

# Molecular Characterization of *Anguilla* from Cibereum and Sapuregel Rivers Segara Anakan Watersheds Cilacap, Central Java

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ABSTRACT. The taxonomic status of Anguilla species' in river watershed that empties into Segara Anakan Cilacap is uncertain, thereby making it difficult for further studies to be carried out to determine its genetic in that area. Therefore, this study evaluates Anguilla's taxonomic status and population genetic in Cibeureum and Sapuregel River watersheds. Data were obtained from molecular characterization study using cytochrome c oxidase 1, with fourteen Anguilla specimens collected from two sequenced watersheds. Taxonomic status was determined based on homology and divergence values and monophyly of the samples to the reference species. Meanwhile, genetic divergences among samples to the reference species were calculated based on the Juke-Cantor substitution model in DnaSP6. A homology test was performed using a basic local alignment search tool, with monophyly inferred from the cladogram, which was developed using neighbor-joining and maximum likelihood algorithms in MEGAX with 1000 pseudoreplicates and out-group comparison. Furthermore, population genetic was analyzed through polymorphism, haplotype, nucleotide diversity within the population, divergence, and genetic differences. All calculations conducted in Arlequin 3.5 had Anguilla samples comprising of high (99.23% to 99.84%) to low genetic divergences (0.224% to 1.127%). The result shows that cladogram with all Anguilla samples formed a monophyletic clade with A. bicolor, separated from their taxa. Furthermore, Anguilla samples from both watersheds have low genetic polymorphisms with medium to high haplotype and nucleotide diversity. The population's comparison proved that both populations have low genetic divergence, and no genetic difference based on variance analysis (p=0761). Therefore, Anguilla resources in river watersheds that empty into Segara Anakan are a single genetic conservation unit.

Keywords: diversity; eel; genetic; population; Segara Anakan

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

An eel is a snake-like fish with a slender, elongated body and poorly developed fins, proverbial for its slipperiness, it belongs to the genus Anguilla, and locally known as ikan sidat in Indonesian. It is a catadromous fish, which resides in fresh water and goes to the ocean to spawn (Aoyama, 2009). Anguilla spp. are economically valuable commodities which are frequently exported to Japan. The market demands, particularly for A. bicolor are met based on culture. Its cultivation is primarily supported by naturally collecting Leptocephalus larvae or glass eels (Tanaka et al., 2014), although it leads to overexploitation when excessively carried out (Rachmawati & Susilo, 2011). In addition, it is also proven by the alteration of its conservation status from Least Concern to Nearly Threatened in 2010, 2017, and 2020 respectively, as reported by the IUCN (Jacoby *et al.*, 2014; Pike *et al.*, 2020). According to Jacoby & Gollock (2014), sequentially, the conservation status of *A. marmorata* and *A. nebulosa* is Least Concern, and Not Evaluated as stated in the 2013 version of IUCN Red List.

These alterations were based on several reasons, including the natural harvesting of *A*. *bicolor* (Jacoby *et al.*, 2014). Therefore, conservation plans and actions are urgently needed to ensure its sustainability. Jacoby *et al.* (2014), reported that it is crucial to carry out taxonomic research on the conversion of *A*. *bicolor*. This is due to the fact that useful information is only obtained when the taxonomic status is valid (Nuryanto *et al.*, 2019).

Globally, a total of 18 *Anguilla* species has been identified (Aoyama, 2009). In Indonesia waters, approximately five to seven species and subspecies were discovered (Wouthuyzen *et al.*, 2009). However, some other studies reported that nine of them inhabit these waters, namely *A. celebesensis, A. marmorata, A. borneensis, A. interioris, A. obscura, A. bicolor bicolor, A. bicolor pacifica, A. nebulosa nebulosa*, and *A. megastoma* (Sugeha, 2010; Sugeha & Arai, 2010; Sugeha & Genisa, 2015).

An entirely different number was detected in the Western and Eastern Indonesia Region. According to Sugeha et al. (2008), A. nebulosa nebulosa and A. bicolor bicolor inhabit the Western waters, while A. marmorata. A. celebesensis. A. bicolor pacifica, and A. interiori are found in the Eastern part (Sugeha, 2010; Sugeha & Arai, 2010). However, a recent study carried out in the Aceh waters by Muchlisin et al. (2017) reported an additional species, namely A. bengalensis. Therefore, in total, three Anguilla species, A. bicolor, A. marmorata and A. bengalensis were discovered in the Aceh waters. Fahmi (2015), also discovered three Anguilla species, although the third one was different from that reported by Muchlisin et al., (2017). Conversely, instead of A. bengalensis, A. nebulosa was discovered.

A different number of species were also reported in the studies carried out in the Southern Areas of West and Central Java (Rachmawati & Susilo, 2011; Minegishi et al., 2012; Tanaka et al., 2014; Fahmi, 2015). Fahmi (2015) discovered three Anguilla species in Pelabuhan Ratu, A. bicolor, A. marmorata, and A. nebulosa. Furthermore, Tanaka et al. (2014) discovered only one eels species, A. bicolor. Rachmawati & Susilo (2011) and Fahmi (2015) reported that one of the species inhabit the Cilacap waters. In addition, Fahmi (2015) collected Anguilla from the same site. However, such a minimal number of sample sites is considered unreliable for scientific purposes and eel fisheries management.

Therefore, critical problems related to eel fishery management in Cilacap, such as taxonomic status and population genetics of *Anguilla* in rivers across Cilacap Regency, particularly those belonging to the Segara Anakan watersheds need to be resolved. These issues are assessed by studying molecular characterization using cytochrome c oxidase

subunit 1 (COI) gene as a marker. Although, previous studies have proven that COI gene is a reliable marker for molecular identification (Matarese et al., 2011; Hubert et al., 2012; Pereira et al., 2013; Nuryanto et al., 2017; Bhagawati *et al.*. 2020). In addition. phylogeographic research also reported a similar discovery (Song et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2014; Nuryanto et al., 2019). It was considered a reliable marker for eel's molecular characterization. Anguilla (Fahmi. 2015: Muchlisin et al., 2017).

This study aims to determine the taxonomic status and molecular characteristics of *Anguilla* specimens collected at Sapuregel and Cibeureum Rivers, as well as Segara Anakan watersheds Cilacap, Central Java.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sampling time and sites. Samples were bought in June 2020, from the first collectors residing at Kubangkangkung Hamlet, District of Kawunganten, and Pondok Lombok Hamlet, Kaliwungu Village, District of Kedungreja, Cilacap Regency (Fig. 1). The first collector from Kubangkangkung Hamlet bought it from the fishermen that captured it in Sapuregel River Watersheds. In contrast, the one from Pondok Lombok Hamlet obtained it from fishermen that caught it in Cibeureum River Watersheds. Subsequently, both sampling sites empty into the Segara Anakan watersheds.

Genomic DNA isolation, marker amplification, and sequencing. Approximately 2 x 2 millimeter square of dorsal fin tissue samples were sent to PT. Genetika Science Indonesia for DNA analysis. The total genomic DNA was isolated using the gSYNCTM DNA extraction kit (Geneaid, GS050) by adhering to the company's directives. The amplification of the COI fragment was carried out using KOD FXNeo (Toyobo, KFX201). The COI marker was amplified using the following primer sets, VF2 t1

TGTAAAACGACGGCCAGTCAACCAACCACAA AGACATTGGCAC, FishF2\_t1 TGTAAAACGACGGCCAGTCGACTAATCATAA AGATATCGGCAC, FishR2\_t1 CAGGAAACAGCTATGACACTTCAGGGTGACC GAAGAATCAGAA, and FR1d\_t1 CAGGAAACAGCTATGACACCTCAGGGTGTCC GAARAAYCARAA. The final volume of PCR reactions was obtained as  $25\mu$ l, and each reagent's composition is presented in Table 1.



Fig. 1. Sampling sites for Anguilla collection.

The thermal conditions for PCR amplification involved an initial denaturation realized at 96°C, which lasted for 3 min. It was further carried out at 94°C for 10 s, annealing at 52°C for 30 s, and extension at 72°C for 45 s. It was repeated in a circular motion 35 times, and this was ended by holding the cycler at 4°C. Conversely, the PCR amplification was carried out on Agilent Surecycler 8800. Furthermore, the clear and strong products were subjected to bidirectional sequencing.

**Table 1.** Reagent composition for COI markeramplification.

No	Reagent	Volume in 25 µl
1	ddH2O	4
2	KOD FX Neo	1
3	2x PCR Buffer KOD FX	12.5
	Neo	
4	2 mM dNTPs	2.5
5	10 pmol/µl Primer VF2_t1	1
6	10 pmol/µ1 Primer	1
	FishF2_t1	
7	10 pmol/µl Primer	1
	FishR2_t1	
8	10 pmol/µl Primer FR1d_t1	1
9	Template DNA	1

Sequence editing and data analysis. The forward and reverse sequences of each sample were contiged and edited in Bioedit version 7.0.4.1 (Hall, 2011). This was carried out in to obtain a consensus sequence. Its alignment was performed using ClustalW in Bioedit version 7.0.4.1 (Hall, 2011). The COI sequences of the samples were deposited in GenBank (accession number MT883612-MT883625).

Taxonomic status. Conservation statuses of the samples were determined based on homology, genetic divergences, and the distance to the reference species deposited in GenBank, including their monophyly. The value of the homology is obtained by comparing the available reference species in the GenBank. Genetic divergence was calculated based on the Juke-Cantor substitution model in DnaSP6 (Rozas et al., 2017). The homology test was carried out using a basic local alignment online search tool (BLAST) NCBI. The monophyly of Anguilla samples in accordance with the reference species was inferred from the cladogram, which was developed using neighbor-joining (NJ) and maximum likelihood (ML) algorithms in

MEGA X (Kumar *et al.*, 2018). The reliability of tree topology was obtained from 1000 bootstraps pseudoreplicates. Subsequently, the branching pattern's polarity was realized from the comparison, of the out-group specimen *Muraenesox bagio* (MK041057).

**Population genetics**. The population genetics of the species recovered in Cibeureum and Sapuregel Rivers watersheds were assessed based on genetic divergence, polymorphic sites, haplotype, and nucleotide diversity. Polymorphism and genetic divergences within populations were estimated using the Juke-Cantor substitution model implemented in DnaSP version 6 (Rozas *et al.*, 2017).

Haplotype and nucleotide diversity were calculated using Arlequin 3.5 (Excoffier & Lischer, 2010).

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Taxonomic status**. The results from BLAST showed that the samples used in this study have sequence identity values ranging from 99.23% to 99.84%. The *Anguilla bicolor* in GenBank encompasses sequences queries ranging from 96% to 99% and an error value of 0.00. The detailed BLAST parameter of the samples in accordance with the reference species is shown in Table 2.

**Table 2**. BLAST parameters of Anguilla samples to the reference species.

Codo	Accession	Max	Total	Query	E-value Identity		Reference Species	Accession
Coue	Number	Score	Score	Cover	L-value	Identity	Reference Species	number
Kja01	MT883612	1162	1162	98	0.00	99.38	Anguilla bicolor	AP007236
Kja02	MT883613	1162	1162	98	0.00	99.38	Anguilla bicolor	AP007236
Kja03	MT883614	1168	1168	99	0.00	99.53	Anguilla bicolor	AP007236
Kja04	MT883615	1162	1162	99	0.00	99.84	Anguilla bicolor	AP007236
Kja05	MT883616	1173	1173	98	0.00	99.69	Anguilla bicolor	AP007236
Kja06	MT883617	1164	1164	96	0.00	99.84	Anguilla bicolor	KM875505
Kja07	MT883618	1168	1168	98	0.00	99.53	Anguilla bicolor	AP007236
Kja08	MW080739	1140	1140	100	0.00	99.84	Anguilla bicolor	KM875504
Kja09	MW078537	1134	1134	99	0.00	99.84	Anguilla bicolor	MG675613
Kja11	MW078538	1134	1134	100	0.00	99.68	Anguilla bicolor	KP979655
Kja12	MW078539	1147	1147	100	0.00	100	Anguilla bicolor	KU692247
Kja13	MW080740	1155	1155	100	0.00	99.53	Anguilla bicolor	AP007236
Kja15	MW078540	1123	1123	100	0.00	99.35	Anguilla bicolor	KP979655
Kwt01	MW078541	1096	1096	100	0.00	100	Anguilla bicolor	KY618776
Kwt03	MW080741	1153	1153	99	0.00	99.68	Anguilla bicolor	AP007236
Kwt04	MT883619	1173	1173	98	0.00	99.38	Anguilla bicolor	AP007236
Kwt06	MT883620	1168	1168	99	0.00	99.23	Anguilla bicolor	AP007236
Kwt07	MW080742	1127	1127	99	0.00	99.84	Anguilla bicolor	KU692247
Kwt08	MT883621	1162	1162	99	0.00	99.84	Anguilla bicolor	AP007236
Kwt09	MT883622	1234	1234	98	0.00	99.41	Anguilla bicolor	AP007236
Kwt10	MT883623	1173	1173	98	0.00	99.38	Anguilla bicolor	AP007236
Kwt12	MT883624	1173	1173	98	0.00	99.38	Anguilla bicolor	AP007236
Kwt13	MW078542	1129	1129	100	0.00	99.52	Anguilla bicolor	KP979655
Kwt14	MW078543	1092	1092	99	0.00	99.83	Anguilla bicolor	KY618771
Kwt16	MT883625	1229	1229	98	0.00	99.26	Anguilla bicolor	AP007236

The BLAST parameters of the samples, shown in Table 2, absolutely align with the *Anguilla bicolor*. Therefore, it was concluded that the eel samples collected at Cibeureum and Sapuregel River watersheds are categorized as *Anguilla bicolor*. This decision was made based on the fact that all the samples' values were higher than 97%, which commonly serves as the threshold for genetic identity (Ko *et al.*, 2013). In some instances, it tends to be lower

than 97% depending on the fish groups (Pereira *et al.*, 2013; Ratnasingham & Hebert, 2013).

The present research realized a similar number of *A. bicolor* species from Segara Anakan estuary. However, this is consistent with the previous studies carried out by Fahmi (2015), and Rachmawati & Susilo (2011). These similarities confirm and strengthen the hypotheses reported in previous studies that the species of eel discovered in Segara Anakan waters is *A. bicolor* and also indicates as dominant species that inhabits Cilacap waters, particularly the Cibeureum and Sapuregel River watersheds which empty into Segara Anakan. The result from this analysis is reasonable hence *A. bicolor* is commonly restricted to Cibeureum and Sapuregel, which are lowland river systems and are rarely found in large upland streams (Froese & Pauly, 2019).

Subsequently, when compared to studies carried out in the Indian Ocean near Java and Sumatera, it was discovered that the present research obtained a different number of species as reported by Fahmi & Hirnawati (2010) and Muchlisin *et al.* (2017). This is due to the differences in the study areas. Conversely, this research is focused on Cibeureum and Sapuregel rivers watersheds which empty into the Segara Anakan estuary, while Fahmi & Hirnawati (2010) carried out a study on the species composition at Cimandiri River, Sukabumi. These rivers possess different characteristics. Cibeureum and Sapuregel Rivers are typically short (40 km) lowlands with its spring in Gunungsari Hill, which is only 260 masl, and they are typical habitats for *A. bicolor*.

 Sample
 The accession number of reference species (*A. bicolor*).

No	Sample	The accession number of reference species (70)							
140	Code	KM875504	KP979655	KY618776	KU692247	KY618771	AP007236	MG675613	KM875505
1	Kja01	1.1475	0.1897	0.9544	0.9544	0.1897	0.38022	0.1897	0.9544
2	Kja02	0.9544	0.0000	0.7622	0.7622	0.0000	0.1897	0.0000	0.7622
3	Kja03	0.9544	0.0000	0.7622	0.7622	0.0000	0.1897	0.0000	0.7622
4	Kja04	0.9544	0.0000	0.7622	0.7622	0.0000	0.1897	0.0000	0.7622
5	Kja05	1.1475	0.1897	0.9544	0.9544	0.1897	0.000	0.1897	0.9544
6	Kja06	0.3802	0.5706	0.1897	0.1897	0.5706	0.7622	0.5706	0.1897
7	Kja07	0.9544	0.0000	0.7622	0.7622	0.0000	0.1897	0.0000	0.7622
8	Kja08	0.1897	1.1475	0.3802	0.3802	1.1475	1.3413	1.1475	0.3802
9	Kja09	0.9544	0.0000	0.7622	0.7622	0.0000	0.1897	0.0000	0.7622
10	Kja11	0.9544	0.0000	0.7622	0.7622	0.0000	0.1897	0.0000	0.7622
11	Kja12	0.1897	0.7622	0.0000	0.0000	0.7622	0.9544	0.7622	0.0000
12	Kja13	1.1475	0.1897	0.9534	0.9534	0.1897	0.3798	0.1897	0.9534
13	Kja15	1.3413	0.3802	1.1475	1.1475	0.3802	0.5714	0.3802	1.1475
14	Kwt01	0.1897	0.7622	0.0000	0.0000	0.7622	0.9544	0.7622	0.0000
15	Kwt03	1.1475	0.1897	0.9544	0.9544	0.1897	0.3802	0.1897	0.9544
16	Kwt04	0.9544	0.0000	0.7622	0.7622	0.0000	0.1897	0.0000	0.7622
17	Kwt06	1.1475	0.1897	0.9544	0.9544	0.1897	0.3802	0.1897	0.9544
18	Kwt07	0.3802	0.9544	0.1897	0.1897	0.9544	1.1475	0.9544	0.1897
19	Kwt08	0.9544	0.0000	0.7622	0.7622	0.0000	0.1897	0.0000	0.7622
20	Kwt09	0.9544	0.0000	0.7622	0.7622	0.0000	0.1897	0.0000	0.7622
21	Kwt10	0.9544	0.0000	0.7622	0.7622	0.0000	0.1897	0.0000	0.7622
22	Kwt12	0.9544	0.0000	0.7622	0.7622	0.0000	0.1897	0.0000	0.7622
23	Kwt13	1.1475	0.1897	0.9544	0.9544	0.1897	0.3802	0.1897	0.9544
24	Kwt14	0.9544	0.0000	0.7622	0.7622	0.0000	0.1897	0.0000	0.7622
25	Kwt16	0.9544	0.0000	0.7622	0.7622	0.0000	0.1897	0.0000	0.7622

In contrast, Cimandiri is regarded both as a lowland and upland river running from several mountains (Gede, Pangrango, Halimun, and Salak) at the height of approximately 1200 masl. It is a suitable habitat for several *Anguilla* species, and this type of characteristics is also similar to the Aceh rivers (Muchlisin *et al.*, 2017). According to Froese & Pauly (2019), *A. marmorata*, *A. nebulosa*, and *A. bengalensis* are found in such rivers. The differences in characteristics are ideal, and the present study

was only able to discover *A. bicolor*. Fahmi & Hirnawati (2010) and Muchlisin *et al.* (2017) discovered three *Anguilla* species.

The BLAST results are supported by the values of the genetic or molecular divergence of the samples and *A. bicolor* in GenBank, which ranges from 0.224% to 1.127%. A detailed description of these values for all individual species and the reference *A. bicolor* sequences are shown in Table 3. They were discovered to be within the range of 0.1% to

6.0% which is below the genetic divergences threshold for fish species identity in Canada and Australia (Ratnasingham & Hebert, 2013). The values obtained are also within the range reported by Pegg *et al.* (2006), which is from 1% to 3%. Furthermore, the genetic divergences realized in this research are far below the maximum value reported by Pereira *et al.* (2013), which was 8.5%. In addition, this

is also consistent with previous studies (Muchlisin *et al.*, 2017; Nuryanto *et al.*, 2017a; Nuryanto *et al.*, 2017b; Nuryanto *et al.*, 2018). Therefore, it is compelling that the low genetic divergence values of eel samples and *A. bicolor* sequences in GenBank prove that the species from Cibeureum and Sapuregel River watersheds belong to the *A. bicolor*.



**Fig. 2.** Taxonomic tree showing the monophyly of the samples to the references species in GenBank and separation to sister taxon (*A. obscura*). Left: ML bootstrap values; Right: NJ bootstrap values.

The cladogram in Fig. 2 showed that the eel samples collected from Cibeureum and Sapuregel River watersheds belonged to the monophyletic, clade or *Anguilla bicolor* group retrieved from the GenBank (Blue box). It is

also evident in Fig. 2 that these samples are separated from its sister taxon, *A. obscura* (green box). Its monophyly, in accordance with their reference species, was supported by high bootstrap values (ML= 99; NL= 100). The

separation of the sample clade from their sister taxon was also triggered by high bootstraps values (ML= 81; NJ=78).

The monophyly of the samples and *A. bicolor* from GenBank shows extremely low genetic distances (the branch length in Fig. 2). A clear separation of the sample clade from its sister taxon (*A. obscura*) provides additional data which stated that species from Cibeureum and Sapuregel River watersheds are genetically identified as *bicolor*. The result also showed that the COI gene is a reliable marker for

species identification. Its reliability also serves as a barcode marker which varies among species, due to its high mutation rate (Sachithanandam *et al.*, 2012). This is also consistent with the research carried out by Muchlisin *et al.* (2017), or studies related to the strain in fish species (Nuryanto *et al.*, 2018) and also in Crustacea (Bhagawati *et al.*, 2020).

Based on the BLAST parameters, genetic divergence, and monophyly of the samples, was categorized as *Anguilla bicolor*. The taxonomic status of eel samples is shown in Table 4.

**Table 4**. Taxonomic status of the Anguilla samples.

Code	Ordo	Familia	Genus	Species
Kja01	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kja02	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kja03	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kja04	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kja05	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kja06	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kja07	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kja08	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kja09	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kja11	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kja12	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kja13	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kja15	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kwt01	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kwt03	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kwt04	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kwt06	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kwt07	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kwt08	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kwt09	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kwt10	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kwt12	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kwt13	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kwt14	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor
Kwt16	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	Anguilla	Anguilla bicolor

**Population** Genetics. Molecular identification categorized all samples as A. bicolor. This served as the basis for the analysis of population genetics in both sampling sites. Multiple sequence alignment resulted in 630 base pairs (bp) fragment of the COI gene. However, 7 of them are polymorphic sites with a value of 1.111%. This simply means that the most common allele has a frequency of 98.99%. In addition, this value shows a decline in the polymorphism of the COI gene of Anguilla bicolor collected at the two river watersheds that empty into the Segara Anakan Estuary. It is because the value is less than 5%, which

implies that the most common allele has a higher frequency than 95%. According to Nuryanto *et al.* (2019), a gene is said to be polymorphic supposing it has a common allele with a maximum frequency of 95%.

The overall haplotype and nucleotide diversities were  $0.681\pm0.132$ , and  $0.160\%\pm0.124$ , respectively. The total haplotype diversity shows that the COI gene of *A. bicolor* collected at the river watersheds that empty into Segara Anakan has a medium level of genetic diversity. According to Nei (1987), its values range between 0.50 and 0.7. In contrast, the value of nucleotide diversity

realized is classified as low. It is reasonable that a low value was discovered in *A. bicolor*'s COI gene in the Cibeureum and Sapuregel watersheds because it encompasses only seven polymorphic sites total of 630 locations that were analyzed. Nei (1987) reported that the nucleotide diversity value below 1% is categorized as low.

Genetic diversity analysis showed that the Cibeureum and Sapuregel River watershed populations have haplotype diversities of 0.857±0.137, and 0.524±0.209, respectively. This shows that the A. bicolor from Cibeureum and Sapuregel watersheds has high haplotype and medium nucleotide diversities. This was because the value of the haplotype diversity in the Cibeureum watershed was slightly higher than 0.8. while in Sapuregel, it was approximately 0.5 and 0.7. According to Nei (1987), the values of haplotype diversity range between 0.5 to 0.7 in the medium category. On the contrary, a high value lies within the range of 0.8 and 1.0. The result showed that a complex pattern of genetic diversity is a common phenomenon the in natural population. The High and low haplotype genetic diversity levels have been reported in various animal groups ranging from bivalve, gastropod, insects to fish (Díaz-Ferguson et al., 2010; Dorn et al., 2011; Pavesi et al., 2011; Sabando et al., 2011; Dung et al., 2013; Song et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2014; Liu et al., 2017; Parmaksiz & Eksi, 2017).

Based on the nucleotide level, the Cibeureum and Sapuregel watershed populations have a diversity of  $0.245\% \pm 0.185$ . and 0.082% ±0.085, respectively. Subsequently, these values show that both populations had low nucleotide diversity. This was due to the fact that the values obtained were below 1%. According to Kochzius & Nurvanto (2008), it depicts low nucleotide diversity.

The values obtained imply that *A. bicolor* from Cibeureum watershed has higher genetic diversity than those from Sapuregel. It is due to the fact that both rivers have different physical characteristics, such as the width and length of the watersheds, which leads to diverse riverscape. It was reported that a positive correlation exists between genetic diversity and

the riverscape of various organisms (Cook *et al.*, 2011; Olsen *et al.*, 2011; Cooke *et al.*, 2014; Brauer *et al.*, 2016; Davis *et al.*, 2018). Based on this observation, Cibeureum watersheds are broader and longer as well as have more scapes than Sapuregel. Therefore, it is reasonable to state that *A. bicolor* population in Cibeureum watersheds has higher genetic diversity than the species in Sapuregel.

Sequentially, the decline in polymorphisms, medium and low haplotype and nucleotide diversities of Anguilla's COI gene in this research indicate that there are no genetic differences between the two watersheds. This is proven by the low level of genetic divergence between the samples from Sapuregel and Cibeureum Rivers watershed, which was obtained as 0.175%. It is due to the fact that historically both populations were reproduced from a similar maternal A. bicolor which tend to spawn at a particular site in the Indian Ocean. There is a high possibility that individual species returned to both watersheds were their eggs were hatched by a single maternal A. bicolor. Therefore, they were reported to have similar molecular constituents in their COI gene because it is inherited. According to Hebert et al., (2003), COI is a mitochondrial genome inherited from the maternal line. Conversely, it is used for maternity analysis and shows high similarity in closed populations.

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rubic e. The anova analysis.					
Source of	df	Sum of	Var.	% of	
variation		Squares	Component	Variation	
Among	1	0.372	-0.004 Va <sup>ns</sup>	-1.03	
populations					
Within	23	9.788	0.426 Vb	101.03	
populations					
Total	24	10.160	0.430		
Fixation	=	-			
Index FST		0.0103 <sup>ns</sup>			
p-value	=	$0.535 \pm$			
		0.016			

Notes: ns= non significant

However, genetic differences were not discovered in both populations, as shown in the amova analysis (Table 5). Based on Table 4, the variance component (Va) among the populations was realized as -0.009 (p-value= 0.761) while the genetic fixation index (Fst) was -.025 (p-value= 0.761). Both values show that no genetic structure or difference was discovered between Cibeureum and Sapuregel Watersheds. It simply means that *A. bicolor* in the Segara Anakan Cilacap is a single population.

Surprisingly, the present study was unable to observe genetic differences between the two river systems. Generally, riverine populations tend to show significant genetic differences (Hughes *et al.*, 2009) which is also observed among tributaries without physical barriers (Kanno *et al.*, 2011). However, since *A. bicolor* from both river watersheds spawned in the same areas in the Indian Ocean, therefore the absence of genetic differences is a normal phenomenon.

Furthermore, genetic differences were not observed in the commerson anchovy across the Segara Anakan estuary (Nuryanto et al., 2019). This is consistent with the studies related to the while Hemibagrus nemurus. the other populations showed significant genetic structure (Nurvanto et al., 2019). Significant genetic differences among populations were discovered in some fish species (Pavesi et al., 2011; Dung et al., 2013). Some studies that adopted microsatellite markers which are believed to be more sensitive than the COI gene also showed variable results. On the contrary, genetic differences among the fish populations were not detected (Damerau et al., 2012; Basharat et al., 2016). Conversely, studies using microsatellite also showed significant genetic differences among populations (Bartáková et al., 2013; Esa & Rahim, 2013; Abbas et al., 2017; Yan et al., 2018). However, both present and previous studies reported that genetic differentiation among the natural populations is complex, irrespective of the adopted genetic markers.

The medium to relatively high genetic diversity and the absence of genetic differences in the watersheds have important implications for the conservation of *A. bicolor*. It is suggested that *A. bicolor* resources in the Segara Anakan watershed need to be managed as an enormous single population, however, this means that Segara Anakan Cilacap needs to be conserved as a unit. Nevertheless, additional samples and genetic markers are required to provide more reliable information on *A*. *bicolor*'s molecular characterization in the Segara Anakan watershed which tends to be used as the scientific basis for the conservation of *Anguilla* in Segara Anakan. Moreover, additional information, such as catchment areas and rates of *A. bicolor*, social-economic, and ecological data, is required to provide the actual number of this species in Segara Anakan. Therefore, conservation policy needs to be made based on a firm scientific basis.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, *Anguilla bicolor* is the only eel species that inhabit river watersheds around Segara Anakan Cilacap. It has medium to high genetic diversity, lacks genetic differences and formed a single genetic conservation unit across Segara Anakan.

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