

PIT1 gene Polymorphism and its Relationship with Growth Performance of Cross-Bred (Brahman X Lai Sind); (Red Angus x Lai Sind) and (BBB x Lai Sind) Cattle Kept in Dak Lak Province, Vietnam

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Based on the correlation of PIT1 gene polymorphism with cattle fattening (especially local breeds), the aim of this study was to determine the correlation between PIT1 gene polymorphism and growth traits of crossbred cattle. Total 150 cattle from 3 crossbred (Brahman x Laisind, BRL), (Red Angus x Laisind, RAL) and (Blanc Bleu Belge x Laisind, BBL) were collected for ear tissue sampling for DNA extraction to determine the genotype of the PIT1 gene. The body weights at birth, 6, 12, 18 and 24 months of age were recorded, and average daily gains were calculated accordingly. PCR-RFLP analysis was used to analyze PIT1 gene polymorphisms of individual animals. PCR reaction specifically amplified the PIT1 gene segment. The results of genotype/allele analysis of the PIT1 gene of BRL, RAL and BBL cattle showed that the PIT1 gene has two allele forms A and B corresponding to three genotypes AA, AB and BB appearing in all three cattle populations. The actual distribution frequencies of genotypes AA, AB and BB were consistent with the theoretical distribution frequencies according to the Hardy Weinberg Law. PIT1 gene polymorphism is related to body weight and absolute gain (ADG) of crossbred cattle combinations BRL, RAL and BBL. Body weight and average daily gain in BRL, RAL and BBL cattle tend to favor the BB genotype.

Keywords: Average daily gain, body weight, crossbred cattle, local cattle breeds, PIT1 gene polymorphisms.

INTRODUCTION

The development of the meat sector in animal breeding still heavily relies on the production of cattle. Approximately 90% of beef comes from dairy and mixed breed cattle, despite the fact that the number of meat cattle is increasing owing to imported and local specialized breeds (Sedykh *et al.*, 2020). Due to the phenomena of hybrid vigor (heterosis), a crossbred animal offers various benefits over a purebred, particularly in attributes that are significant to commercial cattles; higher fertility, lifespan, feed efficiency, and disease resistance. Additionally, it often yields more growth and carcass than the parents do (Buckley *et al.*, 2014).

Numerous genes regulate the quantitative features of growth and development in cows, and this mechanism will be more important in crossbred cattle (Wu and Zhao, 2021; Michetti *et al.*, 2022). These characteristics of cattle are significant

economically. For both farmers and customers, choosing animals with superior carcass composition and strong growth rates is crucial. With the use of modern technologies, scientists can employ selection using genetic markers, or gene polymorphisms, to increase the precision and effectiveness of conventional selection techniques. There is a strong correlation between certain growth and meat yield parameters and genetic variants. Pit-1 was regarded as a genetic polymorphism in this investigation. According to Zhao *et al.* (2004), PIT-1 is a transcription factor that is specific to the pituitary and is in charge of pituitary development and hormone expression in animals. Pit-1 has been linked to ADG, weaning weight, and birth weight in pigs (Yu *et al.*, 1995). Pit-1 has been linked to milk production and body composition in cattle (Renavile *et al.*, 1997). Genetic polymorphisms can affect how genes are expressed, and combinations between genetic and environmental factors can

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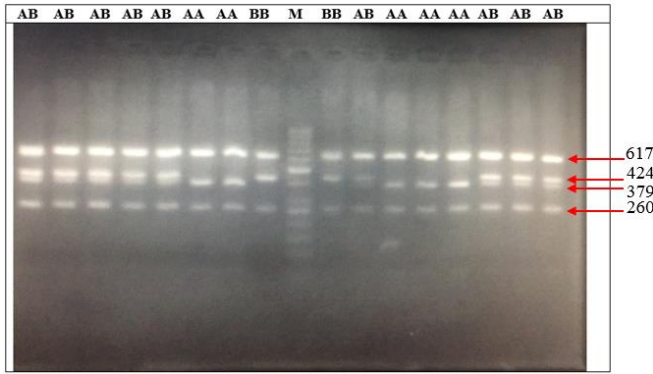


Figure 1. PIT1 gene fragment cleavage product by HinfI.

In figure 1, M: Standard DAN ladder 100bp (fermentas); and AA, AB, BB are genotypes

Through PCR-RFLP analysis at the polymorphic point of the PIT1 gene, the PCR product incubated with Hinf I enzyme is a specific, clear DNA band with a molecular size corresponding to the theory (Fig. 1). The products cut by restriction enzymes are clear bands with molecular sizes consistent with theoretical calculations.

Genotype AA: 617bp, 379bp, 260bp and 45bp

Genotype AB: 617bp, 424bp, 379bp, 260bp and 45bp

Genotype BB: 617bp, 424bp and 260bp

PIT1 genotype distribution: The results of genotype/allele analysis of the PIT-1 gene of BRL, RAL and BBL cattle are presented in Tables 1, 2, 3, showing that the PIT-1 gene has two allele forms A and B corresponding to the three genotypes AA, AB and BB appearing in all three cattle populations raised in Dak Lak. The results of PIT-1 gene polymorphism analysis in BRL cattle are presented in Table 1, showing that the AA genotype frequency is 0.54, the AB genotype frequency is 0.36 and the BB genotype frequency is 0.1.

Table 1. Frequency of alleles of the PIT-1 gene and actual and theoretical distribution of genotypes, observed and expected numbers of individuals in the BRL cattle (n=50).

Items	Genotype			Σ
	AA	AB	BB	
Observed number (head)	27	18	5	50
Expected number (head)	26	20	4	50
Actual distribution	0.5400	0.3600	0.1000	1
Theoretical distribution	0.5184	0.4032	0.0784	1
χ^2				0.574
P-value	0.0450	0.2314	0.2975	0.751
Frequency of alleles	A=0.72		B=0.28	

The theoretical genotype frequencies in the BRL cattle population are AA: 0.5184; AB: 0.4032 and BB: 0.0784. The allele frequencies are: A: 0.72 and B: 0.28. PIT-1 gene polymorphism of RAL cattle (Table 2) shows that the actual

genotype frequencies AA, AB, BB are 0.42; 0.46 and 0.12, respectively. The theoretical genotype frequencies are 0.4225; 0.4550 and 0.1225, respectively. The allele frequencies A: 0.65 and B: 0.35. PIT-1 gene polymorphism in BBL cattle (Table 3) showed that the actual genotype frequencies of AA, AB and BB were 0.3; 0.4 and 0.3, respectively, corresponding to the theoretical genotype frequencies of 0.25; 0.5 and 0.25. The frequency of allele A: 0.5 and B: 0.5. These results showed that the population had a high content of heterozygous information and high polymorphism, the population had a high level of genetic variation and more genetic information. In the 3 crossbreds of cattle studied, the homozygous level of BB in BRL and RAL cattle was lower than that of BBL cattle, respectively BRL (0.1), RAL (0.12). The observed and theoretically calculated populations of BRL, RAL and BBL cattle showed that all 3 cattle populations were in genetic equilibrium according to the Hardy Weinberg law.

Table 2. Frequency of alleles of the PIT-1 gene and actual and theoretical distribution of genotypes, observed and expected numbers of individuals in the RAL cattle (n=50).

Items	Genotype			Σ
	AA	AB	BB	
Observed number (head)	21	23	6	50
Expected number (head)	21	23	6	50
Actual distribution	0.42	0.46	0.12	1
Theoretical distribution	0.4225	0.4550	0.1225	1
χ^2				0.006
P-value	0.0007	0.0027	0.0026	0.997
Frequency of alleles	A=0.65		B=0.35	

Table 3. Frequency of alleles of the PIT-1 gene and actual and theoretical distribution of genotypes, observed and expected numbers of individuals in the BBL cattle (n=50).

Items	Genotype			Σ
	AA	AB	BB	
Observed number (head)	15	20	15	50
Expected number (head)	12.5	25.0	12.5	50
Actual distribution	0.30	0.40	0.30	1
Theoretical distribution	0.25	0.50	0.25	1
χ^2				2.000
P-value	0.50	1.00	0.50	0.368
Frequency of alleles	A= 0.5		B= 0.5	

Growth traits: Body weight and average daily gain (ADG) from birth to 24 old months of BRL, RAL and BBL cattle are presented in Tables 4 and 5. The BB genotype of BRL and RAL cattle tend to have higher body weight and ADG than the AA and AB genotypes, but the difference is at $p > 0.05$. The AB genotype of RAL cattle has higher ADG than the AA and



Table 4. Relationship between body weight and PIT-1 genotype.

Breed	Genotype	n	Body weight (kg) at different ages				
			Birth	6 month	12 month	18 month	24 month
BRL	AA	27	23.2±2.1	122.3±6.3	186.6±11.5	287.8±12.3	375.0±42.4
	AB	18	23.9±2.0	124.1±7.9	189.4±14.9	287.2±15.0	384.2±39.6
	BB	5	24.4±0.9	122.0±8.9	192.4±11.8	292.6±9.50	421.6±13.2
	p-value		0.28	0.69	0.58	0.71	0.06
RAL	AA	21	26.0±2.7	126.9±11.4	213.0±10.5	312.9 ^b ±18.1	434.0±38.9
	AB	23	24.9±3.1	125.9±10.0	221.3±17.4	336.8 ^a ±30.2	428.8±61.4
	BB	6	24.7±3.1	125.5±6.60	211.5±8.80	305.9 ^c ±19.1	443.3±54.1
	p-value		0.41	0.93	0.11	0.002	0.82
BBL	AA		29.6±3.3	170.7±7.8	306.3±10.3	444.6 ^{ab} ±18.3	574.6 ^{ab} ±33.5
	AB		29.1±3.3	173.8 ^b ±10.3	311.4±16.0	446.8 ^{ab} ±18.4	577.6 ^{ab} ±30.7
	BB		29.7±3.6	179.3 ^a ±6.0	311.5±14.4	460.1 ^a ±14.6	601.9 ^a ±29.3
	p-value		0.86	0.02	0.50	0.04	0.04

The letters a, b, c in the same column are different then their values are statistically significant difference (p<0.05).

Table 5. Relationship between average daily gain and PIT-1 genotype.

Breed	Genotype	n	Average daily gain at different growth periods				
			Birth to 6 months	6 to 12 months	12 to 18 months	18 to 24 months	Average (birth to 24 months)
BRL	AA	27	550.8±34.0	361.3±71.1	557.8±34.9	484.8±219.0	488.7±58.0
	AB	18	556.5±39.3	362.7±78.2	549.4±62.1	539.2±207.5	561.0±83.3
	BB	5	542.2±46.2	391.1±58.5	556.7±101.0	716.7±116.6	551.7±17.4
	p-value		0.73	0.70	0.87	0.08	0.07
RAL	AA	21	560.8±61.5	478.5 ^b ±47.5	555.1 ^b ±76.1	672.8 ^b ±145.5	566.8±53.7
	AB	23	561.0±53.2	530.1 ^a ±87.9	642.1 ^a ±94.3	510.7 ^c ±196.9	561.0±83.3
	BB	6	560.1±30.5	477.7 ^c ±37.0	524.5 ^c ±90.7	763.2 ^a ±196.0	581.4±71.2
	p-value		0,99	0,04	0,01	0,002	0,82
BBL	AA	15	783.7 ^c ±50.0	753.7±29.1	768.1 ^b ±48.7	722.2±113.4	756.9 ^c ±48.2
	AB	20	803.9 ^b ±56.8	764.4±75.0	752.2 ^b ±45.5	726.4±130.1	761.7 ^b ±41.3
	BB	15	831.5 ^a ±35.0	734.1±74.5	825.6 ^a ±92.8	787.8±141.8	794.7 ^a ±38.9
	p-value		0.04	0.39	0.005	0.23	0.04

The letters a, b, c in the same column are different then their values are statistically significant difference (p<0.05).

BB genotypes at 12; 18 and 24 months of age (p<0.05). However, the ADG from birth to 24 months of age in the 3 genotypes AA, AB and BB is not different (p>0.05). Meanwhile, the BB genotype in BBL cattle had higher body weight than the AA and AB genotypes at 6; 12; 18 and 24 months of age (p<0.05) (Table 4). Individuals with the BB genotype had higher ADG than AA and AB individuals at the different growing stages (p<0.05). In general, body weight and ADG in BBL cattle tended to favor the BB genotype.

DISCUSSION

Gene polymorphisms: In this study, the restriction enzyme-cut products were clear bands with molecular sizes consistent with theoretical calculations for three genotypes AA; AB and BB. The results of PIT-1 gene polymorphism analysis in BRL, RAL and BBL cattle are consistent with [Carrijo et al. \(2008\)](#) who reported that amplification of the PIT1 gene fragment produced a single product of 1.301 kb in size.

Treatment of this product with the HinfI restriction enzyme revealed the HinfI (+) allele with fragments of 260, 617, 379 and 45 base pairs (bp) and the HinfI (-) allele with fragments of 260, 617 and 424 bp. The HinfI (-) allele was less frequent in the two genetic groups (GG1 and GG2). When analyzing the polymorphisms of the PIT-1 gene, it was shown that the BB genotype in BRL cattle had a low frequency of 0.1, whereas the frequency of the AA and AB genotypes appeared with high frequency: AA (0.54); AB (0.36), allele frequency A: 0.72; B: 0.28. RAL cattle with BB genotype appeared with low frequency 0.12 while the frequency of AA and AB genotypes was higher (AA: 0.42; AB: 0.46), allele frequency A: 0.65, B: 0.35). [Zhao et al. \(2004\)](#) showed that PIT-1 E6H gene polymorphism in Red Angus cattle distributed genotypes AA; AB and BB respectively 0.11; 0.44 and 0.45. BBL cattle have similar frequencies of 3 genotypes (AA: 0.3; AB: 0.4; BB: 0.3), allele frequency A =B =0.5. [Hartati et al. \(2018\)](#) showed that the Pit-1/HinfI gene polymorphism in Grati-Ongole cattle has genotype frequencies AA: 0; AB:



0.009; BB: 0.991, while Hanwoo cattle have genotype frequencies of 0.54; 0.37 and 0.09, respectively. Yan *et al.* (2006) reported that Qinchuan and Chinese Holstein cattle have 3 genotypes AA, AB and BB. Both breeds have allele frequencies A/B of the POU1F1-HinfI locus of 0.232/0.768; 0.132/0.868, respectively; and three genotypes AA/AB/BB have frequencies of 0.030/0.403/0.567; 0.007/0.251/0.742, respectively. BRL cattle had allele frequencies A (0.65), B (0.35), RAL cattle had allele frequencies A (0.72); B (0.28) similar to the results of Carrijo *et al.* (2008) in GG1 cattle (5/8 Charolais, 3/8 Zebu) corresponding to HifI(+) (0.87); HifI(-) (0.27). The frequencies of allele A and allele B obtained in BRL and RAL cattle were similar to the results of ½ Angus cattle with allele A (0.641); allele B (0.359) and ½ Simental cattle with allele A (0.867), allele B (0.133) (Rogério *et al.*, 2006). Kenmenes *et al.* (1999) showed that Caracu cattle had allele frequencies A (0.68), B (0.32) and Canchim cattle had frequencies A (0.63), B (0.37) with allele A frequency higher than allele B frequency. The frequencies of alleles A and B in BBL cattle in the experiment were equivalent to Charolais cattle with allele frequencies A (0.48), allele B (0.52) (Kenmenes *et al.*, 1999). Di Stario *et al.* (2002) showed that Piemontese cattle had POU1FA and POU1FB frequencies of 0.25 and 0.75, respectively. Zabeel *et al.* (2018) showed that the local Iraqi cattle breed had genotype distribution frequencies of AA, AB and BB of 0.081; 0.688 and 0.299, respectively. The frequency of alleles A (0.43), B (0.57), there was no difference in body weight between genotypes. Moody *et al.* (1995) showed that Angus cattle had an allele frequency of A (0.45). Putra *et al.* (2019) suggested that the nucleotide polymorphism g.1256G>A in the bPit-1 gene in Pasunda cattle had low genetic diversity, no AA genotype was found, allele A=0.05; allele B=0.95; allele A in the bPit-1/HinfI gene of Pasunda cattle appeared at a low frequency. Thuy *et al.* (2018) showed that the polymorphism of the PIT1 gene in Holstein Friesian cattle appeared with 3 genotypes AA, AB and BB, genotype frequencies were 0.576; 0.240 and 0.184, respectively. The frequencies of alleles A and B were 0.696 and 0.304, respectively. Prastowo *et al.* (2020) showed that Indonesian Holstein Friesian cattle had genotypes AA, AB and BB with frequencies of 0.21; 0.26 and 0.52, respectively. The frequencies of alleles A=0.35; B=0.65. The genotype BB was associated with milk yield (P<0.05). Trakovická *et al.* (2015) determined that the PIT-1/HinfI allele B polymorphism (0.7743), the dominant BB genotype (0.7014), BB (PIT-1/HinfI) had a positive effect on growth. The average values of growth parameters of heterozygous BB and AB genotypes tend to be favorable for growth, body weight gain, and absolute ADG gain, which is favorable for selection in future beef cattle breeding programs. Woollard *et al.* (1994) showed that the genotype frequencies of AA, AB and BB in Angus cattle were 0.11, 0.44 and 0.45 respectively. Rogério *et al.* (2006) POU1F1/HinfI polymorphism segregated genetically in 4 groups of Nellore, ½ Simental, Canchim and

½ Red Angus cattle. The frequency of allele A was higher than the frequency of allele B in Nellore, Canchim and ½ Simental cattle compared to ½ Red Angus cattle. Ozdemir *et al.* (2012) determined the PIT-1/HINF1 gene polymorphism in Holstein and Ear cattle and showed that the PIT-1 gene had genotype frequencies of AA, AB and BB in Ear cattle of 0.14; 0.54 and 0.32, respectively. The frequency of allele A in Ear cattle was 0.408. Pytlewski *et al.* (2022) showed that the polymorphism of the PIT1 gene at the locus c.1178G>A of Limousine cattle with genotypes AA, AG and GG had frequencies of 0.0957; 0.3913 and 0.5130, respectively.

Gene polymorphism associated with growth performance: In this study, body weights at various growth stages and ADG in BBL cattle were associated with the BB genotype. This result was consistent with a lot of earlier research. The frequency of the A/B allele in the Nanyang population was found to be 0.465/0.535, according to a study on the genetic polymorphism effect of the POU1F1 gene on growth attributes of Nanyang cattle. When it came to the characteristics of birth weight, weight gain, body weight, and size at 12 months, the BB genotype influenced the AB genotype more than the AB genotype (Xue *et al.*, 2006). Di Stasio *et al.* (2002) demonstrated that PIT1 affected body weight and ADG in cattle at 240 days of age (p<0.05). The association between the POU1F1 genotype and carcass qualities of Hanwoo cattle was demonstrated by Sang-Hyun *et al.* (2010). By using molecular markers for bull-based prediction, this genetic technique can be applied to increase the productivity and meat quality of Hanwoo cattle. According to Xue *et al.* (2006), birth weight and ADG at 12 months of age were impacted by the GG genotype of Nanyang bulls. According to these authors, growth performance may be significantly influenced by the G allele. According to Yang *et al.* (2011), growth features in Chinese cattle breeds were linked to polymorphisms of the PIT1 gene. Zhang *et al.* (2009) discovered that Germany Yellow x Qinchua crossbred calves with AG heterozygotes had larger shoulders and heavier bodies than GG homozygotes. In black and white cattle, Oprzqdek *et al.* (2003) discovered that GG homozygotes consumed less feed and its constituents than AG heterozygotes. Animals with the AB x GG genotype had the greatest reported pre-slaughter body weight, whereas those with the BB x GG genotype had the best carcass value and fat content. According to Sang-Hyun *et al.* (2010), body weight and fat content in Hanwoo bulls can be impacted by the polymorphism of the PIT-1 gene in exon 6. According to Yang *et al.* (2011), Chinese cattle with varying genotypes had varying body weights, and at 24 months, cattle with the BB genotype had greater chest girth and body length than calves with the AB genotype. According to Sang-Hyun *et al.* (2010), body weight and fat content in Hanwoo bulls may be impacted by the polymorphism of the PIT-1 gene in exon 6. In 6- and 12-month-old Nanyang cattle, Xue *et al.* (2006) demonstrated a greater favorable effect of the GG genotype on birth weight,



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