

Identification of Alabio Ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos* Borneo) Beak and Shanks Colour in Two Farming Center in South Kalimantan

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ABSTRACT

Alabio ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos* Borneo) as germ plasma of Indonesia were highly populated in South Kalimantan. These ducks developed rapidly and well known as an excellent duck breed with high genetic potential for egg production. However, presumably of neglected crossing in the fields, the originality (purity) and the egg productivity of Alabio ducks decreased. The study was conducted in two Alabio centre regions in South Kalimantan: Hulu Sungai Utara (district of Sungai Pandan) and Hulu Sungai Tengah (district of Labuan Amas Utara) to identify and to provide information about the colour of feather, beak, and shanks of Alabio ducks. The observed ducks were at the same age (around 20 weeks of age). The results indicated the colour variation of feather, beak, and shanks of Alabio ducks. The feather colour varied as *mengelaras*, *membatik* (stripe), or non *membatik* (non stripe) with cream as the basic colour. Meanwhile, the colour of the beak and shanks spread between light yellow, dark yellow, and orange.

Key words: Alabio ducks (Anas platyrhynchos Borneo), identification, colour variation

INTRODUCTION

Alabio duck (*Anas platyrhynchos* Borneo) as germ plasma in South Kalimantan is well known as laying duck type. Nowadays, Alabio ducks are also oriented as meat producer (meat type). Registered duck population in South Kalimantan is around 3.487.002 head which are spread in 13 regencies of South Kalimantan (Dinas Peternakan Kalimantan Selatan, 2006). Concerning the benefits of Alabio duck, several research have been done. Through several Livestock Research Center, the researches in Alabio ducks are growing widely which produce crossbred of Alabio and other local ducks (Prasetyo and Susanti, 2007).

Several crossing have been done to produce high quality of duck as egg and meet types. Suharno and Amri (2003) in Rahmatullah (2008) reported that Alabio ducks can produce around 200 – 250 eggs/year with an average of 65 – 70 gram/egg and body weight standard of 1.8 – 2.0 and 1.6 – 1.8 kg for male and female, respectively.

The Alabio crossing with other ducks outside Kalimantan was rapidly developed from year to year. This crossings improved the genetic quality of Alabio but it can change the origin

characteristics of Alabio duck such as the colour of feather, beak, and shank. Meanwhile, this characteristics belong to be specific for Alabio duck.

There were several factors affecting the colour pattern. Especially in poultry, the feather colour was determined by pigment, physical structure, and combination between them. Meanwhile, beak and shank colour was derived from skin pigment such as lipochrom (Winter and Funk, 1960).

The objective of this study was to find information about the colour variation of beak and shank of Alabio ducks in two different areas in South Kalimantan.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Time and Place

This study was carried out for four months (1 January to 30 April 2008) in two Alabio duck farming centres in South Kalimantan (Sungai Pandan District/Alabio (Hulu Sungai Utara Regency); and Labuan Amas Selatan District / Pantai Hambawang (Hulu Sungai Tengah Regency).