2012)
	 <p data-bbox="480 1912 643 1944">Behenic acid</p>	Saturated fatty acid	Antioxidation	(Badea, Lăcătușu, Badea, Ott, & Meghea, 2015)

Plant sample	Chemical structure and their name	Classification	Bioactivities	References
	 <p data-bbox="480 748 692 779">Tricosanoic acid</p>	Saturated fatty acid	<p data-bbox="1007 539 1251 571">Inhibition of urease</p> <p data-bbox="1007 680 1273 770">DPPH radical scavenging activities</p>	(Rauf, Uddin, Arfan, & Muhammad, 2013)
	 <p data-bbox="488 1135 686 1167">Lignoceric acid</p>	Saturated fatty acid	<p data-bbox="1007 808 1235 840">Antifungal activity</p> <p data-bbox="1007 943 1262 974">Antibacterial activity</p> <p data-bbox="1007 1070 1251 1102">Inhibition of urease</p>	(Rauf et al., 2013)
	 <p data-bbox="461 1520 710 1552">Pentacosanoic acid</p>	Saturated fatty acid	Antifungal activity	(Kurdyukov et al., 2006)
	 <p data-bbox="464 1906 708 1937">Hexacosanoic acid</p>	Saturated fatty acid	Antimicrobial activity	(Singh & Singh, 2003)

Plant sample	Chemical structure and their name	Classification	Bioactivities	References
	 <p>Campesterol</p>	Steroid	Precursor of anabolic steroid boldenone	(Anwar et al., 2013)
	 <p>Stigmasterol</p>	Steroid	Increasing phytosterol contents	(D.-U. Lee, Park, & Lee, 2020)
			Lowering LDL levels	
	 <p>Beta- sitosterol</p>	Steroid	Decrease benign prostatic hyperplasia	(D.-U. Lee et al., 2020)
			Immune system modulation	
			Prevention of cancer	

2.2 Methods for differentiation of the medicinal plants

There are several methods of plant differentiation including analysis of morphological characteristics, an examination of chemical constituents and investigation of genetic information. Currently, morphological analysis the first required step to identify the plant species when none of the advanced technology is available for identification of the plant of interest. Chemical and nucleotide analyzes of plant species are useful in helping identify plants with greater confidence. In this

topic, the information of both chemical and genetic methods for plant differentiation are informed in detail.

2.2.1 Chemical methods

Chemical analyses are approaches to assist in plant identification. A basic chemical analysis is thin layer chromatography (TLC). This is a method of separating the chemical composition of a sample by using different ratios of solvents passing through the TLC plate. Another chemical analysis is high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). This method permits the separation of chemicals in the sample by the real-time change of the mobile phase. HPLC is generally combined with mass spectrometry (MS) for chemical identification resulting in the generation of the mass spectrum and structure elucidation of separated compounds. Both TLC and HPLC techniques are normally used to compare samples of interest and reference authentic samples (Zhao et al., 2006).

Although chemical methods are extensively used as standard analyses, they have some limitations. Since closely related plants accumulate similar phytochemicals, chemical methods are not effective enough for the differentiation of plants. Besides, many factors; for example, the growing environment and varieties of the same species, play a role in the chemical accumulation of a plant. These factors have the potential to alter the levels of accumulated chemical constituents and allow inaccurate interpretations of plant species if chemical methods are the only techniques for plant differentiation.

2.2.2 Molecular biology methods

Molecular biology is about the study of the genes that is unique in single species. The gene has its function and is inherited from generation to generation. For authentication the herbal product, DNA is one of the popular

choices because of the unique among species. This method can difference plant species with specificity, accuracy and fluently. It not only detects the fresh plants but also processed plants that are in the form of medicine, capsule and others. Small amount of samples with the broken pieces of DNA are sufficient for species differentiation by multiplying a particular region of DNA.

The DNA-sequence of interest is amplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) that is the basic method of DNA analysis to generate amplicons. The PCR products are further analyzed by a single or several methods depending on the purpose of the study. Dominant and co-dominant marker systems allow for analyzing multiple and single loci at one time. The fundamental dominant marker systems, such as AFLP, RAPD, iPBS, SRAP and ISSR, permit DNA analyses with no requirement of detailed sequence information. Although this method is the ease of DNA examination, it is not suitable for investigating heterozygotes of which DNA is from the nuclear genome (Loera-Sánchez, Studer, & Kölliker, 2019). On the other hand, the co-dominant marker distinguishes heterozygotes from homozygotes, allowing the determination of genotypes and allele frequencies. After finishing PCR amplification, PCR products are also examined by DNA sequencing and the sequencing results are subsequently analyzed by DNA alignment. The DNA sequence would show the identity of the plant species and the result can be used to generate their DNA barcode.

2.2.1.1 Genome sequencing and compare

There are many sequencing technologies, the first generation of DNA sequencing since 1970s is sanger sequencing. This method claims to be the gold standard of DNA sequencing because of the accuracy. The nucleotides were detected singerly by fluorescent that run into the buffer pass-through special agarose gel or glass capillary.

The result of sanger sequencing was analyzed by DNA alignment and used as DNA barcoding of the species. Sanger sequencing can show the single nucleotide signature (SNP) of the species in a short sequence (not more than 800 bp). The pros of this technique are low cost with high accuracy nucleotide detected. However, this technique has some limitations. The number of nucleotides are read by the distance of agarose gel or glass capillary that has generally been used (Wangler et al., 2017). Also, the limitation of the number of samples per round, whole genome sequencing and the way to prepare the sample automatically. For longer sequence, DNA need to be clone in bacteria (Md & Abhijit, 2012)

Another sequence technology since 2000s is next-generation sequencing (NGS) which is a high-through put technique. The difference of second-generation sequencing and third-generation sequencing is how long of reads lengths per sample and detected DNA without the amplification step. (Ari & Arian, 2016) Second-generation sequencing is proper for short read lengths (100-500 bp) and third-generation sequencing is proper for long read lengths (more than 14 kb). The limitation of second-generation sequencing is the amplification biases resulting and high costs per sample. The limitation of third-generation sequencing is still in high error rate, biased towards long fragments and higher cost per sample than Sanger sequencing. (Leblanc & Marra, 2015)

2.2.1.2 DNA barcoding technique

DNA barcoding is the pattern of a nucleotide sequence that represents the uniqueness of the species. There are four universal barcode areas that are used for plant differentiation called DNA core

barcode areas (Figure 4). The Barcode of Life Plant Working Group recommends the genomic regions of *matK* (Figure 4A) and *rbcL* (Figure 4B) in the chloroplast genome for barcoding (Hollingsworth et al., 2009). Another recommends the genomic regions are *psbA-trnH* transgenic spacer (Figure 4C) that is also in the chloroplast region and Internal transcribed spacer (ITS) (Figure 4D) that is the nuclear region. (Kress, Wurdack, Zimmer, Weigt, & Janzen, 2005).

DNA barcode of a plant can show the nucleotide signature of the species that can be used for other rapid, convenient and reasonable costs for differentiating herbal products.

Although four areas of DNA are recommended to generate the DNA barcode, it was reported that the four areas were sufficient for differentiating plants within the same lineage but not for multi-species lineages (Stallman, Funk, Price, & Knope, 2019).

2.2.1.3 DNA Barcoding couple with high-resolution melting (Bar-HRM) analysis

An alternative analyzing result after finishing the DNA barcoding of the species is to combine with the high-resolution melting analysis. This technique is the post-PCR method that discriminates double-stranded DNA based on sequence length, GC content and strand complementarity by detecting the single base difference in mutation and indels of the nucleotide sequence (Simko, 2016). Thus, it shortens the time use and reduces the cost per sample. In brief, the first step of this technique is to design primers that cover the short sequence of nucleotide signature areas of the sample. The real-time PCR is then exploited to detect the diminishes of fluorescence dye that releases from double-stranded DNA when the change of temperature is captured in the thermal cycler. The

fluorescent dye intercalates double-strand DNA while PCR products are amplified (Figure 5). After finishing real-time PCR, the melting temperature of PCR amplicons is subsequently examined from 60 to 90°C in 0.2°C increments which are more constricted than those of standard melting curve protocols. The results from HRM analysis are shown in graph of melting curves (Figure 6) that have different shape and peak for each sample (Osathanunkul M., 2015). HRM software permits the detection of pre- and post-melt fluorescent intensity and automatically normalizes raw data to generate a normalized plot, a graph with relative values of 1.0 (pre-melting) and 0 (post-melting) (Figure 6A). HRM data are usually plotted in the difference plot (Figure 6B) to visualize the difference cluster of the melting profile among the samples. The same cluster represents the same group of samples.

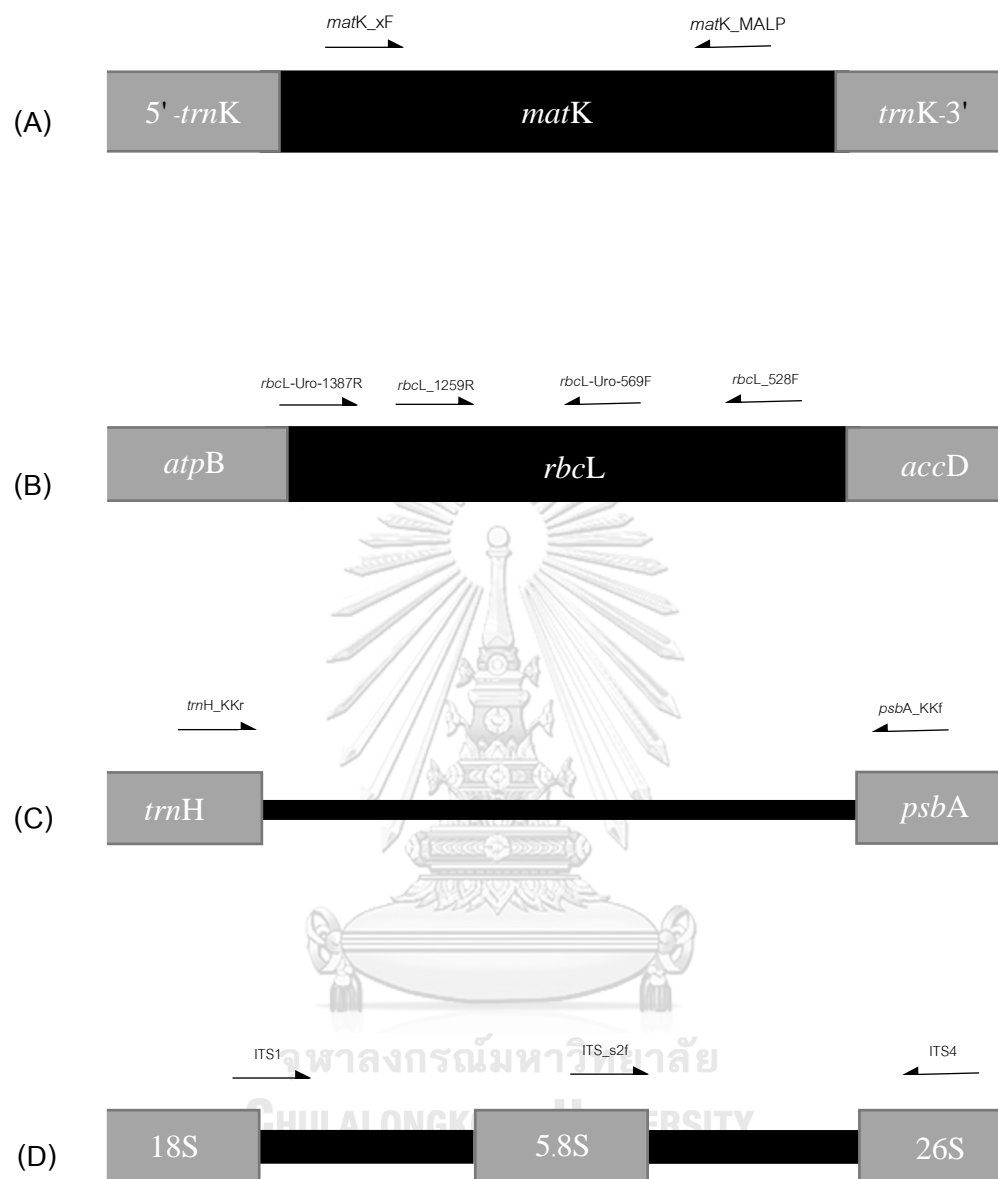


Figure 4 The schematic diagram of the application loci and primer pairs for amplifications and sequencing *matK* (A), *rbcL* (B), *psbA-trnH* transgenic spacer (C) and internal transcribed spacer (ITS) (D)

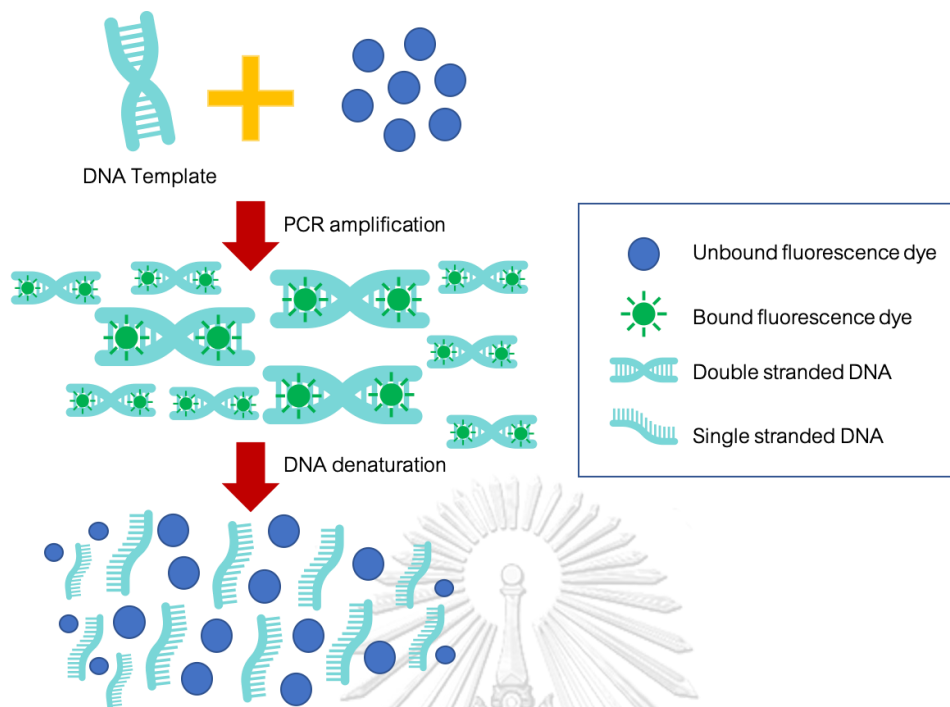


Figure 5 The diagram of fluorescence dye activities while pre-PCR, PCR amplification and post-PCR (DNA denaturation) which inferred to the HRM analysis

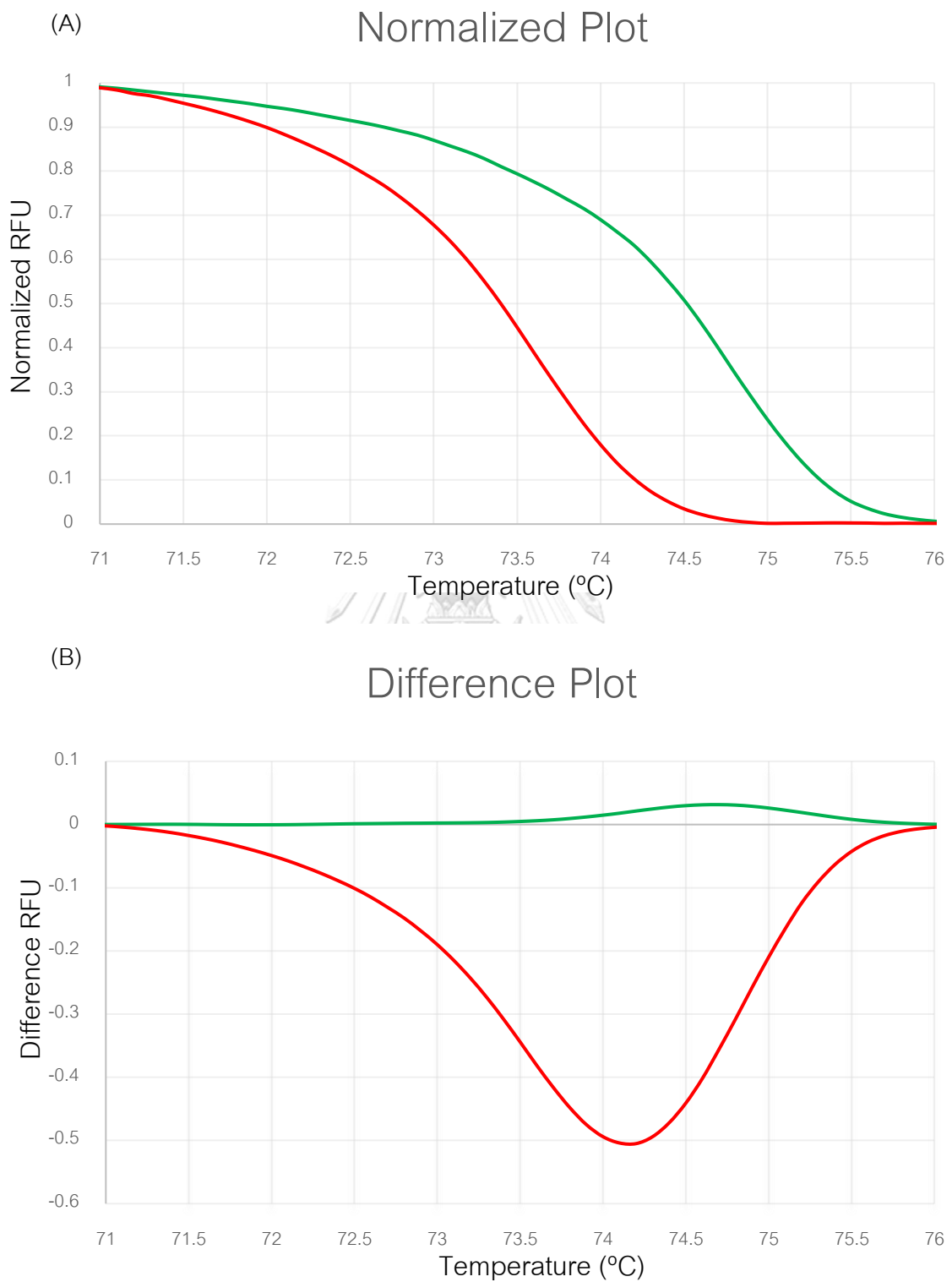


Figure 6 The schematic of melting curve from real-time PCR couple with HRM analysis for plant differentiation Normalized Plot (A) Difference Plot (B)

CHAPTER III

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In this study, the three Kwao Khrueta species collected from several locations were initially analyzed to retrieve their DNA core barcode sequences. Barcoding primers were used to amplify four standard regions including *rbcL*, *matK*, ITS and *psbA-trnH* transgenic spacer. Since barcoding generation from *matK* and ITS sequences was successful, primers designed for Bar-HRM analysis of these two regions were created. In addition, Thai herbal products claimed to have these three Kwao Khrueta species as main ingredients were investigated for propriety of plant species using Bar-HRM analysis.

3.1 Collection of plant materials and herbal products

Three species of Kwao Khrueta, *P. candollei* (white Kwao Khrueta), *M. macrocarpa* (black Kwao Khrueta) and *B. superba* (red Kwao Khrueta), considered as authentic samples were collected from various locations in Thailand (Table 2). All samples were identified by Associate Professor Thatree Phadungcharoen at the Chulalongkorn University. Herbal products that labeling with Kwao Khrueta as an ingredient were randomly bought from herbal markets at various locations in Thailand (Table 3). All herbal product samples in this study were in capsule formulation.

Table 2 Information of plant materials for authentic samples

Scientific name	Common name	Place of collection (Province)	Voucher no.	Accession number			
				matK	psbA-trnH	rbcL	ITS
<i>Pueraria candollei</i> Graham ex Benth. var. <i>mirifica</i> (AiryShewSavat.)	white Kwao Khrua	Bangkok	WY081205	LC570920	LC570937	LC570932	LC573986
		Nonthaburi	TH090505	LC570921	LC570938	LC570933	LC573987
		Lampang	MUS-H3852	-	LC570939	-	-
		Saraburi	MUS-H3853	-	LC570940	-	-
		Chiang Mai	MUS-H3854	-	-	-	-
		Loei	MUS-H3855	-	-	-	-
		Tak	MUS-H3856	-	-	-	-
		Nakhon Pathom	WY270106	-	-	-	-
		Kanchanaburi	MUS-H3860	-	-	-	-
		Prachuap Khiri Khan	MUS-H3858	-	-	-	-
<i>Mucuna macrocapa</i> Wall.	black Kwao Khrua	Lampang	SS-591	LC570922	LC570941	LC570931	LC573988
		Chiang Mai	MUS-H3849	-	LC570942	-	LC573989
		Bangkok	MUS-H3848	-	-	-	-

Scientific name	Common name	Place of collection (Province)	Voucher no.	Accession number			
				matK	psbA-trnH	rbcL	ITS
<i>Butea superba</i> Roxb. ex Willd.		Bangkok	TH050706	LC570919	LC570935	LC570934	LC577560
		Prachin Buri	SS-700	-	LC570936	-	LC577561
		Chachoengsao	TH130206	-	-	-	-
		Lampang	MUS-H3861	-	-	-	-
		Prae	MUS-H3862	-	-	-	-
		Kanchanaburi	MUS-H3863	-	-	-	-
		Kalasin	BR010807	-	-	-	-

Table 3 Information of commercial herbal products from Kwao Khrueta used in this study

Code name	Commercial herbal products	Species on the label	Place of collection (Province)
WC01		white Kwao Khrueta	Bangkok
WC02		white Kwao Khrueta	Bangkok
WC03		white Kwao Khrueta	Bangkok
WC04		white Kwao Khrueta	Bangkok
WC05		white Kwao Khrueta	Bangkok

Code name	Commercial herbal products	Species on the label	Place of collection (Province)
WC06	 <p>The image shows a white blister pack of capsules and a petri dish containing a brown powder and several white capsules. A red and white label is visible above the petri dish.</p>	white Kwao Khrua	Bangkok
BC01	 <p>The image shows a white plastic bottle and a petri dish containing a dark brown powder and several dark capsules.</p>	black Kwao Khrua	Lampang
RC01	 <p>The image shows a white plastic bottle and a petri dish containing a light brown powder and several light brown capsules.</p>	red Kwao Khrua	Bangkok
RC02	 <p>The image shows a glass jar and a petri dish containing a light brown powder and several light brown capsules.</p>	red Kwao Khrua	Bangkok
RC03	 <p>The image shows a glass jar and a petri dish containing a light brown powder and several light brown capsules.</p>	red Kwao Khrua	Bangkok
RC04	 <p>The image shows a glass jar and a petri dish containing a light brown powder and several light brown capsules.</p>	red Kwao Khrua	Bangkok

3.2 Genomic DNA extraction

Total genomic DNA was extracted from 30-40 mg of fresh leaves and individual herbal product sample. The samples were ground into fine powder by Tissue lyser LT (Qiagen, Germany). Genomic DNA was extracted by using DNeasy plant pro DNA extraction kit (Qiagen, Germany). The quality of genomic DNA was investigated by separating DNA in 0.8% agarose gel electrophoresis, staining with red safe dye and visualizing under UV light of GelDoc™ XR (Bio-Rad, U.S.A.). The quantity of genomic DNA was assessed in O.D. using NanoDrop™ One/OneC Microvolume UV-Vis Spectrophotometer with Wi-Fi (ThermoFisher scientific, Germany). The DNA samples were stored at -20°C until further use.

3.3 DNA barcode generation of Kwao Khurea

3.3.1 Primer design

The universal primer for four loci DNA regions including ITS, *matK*, *rbcL* and *psbA-trnH* intergenic spacer were used in PCR reaction (Table 4) and the schematic diagram of the amplified loci and primer pairs for PCR and sequencing. (Figure 4)

3.3.2 PCR amplification

The PCR reactions were performed in 25 µl amplification volume consisting of 1X PCR buffer with 1.5mM MgCl₂ (Invitrogen), 0.2mM dNTP_{mix} (Invitrogen), 10µM primers, 0.1 unit of Platinum *Taq* DNA Polymerase (Invitrogen) and 20 ng of genomic DNA and carried out in GS-96 PRO Gradient Touch Thermal Cycler (Hercuvan Lab system, England) using the cycling condition at 94°C for 4min, followed by 30 cycles of 94°C for 30s, 55 °C 30s for ITS and *psbA-trnH* intergenic spacer loci or 57 °C 30s for *matK* locus or 58 °C 30s for *rbcL* locus then 72°C for 30s, and final extension at 72 °C for 5min (Table 5). The amplified PCR products were examined by 2%

agarose gel electrophoresis in 1% TAE buffer and visualized under UV light by using Ultrepower™ Nucleic Acid Staining in GelDoc™ XR (Bio-Rad, U.S.A.) and then photographed.

Table 4 Primers used for DNA barcoding

Location	Primer names	Primers sequences (5' → 3')	References
<i>matK</i>	<i>matK_xF</i>	TAA TTT ACG ATC AAT TCA TTC	Ford et al. 2009
	<i>matK_MALPR1</i>	ACA AGA AAG TCG AAG TAT	Dunning & Savolainen 2010
<i>psbA-trnH</i>	<i>psbA_KKf</i>	GCG ATC GAA GCT CCA TCT AT	Redesigned for
intergenic spacer	<i>trnH_KKr</i>	GCT ACA TCC GCC CTT ATA CT	this study
<i>rbcL</i>	<i>rbcL-Uro-569F</i>	ATG AAT GTC TTC GCG GTG GAC	Redesigned for
	<i>rbcL-Uro-1387R</i>	TTA CAA AGT ATC CAT TGC TTG AAA T	this study
	<i>rbcL_528f</i>	CTG CAT GCA TTG CAC GAT GT	Redesigned for
	<i>rbcL_1259R</i>	CGG TAG CTG CCG AAT CTT CT	this study
ITS	ITS1	TCC GTA GGT GAA CCT GCG G	White et al. 1990
	ITS4	TCC TCC GCT TAT TGA TAT GC	
	ITS-s2f	ATG CGA TAC TTG GTG TGA TGA AT	Chen et al. 2010

Table 5 The PCR reaction and condition for Kwao Khrueta barcoding

Reaction PCR components	1X	PCR condition				
		Pre- denaturation	30 cycles			Post- extension
			Denaturation	Annealing	Extension	
PCR buffer	1X	94°C 4min	94°C 30s	55 °C 30s for ITS and <i>psbA-trnH</i> intergenic spacer	72°C 30s	72 °C 5min
MgCl ₂	1.5mM			57 °C 30s for <i>matK</i>		
dNTP _{mix}	0.2mM					
Forward primers	10µM					
Reverse primers	10µM			58 °C 30s for <i>rbcL</i>		
DNA polymerase	0.1 unit					
Genomic DNA	20ng					

3.3.3 Nucleotide sequence by Sanger sequencing

For DNA sequencing, the PCR products were bi-directionally sequenced using the same pair of primers of each region by ABI 3730XL DNA analyzer at BIONEER Co., Ltd. The raw DNA sequences from four regions were aligned, edited, corrected, verified and compiled using MEGA version 7 to confirm the quality of sequences. The consensus sequences of obtained sequences were analyzed by MUSCLE algorithm (Edgar, 2004). All sequences were submitted to GenBank database with their accession numbers. (Table 2)

3.4 Barcode DNA-High Resolution Melting (Bar-HRM) analysis

3.4.1 Primer design for Bar-HRM analysis

The primers for Bar-HRM analysis were designed based on nucleotide signatures from sequencing results. The primer pair was located on a representative position that was able to differentiate the three species at once. The amplification reaction was run for three different regions of *matK*

and one region of ITS that generated amplicons with 113, 47, 114, 134 bps in sizes, respectively. The specific primer sets were shown in table 6. (Table 6).

Table 6 Primers for real-time PCR coupling with HRM analysis.

Primer set	Primer names	Primers sequences (5'→ 3')	Amplicon size
KKmatK1	KKmatK1_F	GCG ATC AAT TCA TTC CAT TTT TCC C	113 bp
	KKmatK1_R	GGA TTT GAA CCA AGA TTT CCA GAT GG	
KKmatK2	KKmatK2_F	GTC AGA TAT ACG AAT ACC C	47 bp
	KKmatK2_R	CCA TCT GGA AAT CTT GGT TC	
KKmatK3	KKmatK3_F	GGA ATA GTC TTT TTA CTC C	114 bp
	KKmatK3_R	GGG AAT ATG AAT CTA TCT TTC	
ITS_KK1	ITS_KK1_F	CTG CCT GGG TGT CAC ACA TC	134 bp
	ITS_KK1_R	GGC CAC GAA CTC GAT TTT CAA C	

3.4.2 HRM analysis using Real-time PCR

The real-time PCR was used to perform HRM analysis by investigating the melting temperature of PCR amplicons. The DNA melting character of each locus from individual Kwao Khrua species was obtained by CFX96 Touch™ Real-time PCR Detection System (Bio-Rad). The real-time PCR reactions were carried out in a total volume of 20 µl containing 1X of Ssofast Evagreen Supermix® (Bio-Rad), 0.4 µM of forward and reverse primers and 10 ng of genomic DNA for all samples. PCR reactions were performed in individual PCR tube and the cycling condition consisted of the initial denaturing step at 98°C for 1 min followed by 40 cycles of 98°C for 15s, 56 °C for KKmatK1 and ITS_KK1 primer set and 62 °C for KKmatK2 and KKmatK3 primer set for 15s and 72°C for 15s. (Table 7). The fluorescent data for PCR amplification were collected during

extension step as a green channel. In fluorescent data for PCR amplification, PCR products were denatured at 95°C for 1 min, and then re-annealed at 60 °C for 1 min to reform random DNA duplexes. For the melting curve analysis, the PCR product was melted in the ramped steps from 60°C to 90°C in 0.2 °C increments and the fluorescence intensity was then collected on every increasing point.

The melting curves were analyzed using CFX Manager™ Software Upgrade of version 3.1 and Precision Melt Analysis™ software upgrade of version 3.1. All reactions were performed in triplicate and shown in melting curve as a normalized plot and then transformed into a difference plot. The results of individual transformed curves were shown in clusters.

Table 7 The PCR reaction and condition for HRM analysis

Reaction PCR components	1X	PCR condition				Melting curve analysis		
		Pre- denaturation	40 cycles			Re- denaturation	Re- annealed	Post- extension
			Denaturation	Annealing	Extension			
SsoFast EvaGreen supermix	1X	98°C 1min	98°C 15s	62 °C 15s for KKmatK2 and KKmatK3 primer set	72°C 15s	95 °C 1min	from 60 °C to 90 °C in 0.2 °C increments	95 °C
Forward primers	0.4µM			56 °C 15s for KKmatK1 and ITS_KK1 primer set				
Reverse primers	0.4µM							
Genomic DNA	10ng							

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

In this chapter, agarose gel electrophoresis of genomic DNA of the three Kwao Khrueta species (Figure 7) and their products (Figure 8) including of the four areas of DNA core barcodes was reported. Bar-HRM analysis of the *matK* gene and ITS regions of three Kwao Khrueta herbs has been successful developed. Also, Bar-HRM technique can be applied to test Thai herbal products that claimed to be specific Kwao Khrueta species as main ingredients.

4.1 Samples collection and DNA extraction

Fresh samples of these three species of Kwao Khrueta were collected from various area distributed throughout Thailand (Table 2) and the samples of herbal products were collected from both offline and online markets (Table 3).

Genomic DNA were extracted from fresh samples then checked the DNA quality by agarose gel electrophoresis (Figure 7). The genomic DNA of Kwao Khrueta product also run on agarose gel electrophoresis (Figure 8).

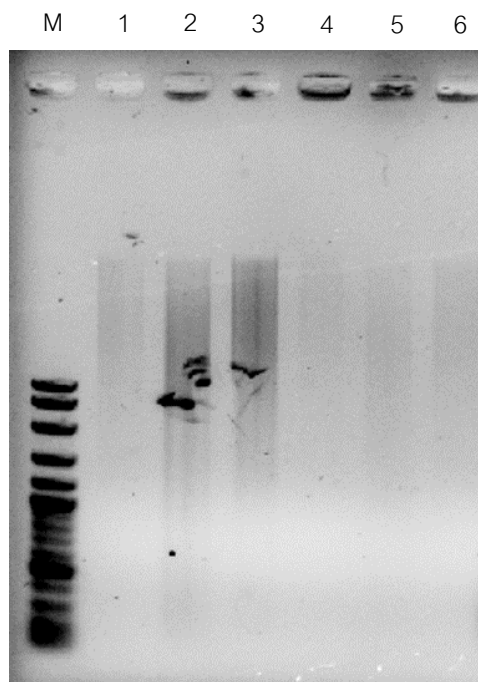


Figure 7 0.8% agarose gel electrophoresis of genomic DNA of three Kwao Khrua herbs and their leaves; M = DNA marker: lamda DNA/HindIII marker; lane 1 = *M. macrocarpa* 1'elution; lane 2 = *B. superba* 1'elution; lane 3 = *P. candollei* 1'elution; lane 4 = *M. macrocarpa* 2'elution; lane 5 = *B. superba* 2'elution; lane 6 = *P. candollei* 2'elution

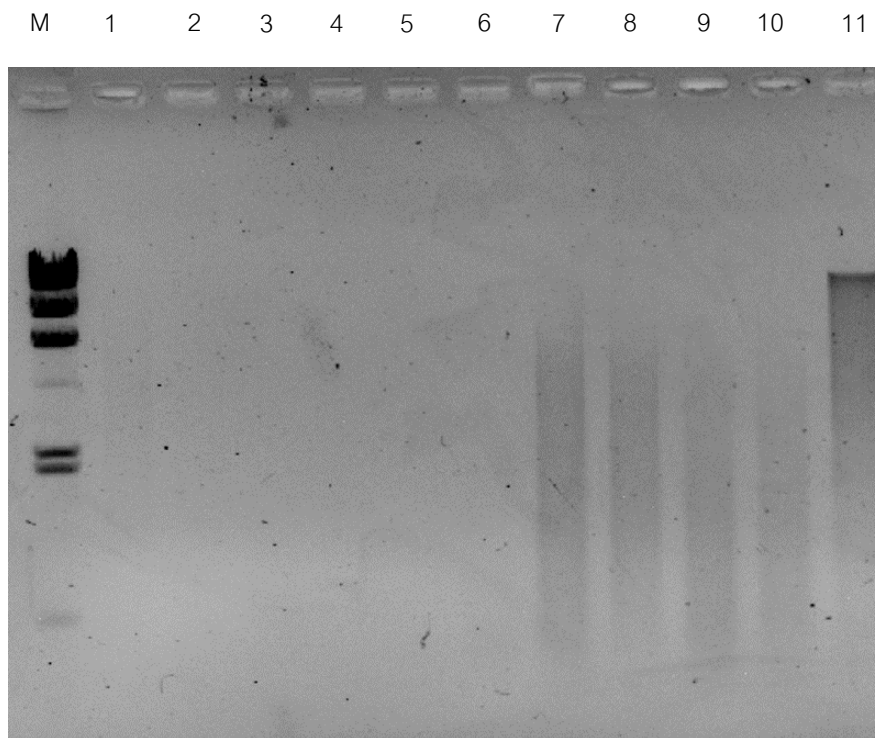


Figure 8 0.8% agarose gel electrophoresis of genomic DNA of Kwao Khrua product; M = DNA marker: lamda DNA/HindIII marker; lane 1 = WC1; lane 2 = WC2; lane 3 = WC3; lane 4 = WC4; lane 5 = WC5; lane 6 = WC6; lane 7 = BC1; lane 8 = RC1; lane 9 = RC2; lane 10 = RC3; lane 11 = RC4

4.2 Core DNA barcoding of the three Kwao Khrua herbs

The genomic DNA of the three Kwao Khrua herbs collected from different locations of Thailand was successfully extracted for DNA barcoding. Core DNA loci were amplified from all genomic DNA samples of fresh herbs and further sequenced. The partial sequences of the four core DNA loci of the three Kwao Khrua herbs were consisted of ITS, *matK*, *rbcL* and *psbA-trnH* intergenic spacer. The primer location of each area was shown in the schematic diagram (Figure 4) The difference lengths of DNA sequences were various with their own nucleotide signatures (Table 6). All sequence alignments and their nucleotide signatures were shown in Appendix

Table 8 Sequence analysis of four core DNA barcode regions of Kwao Khrueta plants

DNA region	<i>matK</i>	ITS	<i>psbA-trnH</i>	<i>rbcL</i>
Length (bp)	1518-1527	366-393	272-357	657-810
Variation position (bp)	123	119	53	20
% Variation	8.0815	31.3570	16.8521	29.6296
Average %GC content	28.5	61	22.6667	41.3333

The complete sequences of maturase K (*matK*) gene from all Kwao Khrueta plants were amplified and subsequently bidirectional sequenced. The amplicon was inspected by gel electrophoresis and the PCR product sizes were ranged 1500 bp. The complete sequence of *matK* from *P. candollei* var. *mirifica*, *P. candollei* var. *candollei*, *M. macrocarpa* and *B. superba* were 1521, 1521, 1518 and 1527 bp, respectively. The partial sequences of *matK* element from *P. candollei* var. *mirifica*, *P. candollei* var. *candollei* and *M. macrocarpa* were 534 bp and *B. superba* was 540 bp. The *matK* sequences of these three Kwao Khrueta were aligned and the alignment showed the high number variable sites (123 of 540 sites or 8.0815%) and high %GC content (28.5%). The *matK* sequences were identical within species. The *matK* sequence alignments and their nucleotide signature were submitted to GenBank database and all sequenced were shown in **Appendix**.

The partial sequences of ITS region from all Kwao Khrueta plants were amplified and subsequently bidirectional sequenced. The amplicon was inspected by gel electrophoresis and the PCR product sizes were approximately 400 bp. The partial sequences of ITS element from *P. candollei* var. *mirifica*, *P. candollei* var. *candollei*, *M. macrocarpa* and *B. superba* were 378, 369, 393 and 366 bp, respectively. The ITS sequences of these three Kwao Khrueta were aligned and the alignment showed the high number variable sites (119 of 393 sites or 31.3570%). Moreover, %GC content of ITS was 61% which was higher

than that of the *matK* aligned. The ITS sequences of any samples were identical within species. The ITS sequence alignments and their nucleotide signature were also submitted to GenBank database and all sequenced were shown in **Appendix**.

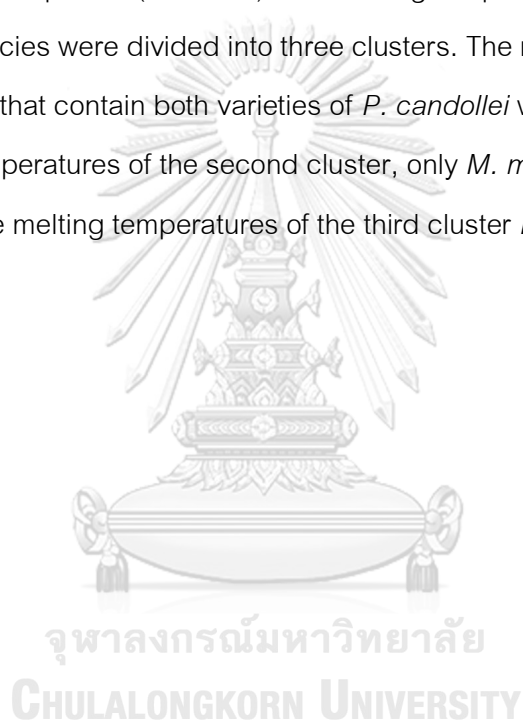
The partial sequences of photosystem II protein D1 – tRNA-Histidine intergenic spacer (*psbA-trnH* intergenic spacer) were amplified and sequenced. The PCR products were inspected by gel electrophoresis and the PCR product sizes were approximately 350 bp. The partial sequences of *psbA-trnH* intergenic spacer from *P. candollei* var. *mirifica*, *P. candollei* var. *candollei*, *M. macrocarpa* and *B. superba* were 272, 272, 320 and 357 bp, respectively. All *psbA-trnH* intergenic spacer sequences were aligned and the alignment showed 53 variation sites (16.8521%) with 22.6667% of GC content. Moreover, %GC content of *psbA-trnH* intergenic spacer was lower than that of the *matK* aligned. The *psbA-trnH* intergenic spacer sequences were identical within species. The *psbA-trnH* intergenic spacer sequence alignments and their nucleotide signature were also submitted to GenBank database and all sequenced were shown in **Appendix**.

The partial sequences of ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase/oxygenase large chain gene (*rbcL*) were amplified and subsequently bidirectional sequenced. The PCR products were inspected by gel electrophoresis and the PCR product sizes were approximately 800 bp. The partial sequences of from *P. candollei* var. *mirifica*, *P. candollei* var. *candollei*, *M. macrocarpa* and *B. superba* were 680, 831, 788 and 658 bp, respectively. All *rbcL* sequences of these three Kwao Khrua species were aligned using bioedit and the alignment showed 20 positions (29.6296%) of variable sites obtained from sequence alignment with 41.3333% of GC content. The *rbcL* sequence obtained within same species were identical. The *rbcL* region was the highest %GC content of these three species of Kwao Khrua.

4.3 Bar-HRM analysis of the Kwao Khrueta herbal products

There are two loci, *matK* and ITS, which were suitable for analysis using Bar-HRM method and identified for their nucleotide signatures by DNA alignment. The length of *matK* sequences was 1527 bp. A short DNA region at nucleotide position 375 to 487 bp was to yield and it was selected for Bar-HRM analysis and amplified by KK*matK*1 primer set (PCR product length 113 bp) (Figure 9). Both varieties of *P. candollei* have 33.6283% of GC content. Also, *M. macrocarpa* and *B. superba* have 32.7433% and 30.673% of GC content, respectively. Six positions of nucleotide polymorphism have been found in the three Kwao Khrueta species (Table 9). The result of melting temperatures (T_m) of the three Kwao Khrueta species were divided into two clusters. The melting temperatures of the first cluster, *P. candollei* var. *mirifica*, *P. candollei* var. *candollei* and *M. macrocarpa* were 74.4-74.9°C and the melting temperatures of the second cluster, *B. superba* was 73.6-74.0°C. By the way, DNA position 435 to 482 bp was amplified by KK*matK*2 primer set (PCR product length 47 bp) (Figure 10). Both variety of *P. candollei* were contained 40.4255% of GC content while 42.5532% of that *M. macrocarpa* and *B. superba* have 40.4255% of GC content. There is only one nucleotide difference among those three Kwao Khrueta species (Table 10). The melting temperatures of the three Kwao Khrueta species were divided into two clusters. The melting temperatures of the first cluster, *M. macrocarpa* was 71.0-71.4°C while the melting temperatures of the second cluster, *P. candollei* var. *mirifica*, *P. candollei* var. *candollei* and *B. superba* were 70.7-70.9°C. DNA position 556 to 676 bp was amplified by KK*matK*3 primer set (PCR product length 114 bp) (Figure 11). Both variety of *P. candollei* were contained 24.5614% of GC content while 25.4386% of that *M. macrocarpa* and *B. superba* have 25.8333% of GC content. There are twelve nucleotides difference among those three Kwao Khrueta species (Table 11). The melting temperatures of the three Kwao Khrueta species were divided into three clusters. The melting temperatures of the first cluster, *M. macrocarpa* was 70.7-71.4°C

while the melting temperatures of the second cluster, *P. candollei* var. *mirifica*, *P. candollei* var. *candollei* was 70.4-71.2 and *B. superba* were 71.5-72.7°C. The ITS signature was located in nucleotide position 479 to 611 bp that covered partial 5.8S region and partial ITS2 region. The nucleotide signature was selected for Bar-HRM analysis and amplified by ITS_KK1 primer set (Figure 12). The amplicons were produced using real-time PCR coupled with HRM analysis. There are forty-six positions of nucleotide polymorphism among these three Kwao Khrua species (Table 12). The melting temperatures result of three Kwao Khrua species were divided into three clusters. The melting temperatures of the first cluster that contain both varieties of *P. candollei* were 87.2-87.4°C. The melting temperatures of the second cluster, only *M. macrocarpa* was 87.6-88.7°C. The melting temperatures of the third cluster *B. superba* was 85.3-85.8°C.



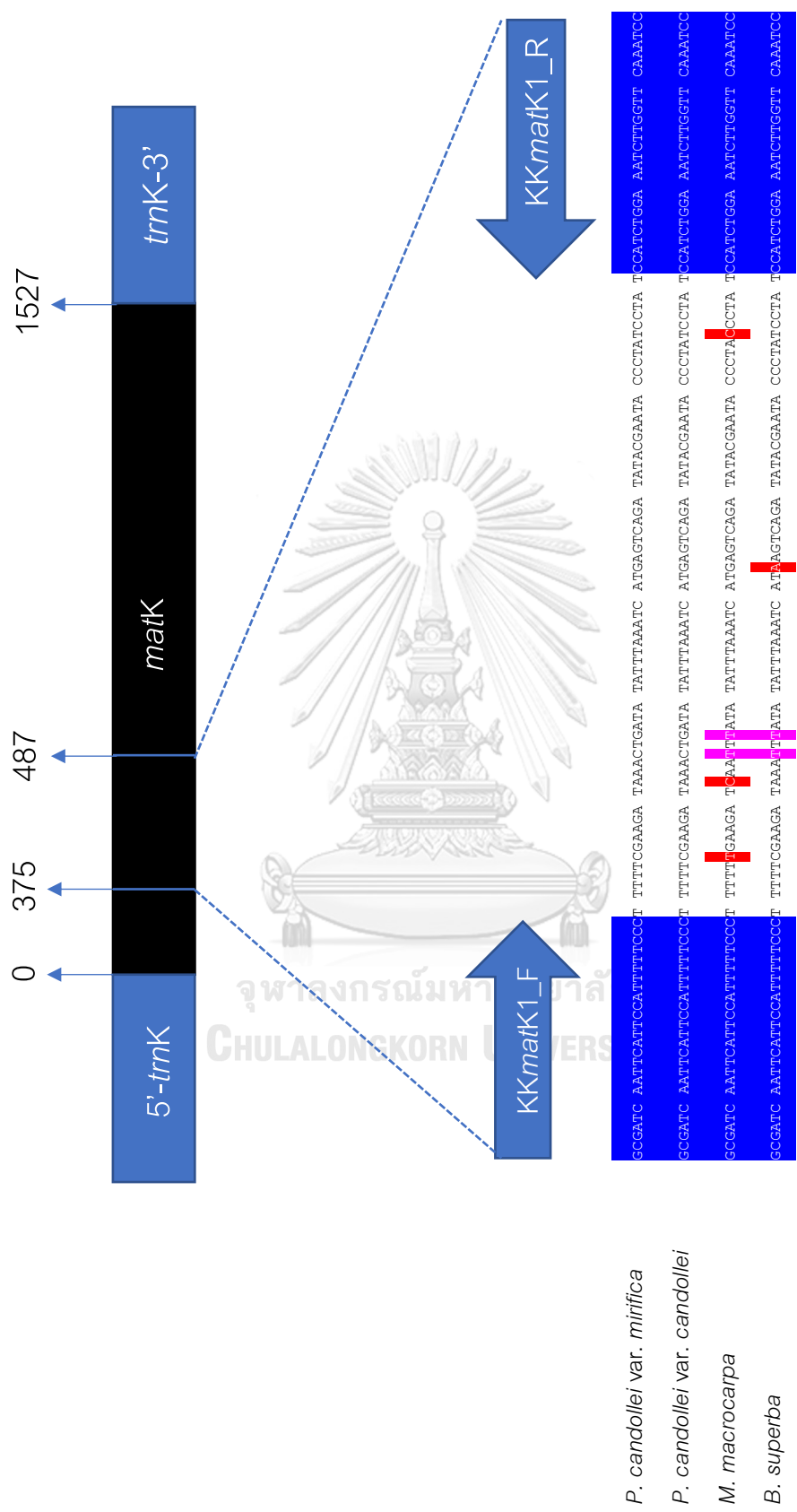


Figure 9 The schematic diagram of the amplification loci and primer pair and their polymorphisms KKmatK1 for real-time PCR

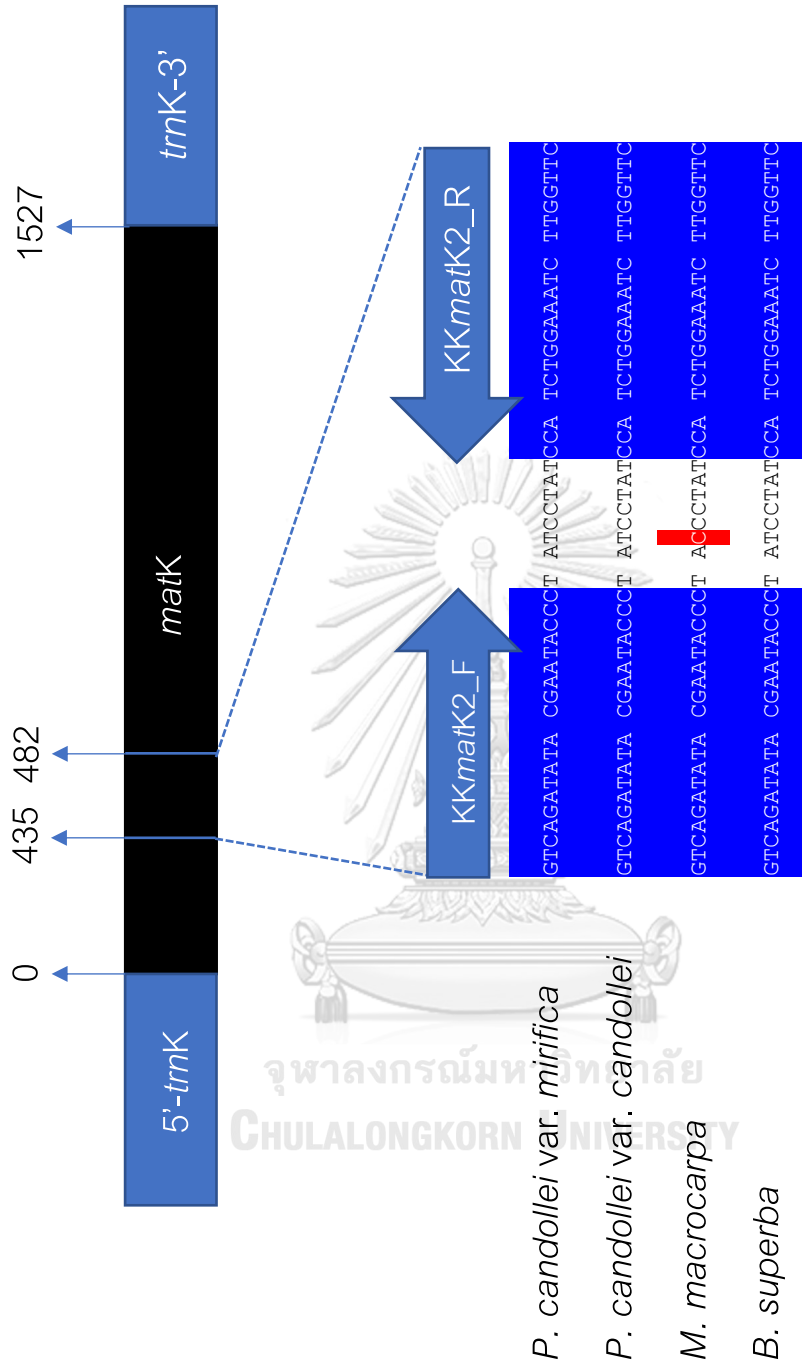


Figure 10 The schematic diagram of the amplification loci and primer pair and their polymorphisms KKmatk2 for real-time PCR

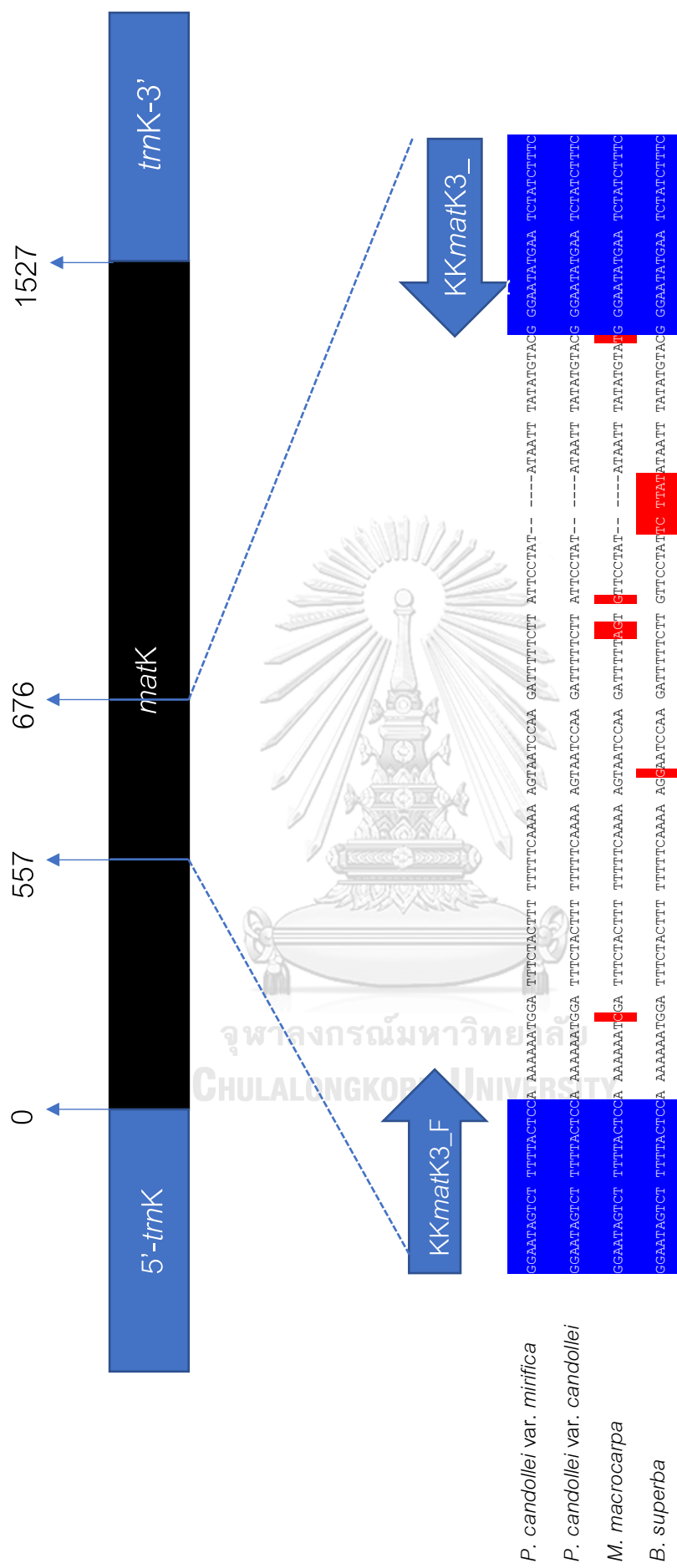


Figure 11 The schematic diagram of the amplification loci and primer pair and their polymorphisms KKmatK3 for real-time PCR

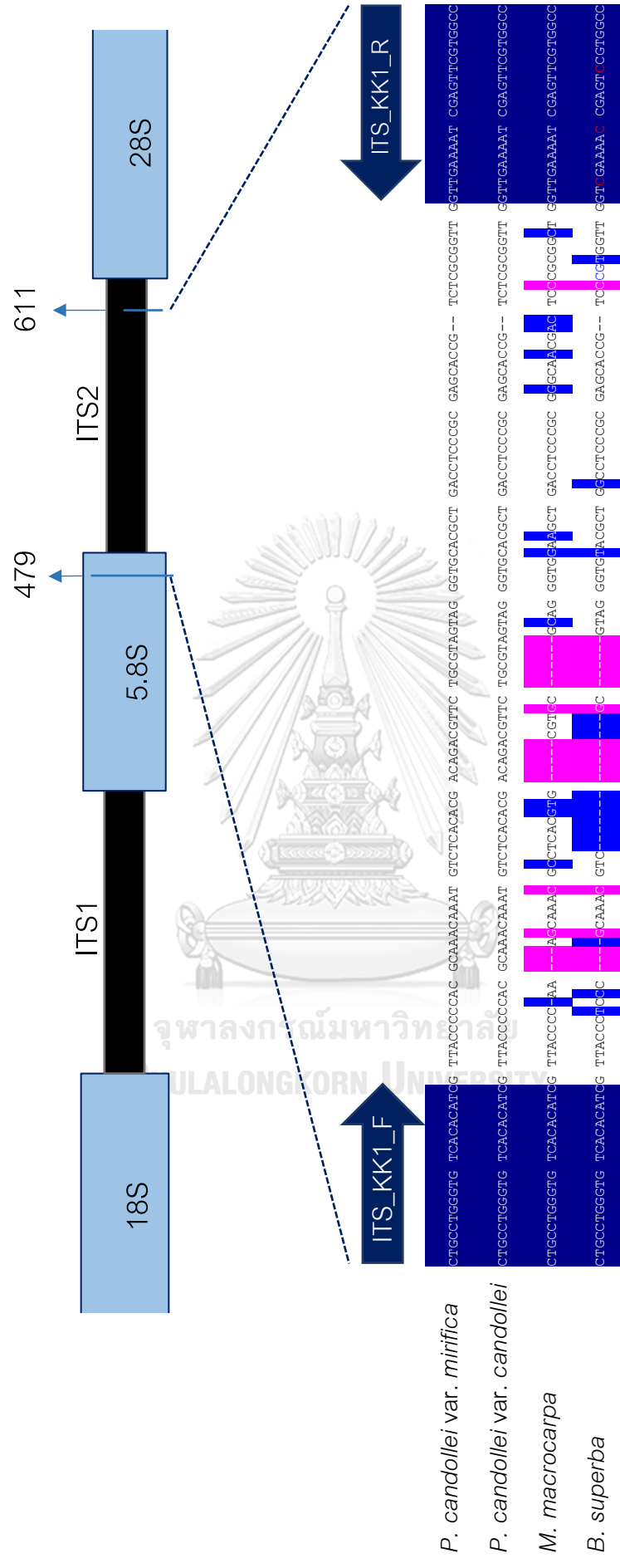


Figure 12 The schematic diagram of the amplification loci and primer pair and their polymorphisms KKmatK1 (A) ITS_KK1 (B) for real-time

PCR

Table 9 The differences in polymorphism of three Kwao Khrueta species revealed by PCR amplification using KK_matK1 primer set

Position no.	405	412	415	417	433	456
Kwao Khrueta species						
<i>P. candollei</i> var. <i>mirifica</i>	C	A	A	A	G	T
<i>P. candollei</i> var. <i>candollei</i>	C	A	A	A	G	T
<i>M. macrocarpa</i>	T	C	T	T	G	C
<i>B. superba</i>	C	A	T	T	A	T

Table 10 The differences in polymorphism of three Kwao Khrueta species revealed by PCR amplification using KK_matK2 primer set

Position no.	456
Kwao Khrueta species	
<i>P. candollei</i> var. <i>mirifica</i>	C
<i>P. candollei</i> var. <i>candollei</i>	C
<i>M. macrocarpa</i>	T
<i>B. superba</i>	C

Table 11 The differences in polymorphism of three Kwao Khruua species revealed by PCR amplification using KK_matK3 primer set

Position no.	583	608	623	624	626	634	635	636	637	638	639	654
Kwao Khruua species												
<i>P. candollei</i> var. <i>mirifica</i>	G	T	C	T	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	C
<i>P. candollei</i> var. <i>candollei</i>	G	T	C	T	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	C
<i>M. macrocarpa</i>	C	T	A	G	G	-	-	-	-	-	-	T
<i>B. superba</i>	G	G	C	T	A	T	C	T	T	A	T	C

Table 12 The differences in polymorphism of three Kwao Khrueta species revealed by PCR amplification using ITS_KK1 primer set

Position no.	506	507	508	510	511	512	513	514	519	521	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535
Kwao Khrueta species	C	C	A	G	C	A	A	A	T	T	T	C	A	C	A	C	G	T	G	C	G	T	A
<i>P. candollei</i> var. <i>mirifica</i>	C	C	A	G	C	A	A	A	T	T	T	C	A	C	A	C	G	T	G	C	G	T	A
<i>P. candollei</i> var. <i>candollei</i>	C	C	A	G	C	A	A	A	T	T	T	C	A	C	A	C	G	T	G	C	G	T	A
<i>M. macrocarpa</i>	C	-	A	-	-	-	A	G	C	C	T	C	A	C	G	T	G	-	-	-	-	-	C
<i>B. superba</i>	T	C	C	-	-	-	G	G	C	T	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Position no.	536	537	538	540	541	542	543	544	545	547	554	556	561	571	575	578	579	582	585	588	593	599	605
Kwao Khrueta species	C	G	T	T	G	C	G	T	A	T	C	C	A	A	C	-	-	T	C	T	T	T	T
<i>P. candollei</i> var. <i>mirifica</i>	C	G	T	T	G	C	G	T	A	T	C	C	A	A	C	-	-	T	C	T	T	T	T
<i>P. candollei</i> var. <i>candollei</i>	C	G	T	T	G	C	G	T	A	T	C	C	A	A	C	-	-	T	C	T	T	T	T
<i>M. macrocarpa</i>	G	T	G	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	G	A	A	G	A	A	C	C	C	C	T	T	T
<i>B. superba</i>	-	-	G	-	-	-	-	-	-	T	T	C	G	A	C	-	-	C	T	T	C	C	C

The result of HRM analysis was shown in the melting curve patterns. Therefore, the use of *KKmatK1* primer set was able to exclusively differentiate red Kwao Khrueta out from black and white Kwao Khrueta (Figure 13) and the use of *KKmatK2* primer set was able to exclusively differentiate black Kwao Khrueta out from white and red Kwao Khrueta (Figure 14). However, *KKmatK3* primer set (Figure 15) and *ITS_KK1* primer set (Figure 16) was able to differentiate all three Kwao Khrueta plant in a single analysis.



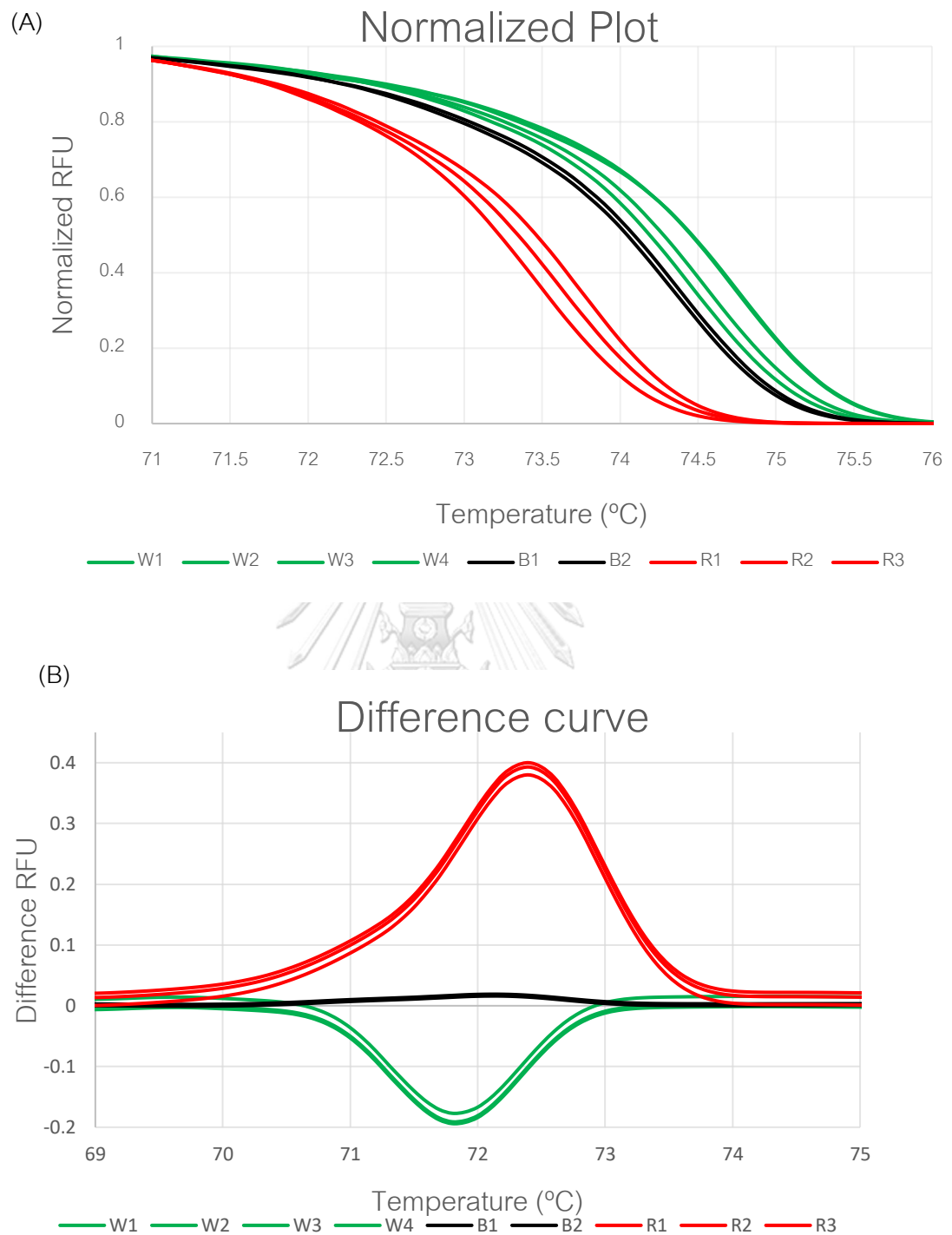


Figure 13 DNA barcoding coupled with HRM analysis of KKmatK1 primer set to differentiate two varieties of white (green line), red Kwao Khrua (red line) and black Kwao Khrua (black line), shown in terms of normalized plot (A) and difference plot (B)

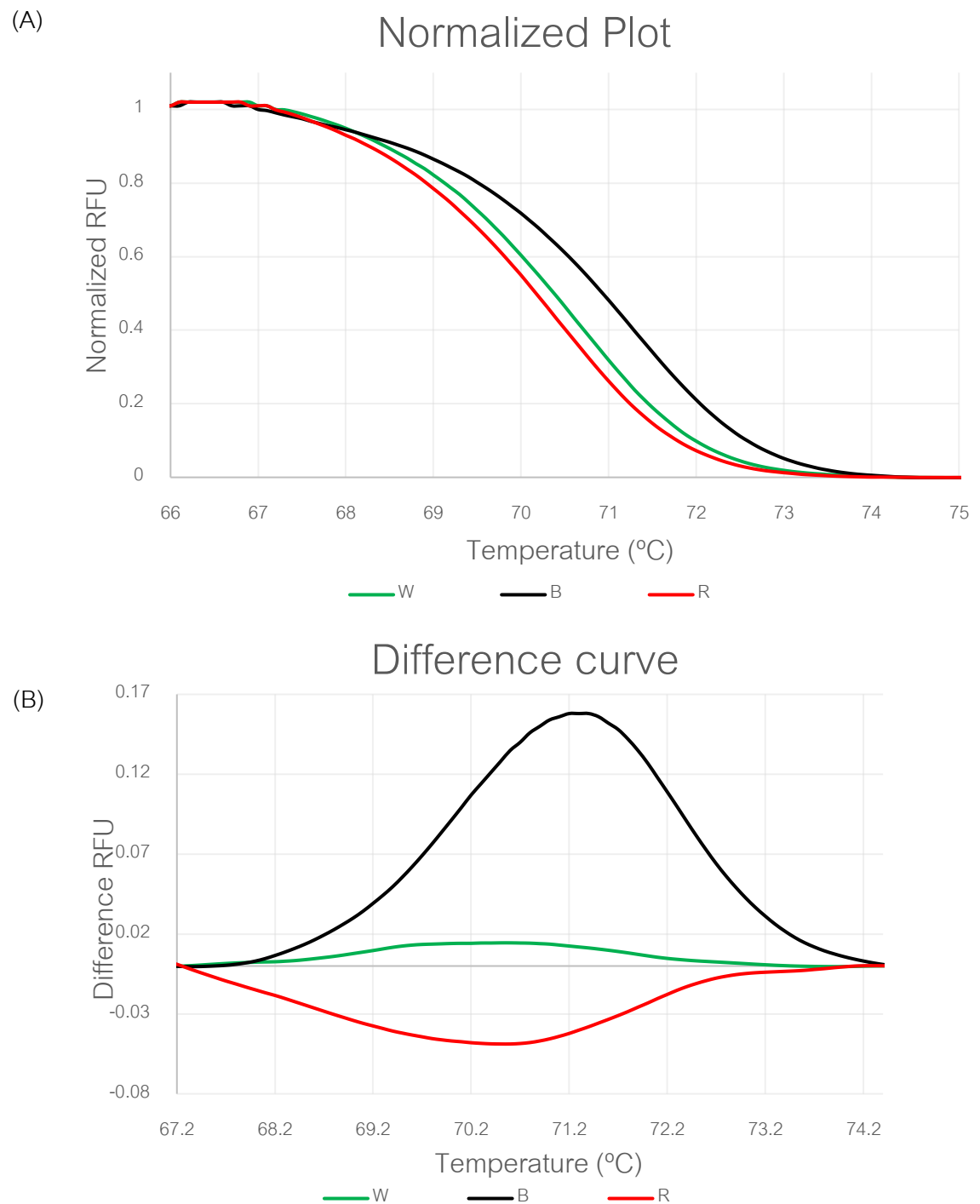


Figure 14 DNA barcoding coupled with HRM analysis of KKmatK2 primer set to differentiate two varieties of white (green line), red Kwao Khrua (red line) and black Kwao Khrua (black line), shown in terms of normalized plot (A) and difference plot (B)

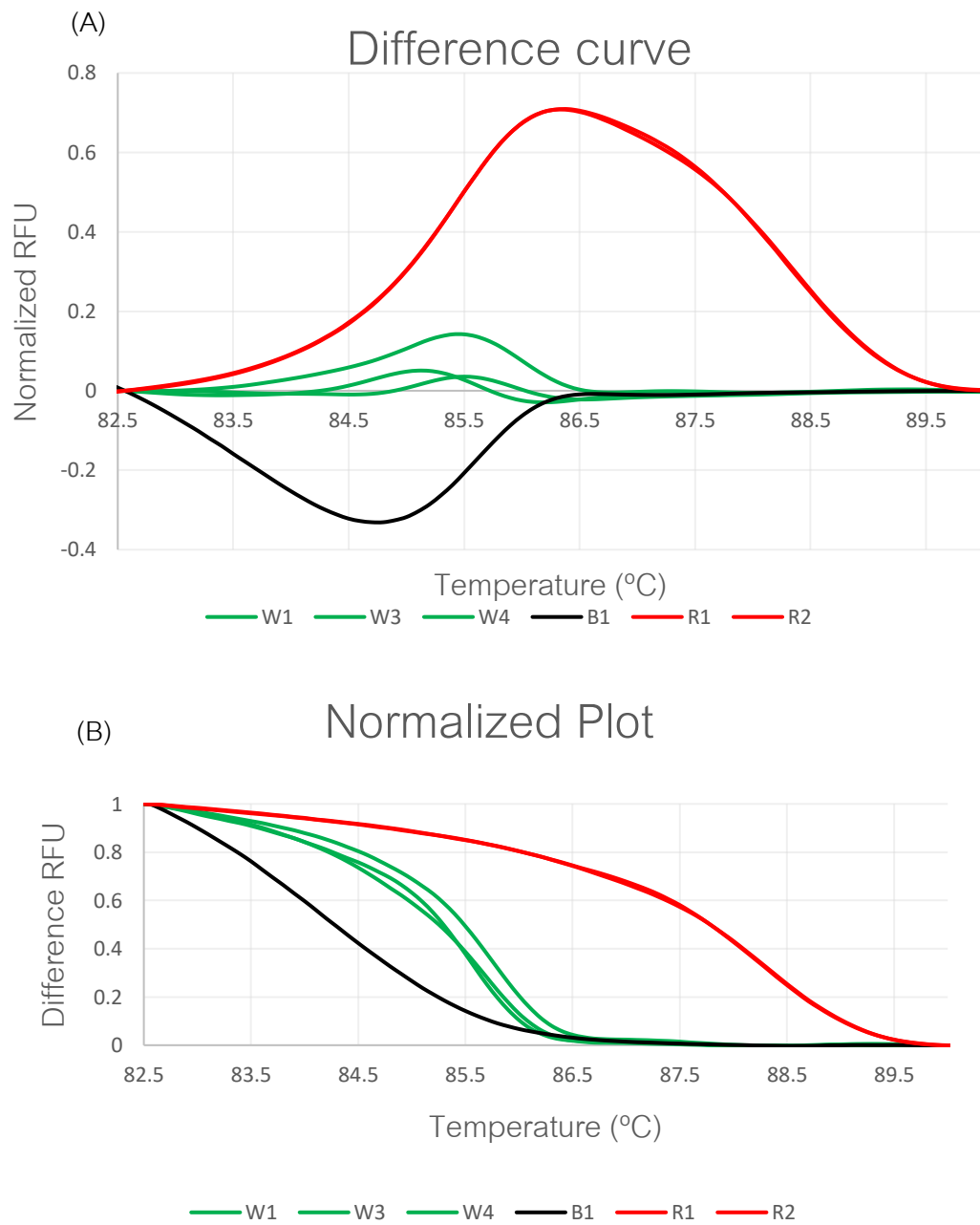


Figure 15 DNA barcoding coupled with HRM analysis of KKmatK3 primer set to differentiate two varieties of white (green line), red Kwao Khruua (red line) and black Kwao Khruua (black line), shown in terms of normalized plot (A) and difference plot (B)

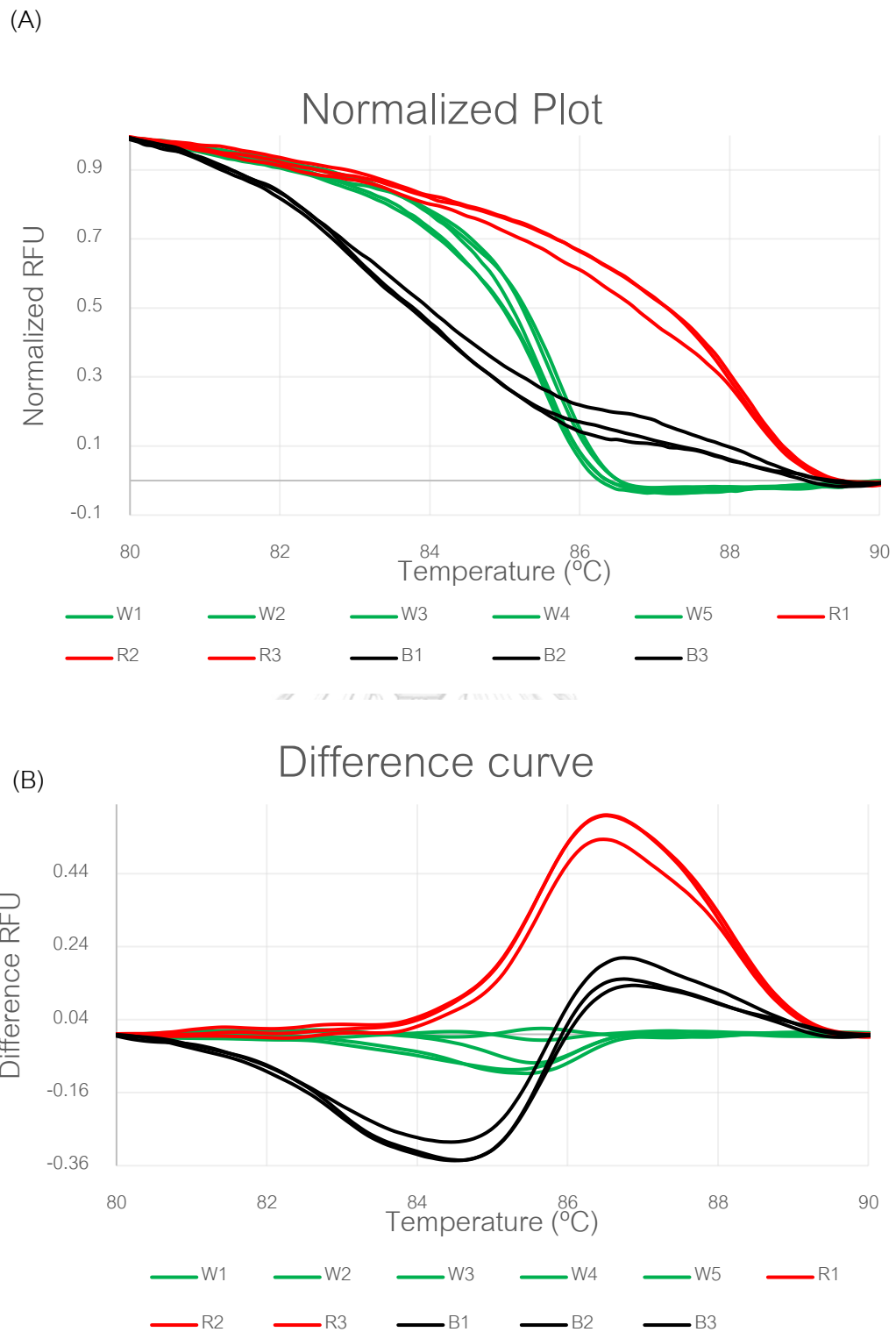


Figure 16 DNA barcoding coupled with HRM analysis of ITS_KK1 primer set to differentiate two varieties of white (green line), red Kwao Khrueta (red line) and black Kwao Khrueta (black line), shown in terms of normalized plot (A) and difference plot (B)

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSIONS

There has been an extensive confusion in the use of herbs with similar common names including Kwao Khrua. In Thailand, three different Kwao Khrua species have been used in general health promotion and traditional medicine. All of the three species share similar morphology since they are members of the same family. Having both shared vernacular names and some similar characteristics makes it simply misidentify these three Kwao Khrua species. Adverse reactions from the use of misidentified Kwao Khrua have possibly occurred as each Kwao Khrua plant accumulates different chemicals with diverse biological properties. Accordingly, the use of correct herbs at the first step for suitable therapeutic effects with minimal toxicity should be of concern.

Several techniques and methods including plant taxonomy, microscopy, chemical and DNA examination, have been used to help differentiate plant species. In this study, the generation of DNA core barcodes of these three plants was performed. To simplify the differential analysis of the three plants, high resolution melting (HRM) analysis of specific DNA sequences was also carried out. In conclusion, a DNA barcode coupled with HRM (Bar-HRM) analysis for differentiation of the three Kwao Khrua plants was accomplished. Herbal products containing Kwao Khrua as an ingredient were investigated by Bar-HRM analysis and found that some products were questioned to be contained with the incorrect species of Kwao Khrua or other Kwao Khrua contamination.

5.1 The benefit using DNA technique for species differentiate

In the early stages of plant identification analysis, several methods were used to make it possible to differentiate plants. Morphological and microscopic analyses were the two uncomplicated techniques that required particular expertise. Chemical analysis was considered as an approach to help identify plant species. Although specific

chemicals were marked to be representative compounds for identifying species, they were possibly accumulated in another species resulting in misinterpretation.

In the recent decade, the DNA technique was accepted for differentiating the species due to the characteristics of the DNA including unique sequence information of individual species and its stability in various conditions. DNA analysis as one of the basic techniques is simple and applied for investigating all living organisms. Thus, this technique is generally accessed and adapted to detect the unknown plant species (Butler, 2017). The potentiality to obtain an accurate, precise, sensitive and swift DNA analysis is elevated since high technology has been constantly developed. The real-time PCR is one of the developed technologies that allow the investigation of the gene or DNA of interest with high sensitivity and accuracy. It is reported that a small amount of DNA encoding an allergen Lup a 4 at picogram level was detected by the real-time PCR. In fact, the species (Villa, Costa, Gondar, Oliveira, & Mafra, 2018).

5.2 Core DNA barcoding analysis of the three Kwao Khrueta herbs

The Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL) is an international initiative devoted to developing DNA barcoding as a global standard for the identification of biological species. CBOL has suggested that using multi-loci of DNA sequences from various compartments, in the case of plants using nuclear and mitochondrial DNA, would make DNA barcoding more reliable. As a promising technique for plant identification, DNA barcoding for the three Kwao Khrueta herbs was performed. In this study, three DNA regions from chloroplast including *matK*, *rbcL* and *psbA-trnH* transgenic spacer and one nuclear DNA region, ITS, were found to be suitable for creating DNA barcodes of the three Kwao Khrueta herbs as previously recommended (Little, 2014).

Primer sets for DNA barcodes in this study were taken from other research groups and redesigned. This study has shown the completion of DNA barcodes from the four regions of the three Kwao Khrueta herbs that have never been reported. All obtained sequence information has been placed and available in the DNA database

(NCBI) that is possibly useful for other researchers. By considering these DNA sequences in detail, it was noteworthy that certain regions of DNA barcodes of the three Kwao Khrueta plants exhibited nucleotide signatures which were appropriate for further HRM analysis experiments.

5.3 Bar-HRM analysis for differentiation of the Kwao Khrueta herbal products

Several techniques have been used to analyze PCR amplicons. For example, an analysis of restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) has been used to preliminarily examine the validation of the PCR products prior to DNA sequencing. RFLP is one of the techniques used to identify plant species because it can differentiate PCR products generated from DNA regions of interest of each plant. All three Kwao Khrueta plants were previously investigated by PCR-RFLP; however, the RFLP technique was a multi-step and laborious technique (Wiriyakarun et al., 2013). There was another report on the differentiation of the three Kwao Khrueta species by multiplex PCR in admixture (Wiriyakarun, Zhu, Komatsu, & Sukrong, 2014). The result showed that multiplex PCR was effective to differentiate the three Kwao Khrueta plants with species-specific probes labeled with different fluorescent dyes.

The DNA strands are comprised of nucleic acids that are connected and stranded in pairs. This characteristic of DNA allows an investigation of the melting temperature at which the interconnecting bonds between two strands of the DNA are cleaved. Since the PCR amplicons from three different Kwao Khrueta plants exhibited their nucleotide signatures in the DNA barcodes, an analysis of the melting temperature was selected as an additional detection technique with an improvement of sensitivity, rapidity, accuracy and simplicity.

In this study, the partial sequences of *matK* and ITS were considered as selected areas for Bar-HRM analysis. From the results, two primer sets, KK*matK*1 and KK*matK*2, were not able to differentiate all three Kwao Khrueta plants at once. The other two sets of primers, KK*matK*3 and ITS_KK1, were effectively discriminate all three Kwao Khrueta in a single experiment. In addition to fresh herbs, herbal products containing

Kwao Khrueta were examined by the Bar-HRM technique. Most of the tested herbal products were found to contain correct Kwao Khrueta herb as indicated on the label. One herbal product, the herbal product with white Kwao Khrueta No.6 (WC6), appeared to be a discrepancy from others. All of the primer sets used to test WC6 showed that the sample was likely to be contaminated with black Pueraria (Figure 5). This finding indicated that there was a possibility of an un- or intentional misidentification of Kwao Khrueta plants. As Kwao Khrueta herbs have been produced as a wide variety of herbal products, the agency in charge of consumer health; for example, FDA needs to help monitor the authenticity of the product for the efficacy and safety of consumers. The Bar-HRM analysis is highly recommended for an inspection of Kwao Khrueta herbal products during the manufacturing or to monitor products in the market.

5.4 Advance technique for differentiation the ingredient of Kwao Khrueta herbal products

Currently, there has continuously been the development of advanced technology in DNA analyses; for example, Next-generation sequencing (NGS). Most highly developed DNA analysis techniques allow for high throughput experiments in order to obtain readings from more sequences or more samples or very complex samples. The use of techniques for plant differentiation depends on the potentiality of an individual laboratory. This study showed that although the Bar-HRM analysis was not the most advanced technology, it was a sensitive, rapid and applicable technique for identifying the three Kwao Khrueta plants in Thailand.

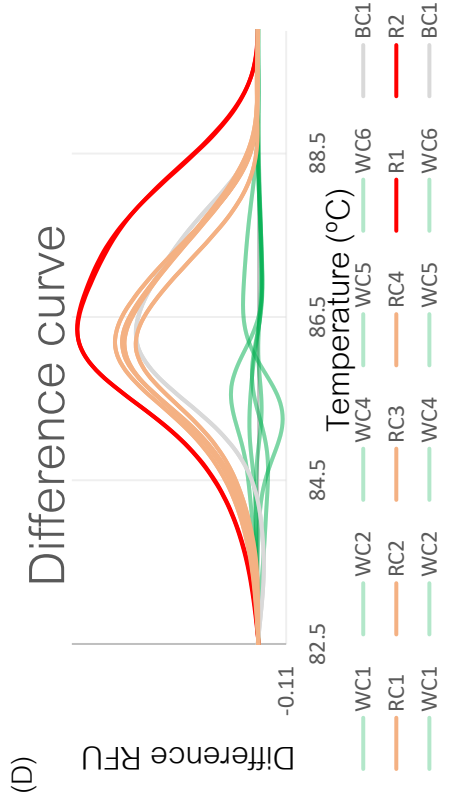
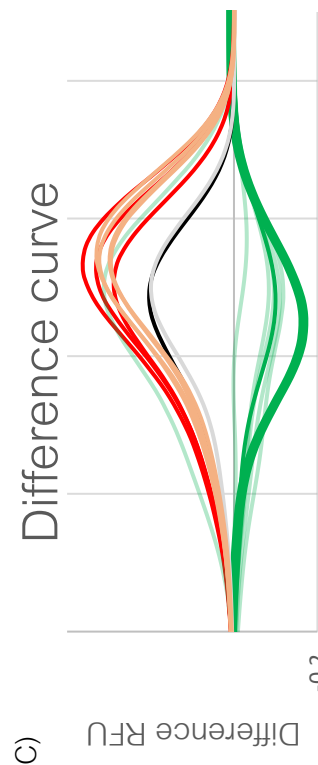
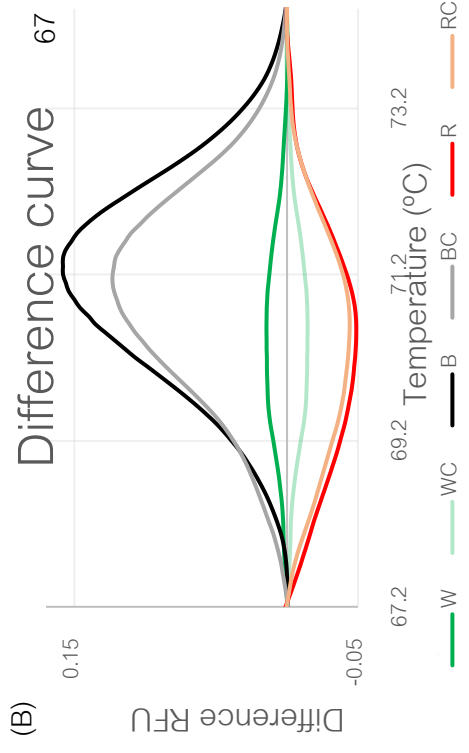
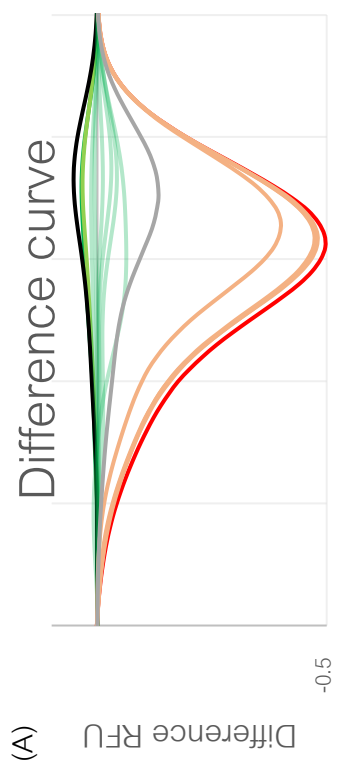


Figure 17 Merge of authentic and herbal product of DNA barcoding coupled with HRM analysis by KKmatK1 (A), KKmatK2 (B), KKmatK3 (C) and ITS_KK1 (D) primer set to differentiate two varieties of white (green line), red Kwao Khrua (red line) and black Kwao Khrua (black line), shown in terms of difference plot

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSIONS

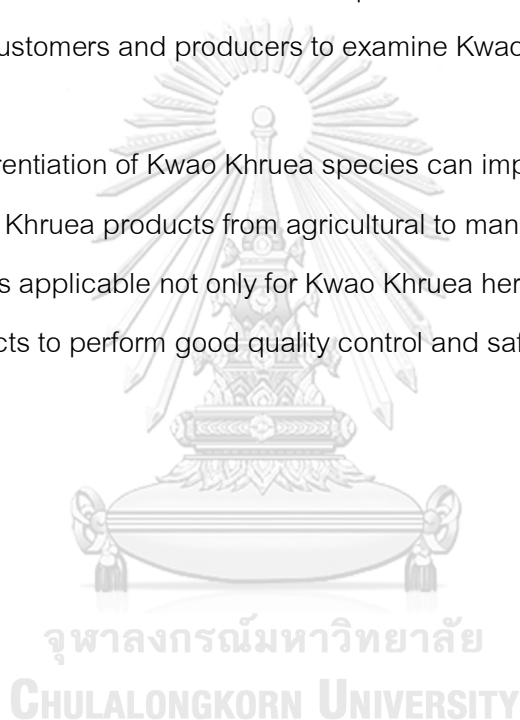
Kwao Khrueta herbs are one of the most useful herbal products, there are three species of Kwao Khrueta that Thai medical used, white Kwao Khrueta (*P. candollei*), black Kwao Khrueta (*M. macrocarpa*) and red Kwao Khrueta (*B. superba*). Different species of Kwao Khrueta have different medical properties. The right use would bring the most benefit and the right result that suits customers' needs. Wrong use brings the wrong result and may provide other side effects to the customer. To make the confidence for the customer, using DNA technology to detect individual species is offered as promising method.

In this study, we investigate the DNA sequence of four DNA core barcode area, *matK*, *rbcL*, *psbA-trnH* transgenic spacer and ITS, for differentiation of plants samples and deposit the sequences data to Genbank already. The four areas of DNA barcode of three Kwao Khrueta species were generated and analyzed by finding the nucleotide signature that is the uniqueness of individual Kwao Khrueta species then applied with HRM analysis technique to differentiate both Kwao Khrueta fresh herb and herbal products. Bar-HRM was the technique that differentiates the species by melting temperature of the different ratio of nucleotide in the sequences for rapid differentiation. DNA of *matK* and ITS were selected to represent chloroplast DNA and nuclear DNA respectively. KK*matK*1 primer set can differentiate red Kwao Khrueta out of white and black Kwao Khrueta. KK*matK*2 primer set can differentiate black Kwao Khrueta out of white and red Kwao Khrueta. KK*matK*3 primer set can differentiate all three species of Kwao Khrueta individually. ITS_KK1 primer set can differentiate all three species of Kwao Khrueta individually. However, when used KK*matK*3 primer set detected Kwao Khrueta product WC6 it gives the confusing result that wasn't consistent with other results from other primer sets. Otherwise, using DNA barcoding was successfully differentiate among the three species of Kwao Khrueta plants. This technique can be applied to

identify the other crude drug in the market to be confirmed to the customer that all Kwao Khrueta products are the right species as its labeling.

For further study, collecting more species in the same genus of each Kwao Khrueta plant is recommended to test the specificity of the Bar-HRM technique. The greater sample numbers permit the more reliability of using this technique. To transform this technique into a user-friendly application, a development of a test kit set for identifying Kwao khrueta species is proposed. The idea of the kit set based on the Bar-HRM technique is to include the Kwao Khrueta species. This technique would be of benefit for both customers and producers to examine Kwao Khrueta raw materials or herbal products.

Rapid differentiation of Kwao Khrueta species can improve and control the quality of the Kwao Khrueta products from agricultural to manufacturing purposes. This Bar-HRM analysis is applicable not only for Kwao Khrueta herbal products but also for other herbal products to perform good quality control and safety surveillance for consumers.





APPENDIX

จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย
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SEQUENCE ALIGNMENTS OF KWAO KHRUEA PLANTS



จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย
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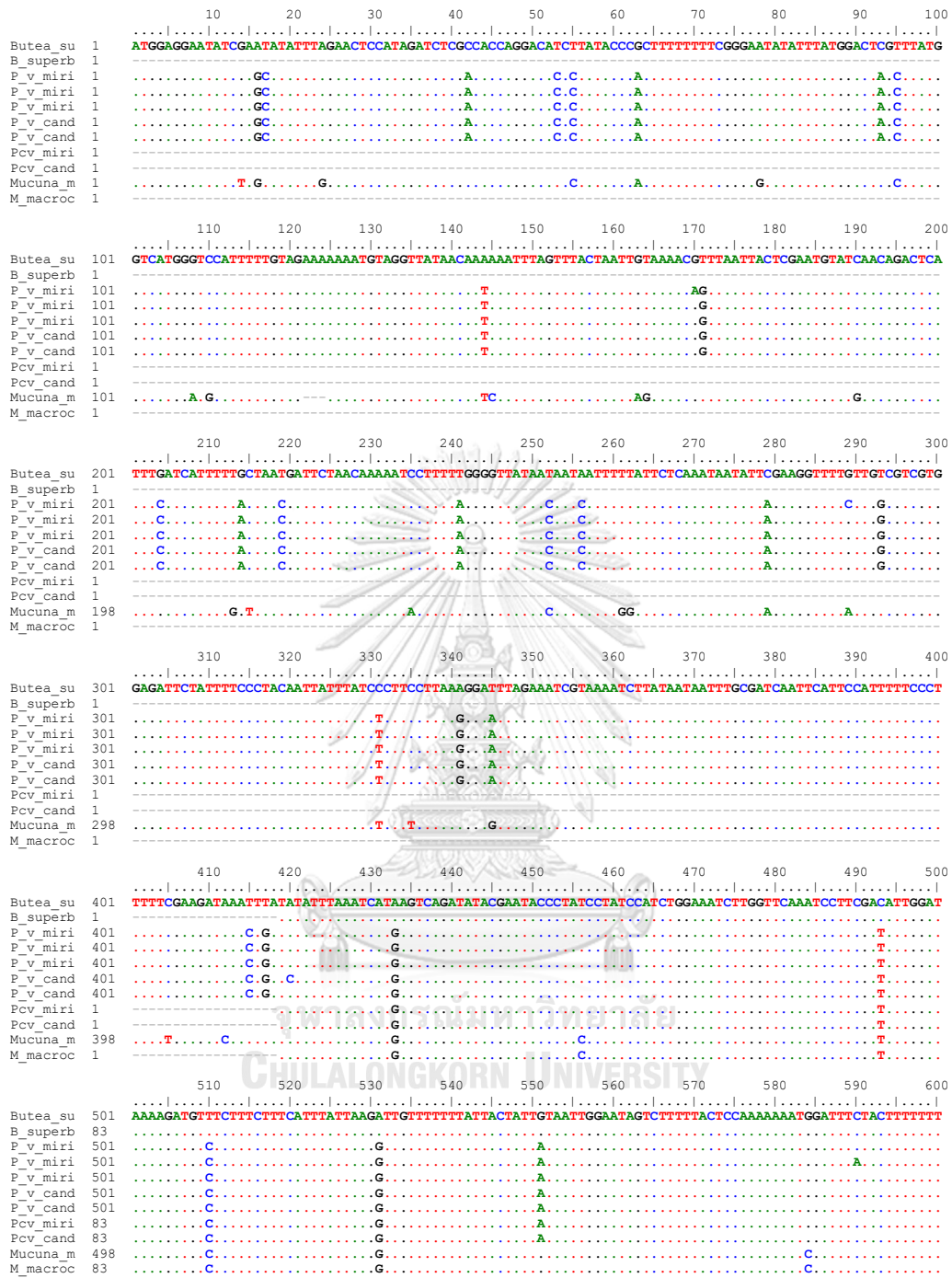


Figure S1 Sequence alignment of *matK* of Kwao Khrua plants. The number above the alignment represents the base numbers of sequence alignments. “.” represents nucleotide base that is identical to the nucleotide in the first-row. “-” represents the gap

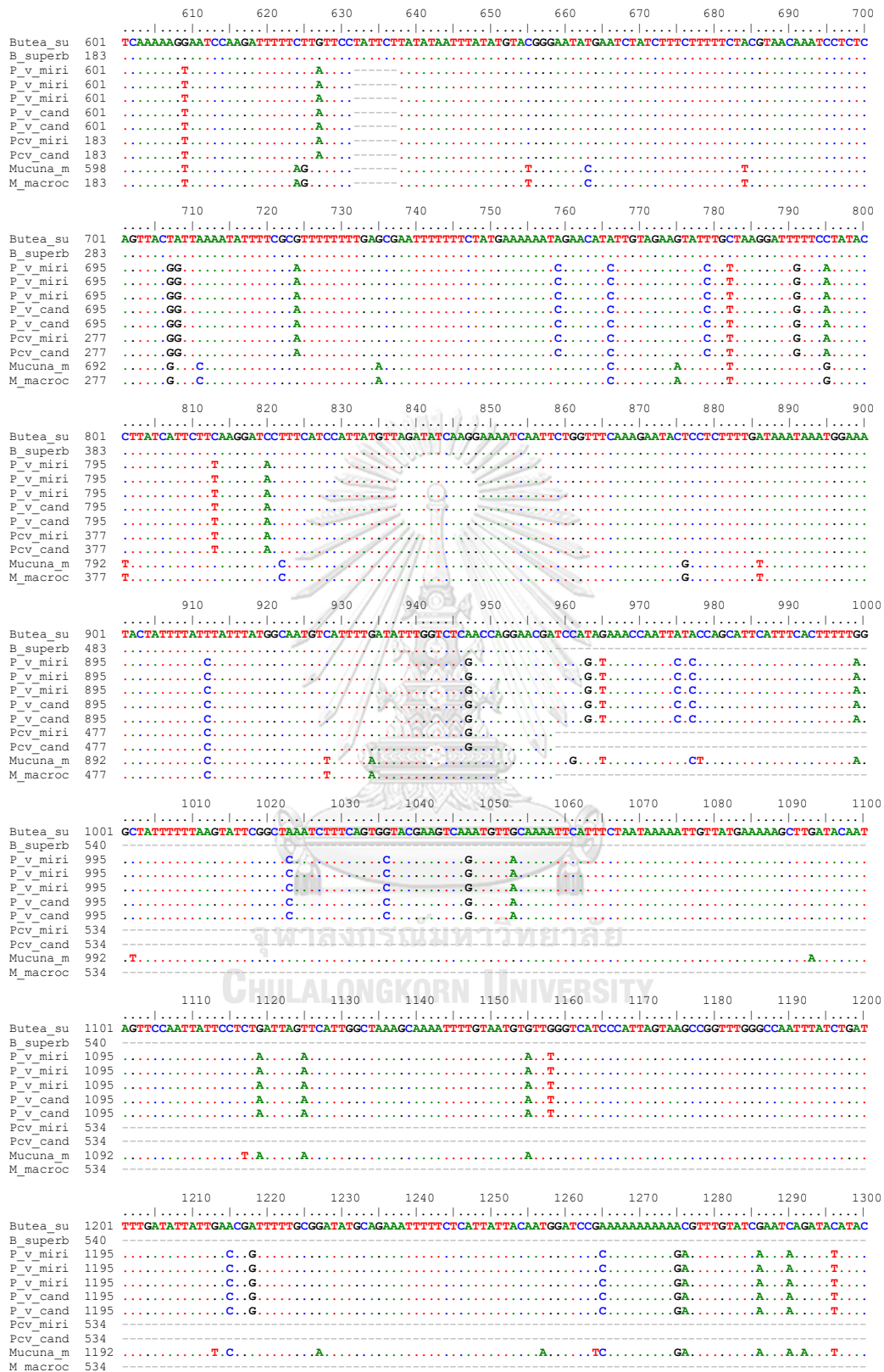


Figure S1 Continued

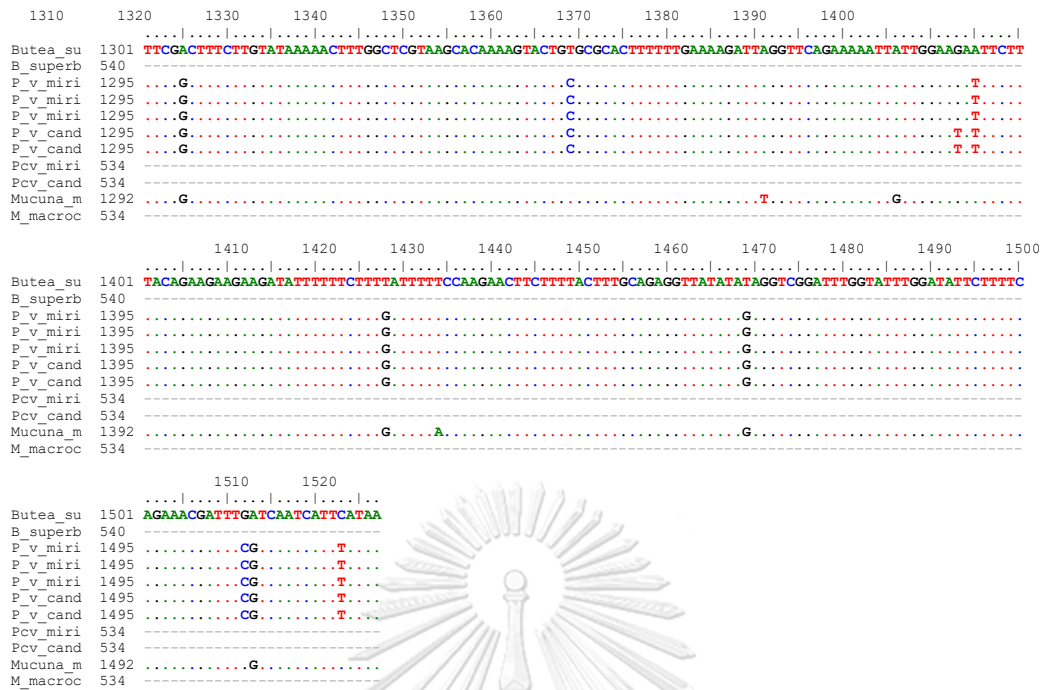
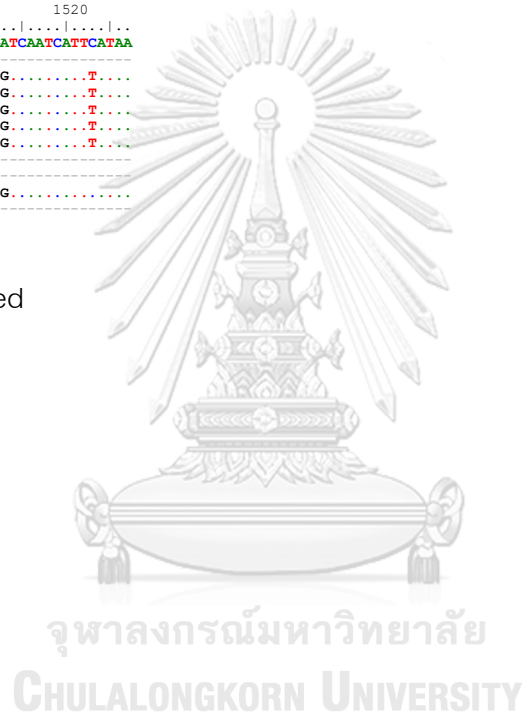


Figure S1 Continued



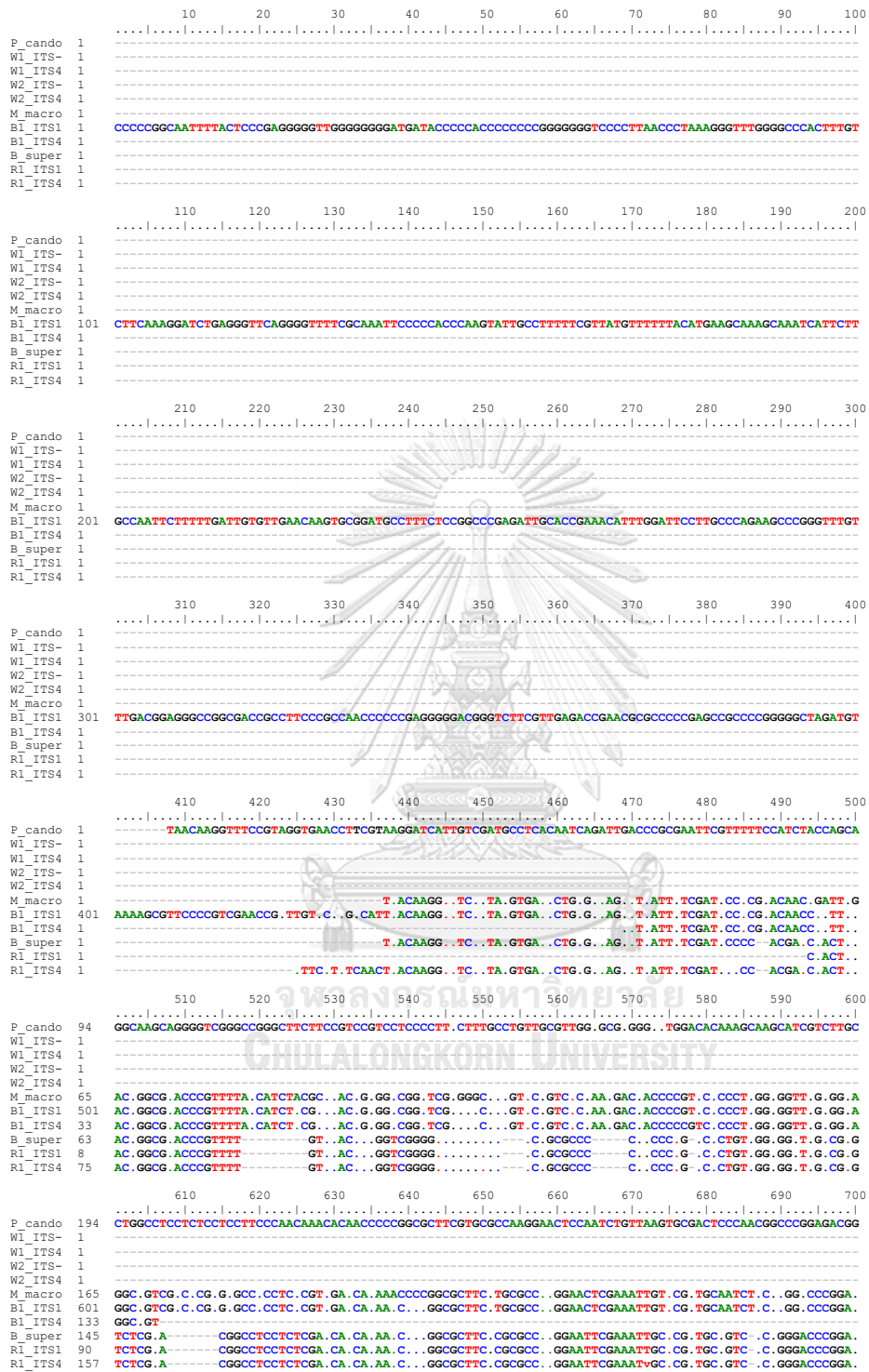


Figure S2 Partial sequence alignment of ITS of Kwao Khrua plants. The number above the alignment represents the base numbers of sequence alignments. “.” represents nucleotide base that is identical to the nucleotide in the first-row. “-” represents the gap

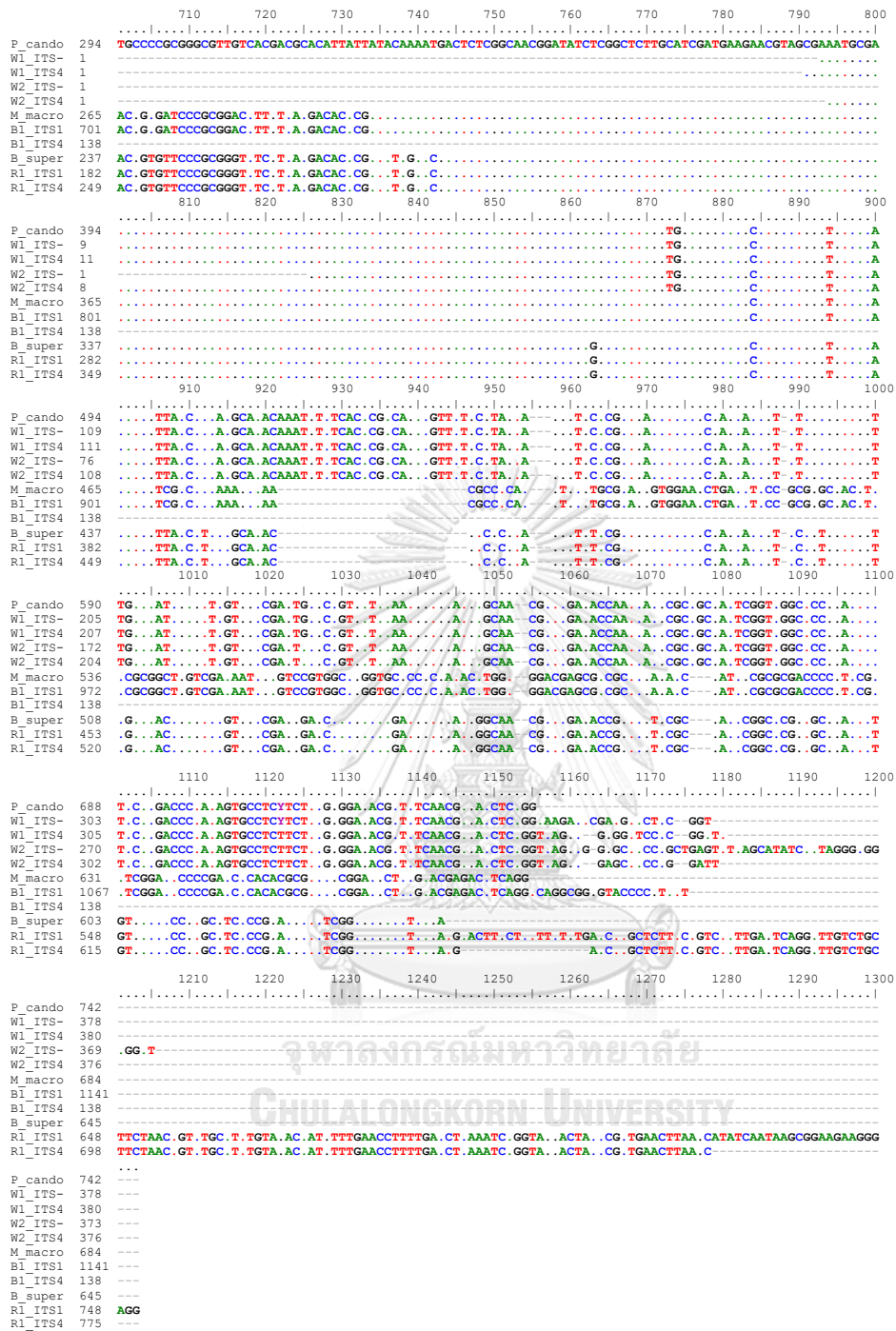


Figure S2 continued

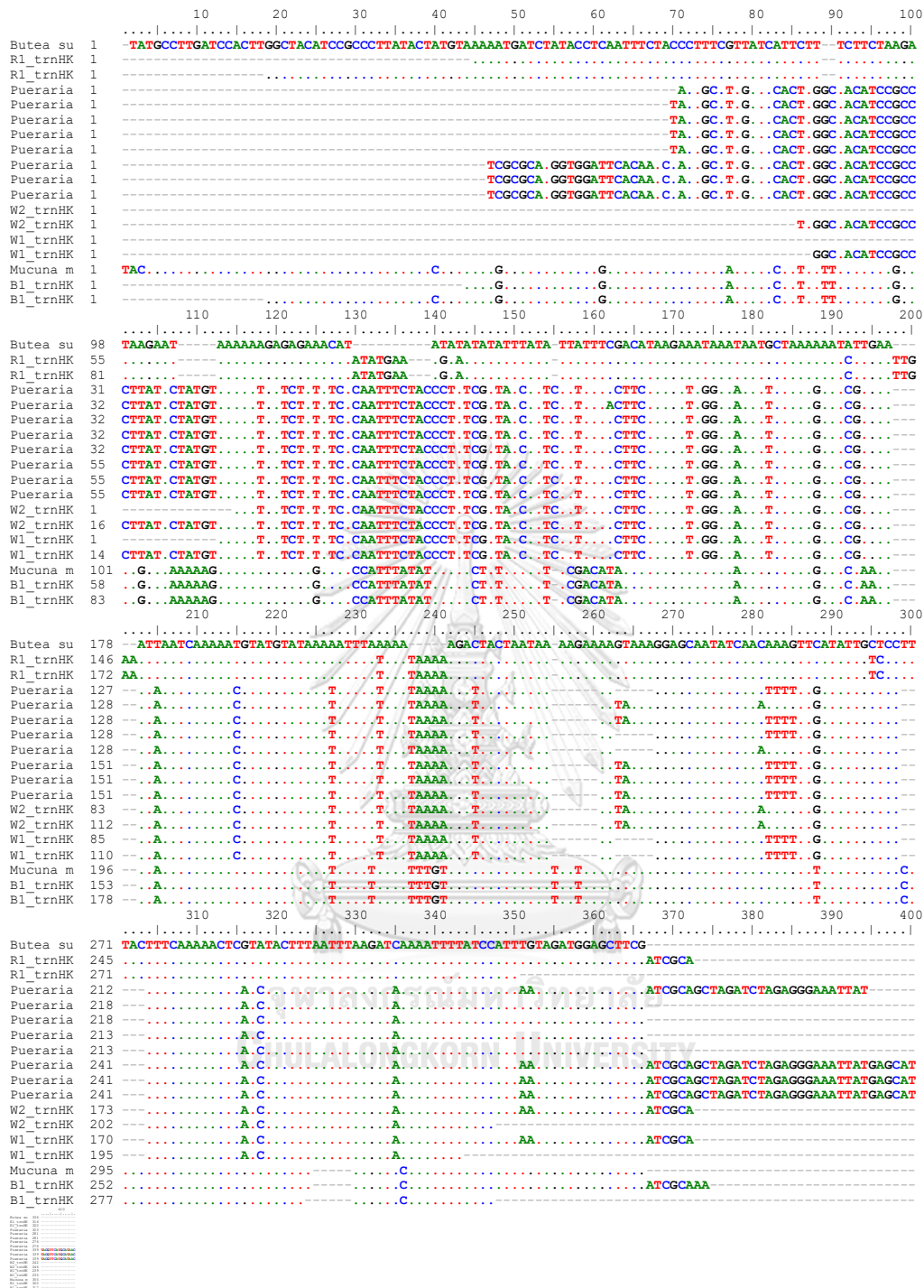


Figure S3 Partial sequence alignment of *psbA-trnH* intergenic spacer of Kwao Khrueta plants. The number above the alignment represents the base numbers of sequence alignments. "." represents nucleotide base that is identical to the nucleotide in the first-row. "-" represents the gap

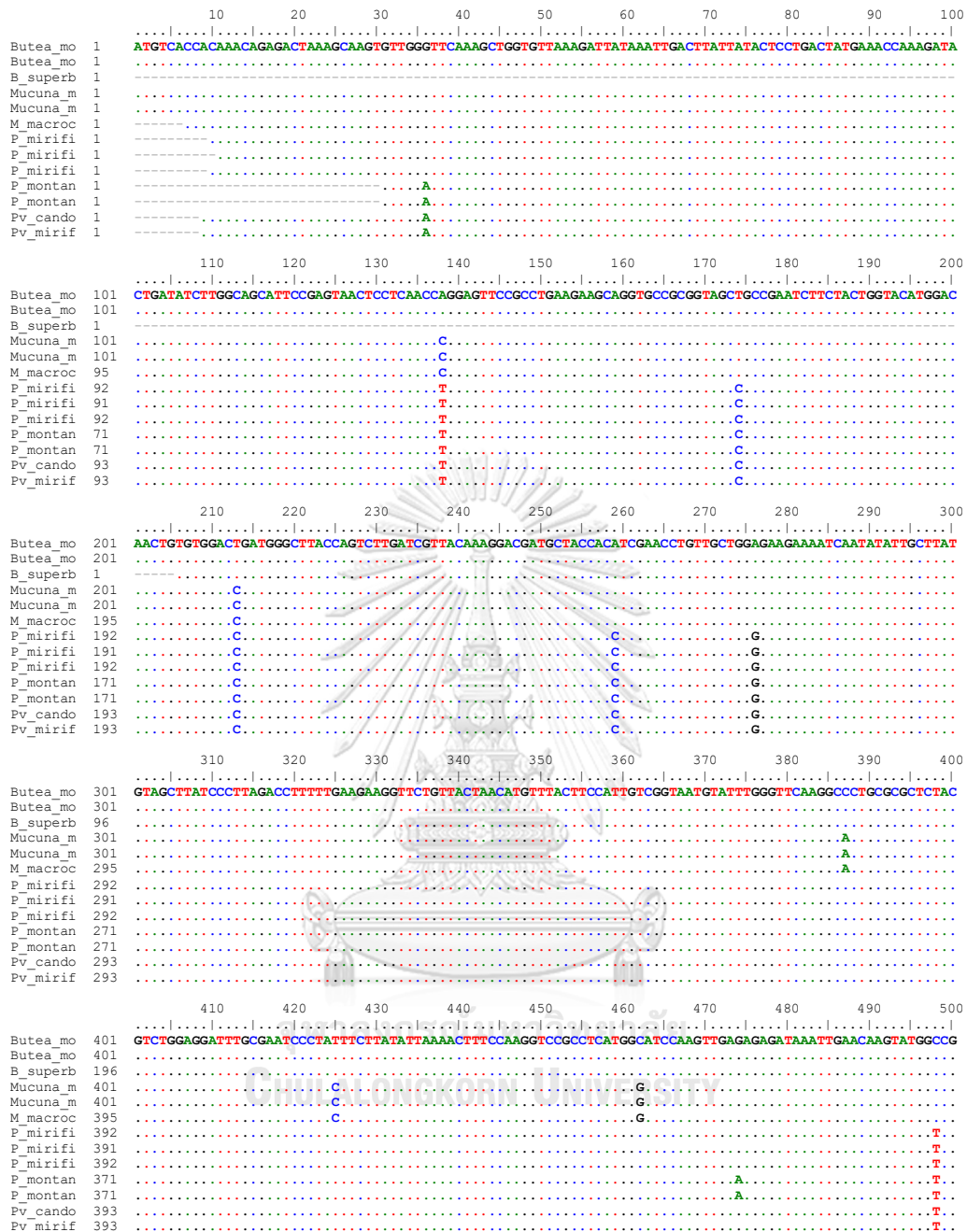


Figure S4 Partial sequence alignment of *rbcL* of Kwao Khrua plants. The number above the alignment represents the base numbers of sequence alignments. “.” represents nucleotide base that is identical to the nucleotide in the first-row. “-” represents the gap

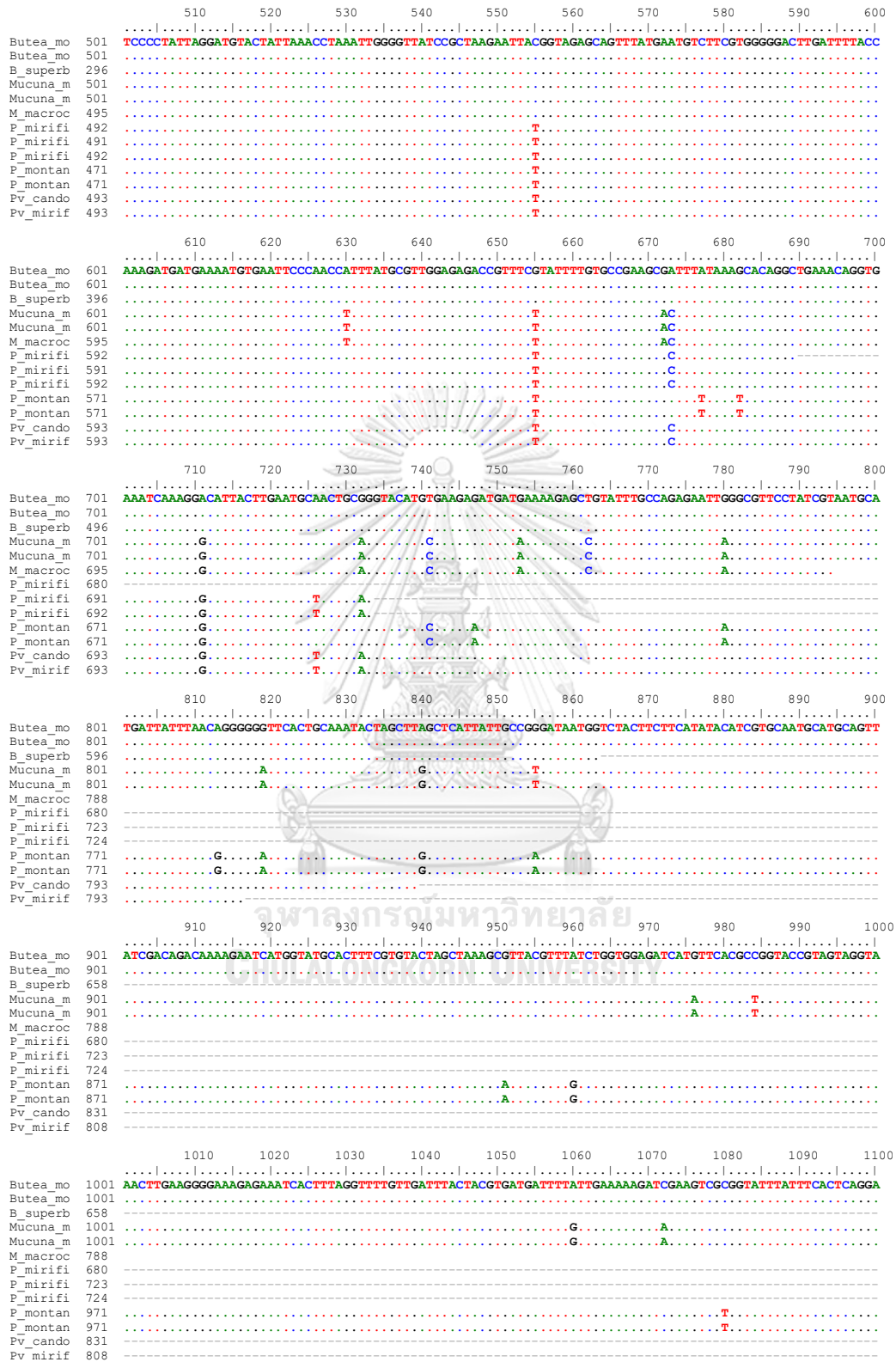


Figure S4 continued

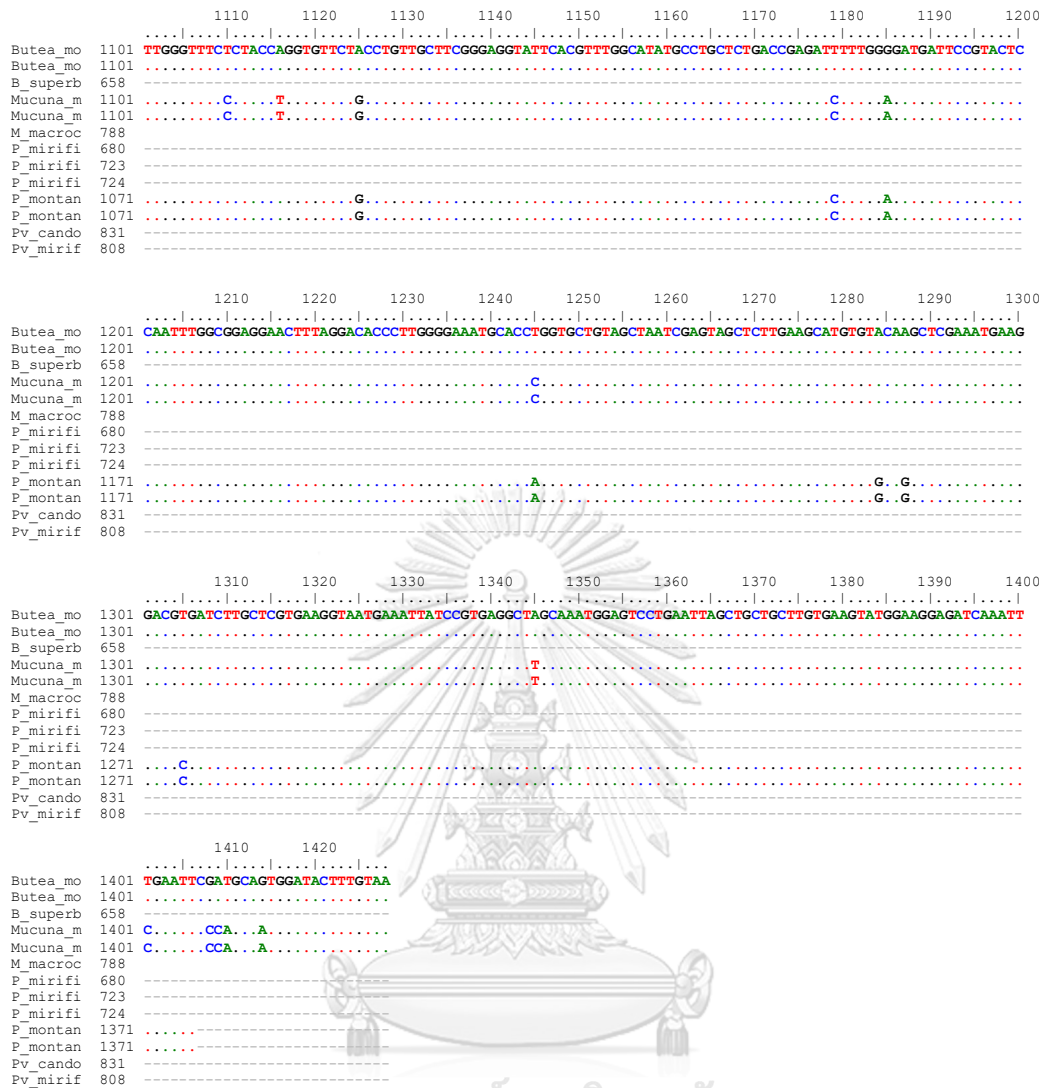


Figure S4 continued

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