

Selection, Identification and Optimization of the Growth Water Probiotic Consortium of Mangrove Ecosystems as Bioremediation and Biocontrol in Shrimp Ponds

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Abstract

Shrimp aquaculture is an activity that potentially generates organic waste. The accumulation of organic matter is becoming one of the main factors causing the emergence of disease. Problem-solving approach that is most effective is through bioremediation. The aims of this study were to select, identify and cultivate bacteria from mangrove sediments from Cilacap, Rembang and Banyuwangi which potentially as probiotic consortium of bioremediation activity and biocontrol. The results showed that total of 45 isolates (proteolytic), 35 isolates (amylolytic), 35 isolates (lipolytic), and 18 isolates (cellulolytic). There were 59 bacterial isolates had antibacterial activity of vibrio (*V. harveyi*, *V. alginolyticus*, *V. vulnificus* and *V. anguillarum*). Based on the identification of 16 S-rRNA genes, 4 isolates showed that the C2 isolate was identified as *Bacillus subtilis*, C11 isolate was identified as *Bacillus firmus*, C13 and C14 isolates were identified as *B. Flexus*. This study concluded that cultivation of *Bacillus subtilis* C2 optimum at 2% molase and yeast extract 0.5% at pH 8 and 30 0C. *Bacillus firmus* C11 optimum at 2% molase and yeast extract 0.5% at pH 8 and 30 0C. *Bacillus flexus* C13 optimum at 2% glucose and yeast extract 0.5% at pH 8 and 30 0C. *Bacillus flexus* C14 optimum at 4% molase and yeast extract 0.25% at pH 8 and 30 0C. The result of culture applications of 4 isolates showed an effect of increasing shrimp weight by 141, 9% compared by the control.

Keywords: sediment, mangrove, bioremediation, biocontrol

Introduction

Shrimp farm produces organic waste from the residue of the shrimp feed and feces. Jackson's studies (2003) showed that the nitrogen efficiency usage of feed was approximately 22%, whereas 78% of nitrogen was discharged into the environment and accumulated in the bottom of sediment pond. High organic matters content will spur on the growth of microorganisms, biodecomposition process and oxygen consumption (Avnimelech and Ritvo 2003). Insufficient oxygen conditions triggers the growth of anaerobic microorganisms which actively reducing SO_4^{2-} into H_2S that inhibited the growth of domestic animals (Mugnier *et al.* 2008). It is necessary to attempt to overcome the accumulation of organic matter in

the sediment pond. The most effective approach is through bioremediation (microorganism's agent). Organic waste of feed are complex, so that, bioremediation requires a consortium of different microorganisms with the kind of variation of activity to clean up organic matter.

In addition to environmental stress factors, the problems are encountered in the development of shrimp farming is a factor of disease (Smith and Briggs 1993). So that the developing water probiotic consortium should have the function to clean the organic material (biodecomposition) while controlling the pathogen population (biocontrol). Therefore, to produce probiotic bacteria it is necessary to screen, optimization of growth mediums and probiotic application test.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted by the laboratory experimental method and design of complete randomized study. Overall, the study will be carried in 5 stages: isolations, selections, identifications, cultivations and applications. Insulating phase consists of the preparation, dilution and purification. Selection phase consists of selection of proteolytic activity, amylolytic, cellulolytic, lipolytic, antibacterial and antagonis. Phase of identification of the molecular basis of bacterial consortium-based on 16S rRNA gene. Cultivation phase of probiotic consortium consists of 4 phases: screening and selecting of probiotic growth nutrients, optimization the nutrient concentrations of growth, optimization the pH growth, and optimization the growth temperature. Consortium Application phase was conducted on a bench scale (bench scale).

Isolation of Bacteria

Sediment sampling was performed on mangrove area in Cilacap, Rembang and Banyuwangi. Sediment samples were taken using a soil sampler at a depth of +10 cm. The Sediment samples were diluted up to 10⁻⁵, 10⁻⁶ and 10⁻⁷, respectively inoculation performed by pour plate method. Furthermore petri dishes were incubated for 2 x 24 hours. The colonies of bacteri which were formed on each petri dish from each dilution were isolated that showed different morphology. Isolation and purification of bacterial isolates were performed by the method of scratches (streak method).

Bacteria Based Selection Capability Doing Biodegradation of Organic Materials

Screening will be done for bacteria that are capable of altering or degrading polysaccharides, proteins and fats by the approaching the activity of protease enzymes, amylase, cellulase and lipase. Tests were carried out by the procedure of proteolytic activity by Jacob & Gerstein (1960) within Bairagi *et al.* (2002) by using 2216 E Zobell medium enriched with skim milk (1%).

Amylolytic activity test was carried out by

the procedure according to Jacob & Gerstein (1960) in Bairagi *et al.* (2002) which used 2216 E Zobell agar medium enriched with starch (1%). Lugol's iodine solution is poured above 1% of bacteria for agar identification of amylolytic activity (clear zone was formed). Cellulolytic activity test was performed using agar medium enriched with 1% CMC. Congo red solution was poured into the bacteria for identification of cellulose hydrolysis activity. Lipolytic activity test was done according to the procedure Sangiliyi and Gunasekeran (1996) in Bairagi *et al.* (2002) which used 2216 E Zobel agar medium enriched with 80 tween. Lipase activity was shown by the formation of fatty acid deposits around the bacteria.

Bacterial Selection Based on Antibacterial Capability

Antibacterial test for all isolates against pathogens (*V. alginoliticus*, *V. harveyi*, *V. anguillarum* and *V. vulnificus*) were performed by puncturing technique and overlaying (Isnansetyo 2004). the pure isolate cultures were inserted on the 2216 E Zobell agar medium by using a needle preparation and were incubated for 24 hours. After 24 hours of incubation, the overlay was done by pouring the pathogen into Zobell 2216 E soft agar medium (70%). Double layered then were incubated for 24 hours. Antagonist activity was identified by the production of clear zone without growth (inhibition zone) around the puncture of colony.

Antagonist Test Between Isolates

Antagonist tests were conducted using streak on Zobell agar medium. Antagonist activity was shown by the clear zone/barrier zone around the colony.

Identification of Bacteria Consortium by 16s-rrna Gene Molecular

The amplification of 16S-rRNA gene was performed by using 1 mL of DNA template were amplified by PCR Beads kit RTG using a universal primer (Marchesi *et al.* 1998), there were 63F

(5'-CAGGCCTAACACATGCAAGTC) and 1387r (5'-GGGCGGWGTGTACAAGGC). It was made a master mix containing 1.5 units of Tag DNA polymerase, 10 mM Tris HCl (pH 9.0 at room temperature), 50 mM KCl, 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 200 mM on each dNTP and a stabilizer and including BSA and 1 mL of DNA template. Then, put into a PCR machine, GeneAmp PCR Systems 2400 (Perkin Elmer Biosystems, USA), with the Pre-PCR conditions (94°C, 2 minutes), denaturation (92°C, 30 seconds), primer annealing (55°C, 30 seconds), elongation (75°C, 1 min) and a Post PCR (75°C, 5 min), the cycle 30 times. The results of 16S-rRNA gene amplification which produced the positif results were followed on positive sequencing analysis. Homology analysis was done by online at <http://www.ddbj.nig.ac.jp/>.

Screening and Selecting of Nutrient Growth

The methods used in this study followed the procedure according to Polak-Bereka *et al.* (2010) and Sathyanarayanan *et al.* (2011). Three carbon sources is glucose, fructose, and molasses, also three nitrogen sources peptone, yeast extract and urea at a concentration of 1% will be screened according to the production of biomass. All of the media were adjusted to pH 6.0. Medium were inoculated by *starter* isolates that gave OD 0.01 on the A₆₀₀. Incubation at room temperature, every 6 hours for 30 hours intervals, samples were taken as many as 4 mL then measuring the OD at A₆₀₀.

Screening and Selecting of Nutrient

Three concentrations of carbon sources were 1%, 2% and 4%, and three concentrations of nitrogen sources were 0.25%, 0.5% and 1.0%. Medium was inoculated with *starter* isolates that gave OD 0.01 on the A₆₀₀. Incubation at room temperature and at intervals of 6 hours for 30 hours samples were taken at 7 mL. then it were measured for the OD at A₆₀₀ and the dry weight of the bacteria.

Optimizing of pH

Medium with carbon sources and

nitrogen sources with the optimum concentration was adjusted to pH variation of 6, 7 and 8 then were inoculated with a *starter* isolates that gave OD 0.01 on A₆₀₀ and incubation at room temperature. Each 12-hour intervals for 60 hours samples were taken by 10 mL, then measuring the OD at A₆₀₀.

Optimizing of Temperature

Medium was added with a carbon sources and a nitrogen sources at the optimum concentration. It were inoculated with a *starter* isolates that gave OD 0.01 on the A₆₀₀. Incubation at varied temperature 30, 34 and 38 0C. every 12-hour intervals for 60 hours samples were taken by 7 mL then were performed measuring OD at A₆₀₀.

Tests of Consortium Application

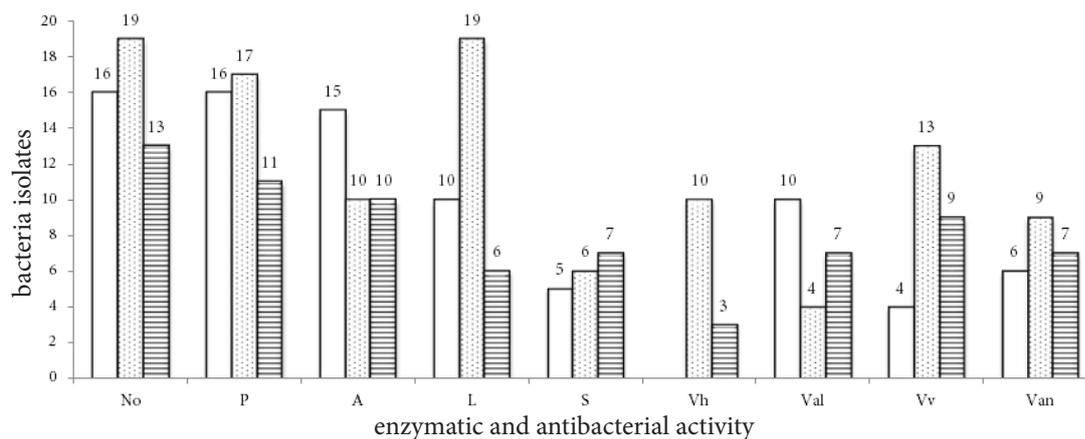
The application consortium tests at the laboratory scale using a plastic tub, sea water and soil sediment pond which was dried at a thickness about 10 cm. Each test basins used aeration system and the shrimps (tokolan) were spreaded at a density of 12 shrimps tails / 50 liters of water. Feeding was done 3 times a day with the amount of 5% of the total weight of shrimp were stocked. Observations were carried on growth, water quality (ammonia, nitrite and nitrate), and the total population of bacteria (TPC). This observing were done for 15 days.

Analysis of Data

All data were obtained then analyzed using descriptive and analytical one way ANOVA with Tukey's test $p = 0.05$ level.

Results and Discussion

The isolation and selection of heterotrophic bacteria that are capable of producing proteolytic enzymes (proteases), amyolytic (amylase), lipolytic (lipase) and cellulolytic (cellulose), as well as test results of antibacterial activity against 4 types of bacteria vibrio (*V. harveyi*, *V. alginolyticus*, *V. vulnificus* *V. anguillarum*) was shown in Figure 1.



Note: No: Number of isolates; P: Proteolytic, A: Amilolytic, L: Lipolytic, S: Selulolytic, Vh: *V. harveyi*, Val: *V. alginolyticus*, Vv: *V. vulnificus*, Van: *V. anguillarum*. Rembang, Cilacap, Banyuwangi

Figure 1 The number of isolates bacteria which have enzymatic and antibacterial activity

The results of Antagonist activity test among isolates obtained 9 isolates that produced extracellular enzymes and 5 isolates which actively inhibiting bacteria vibrio that each other were not antagonistic. Based on the capabilities of multi activities which are non-antagonistic to each other were obtained total of 4 potential isolates to be developed as a consortium, C-02, C-11, C-13 and C-14. Some researchers showed that bacteria heterotrophic in mangrove ecosystem was the main source of extracellular enzymes that was necessary for mineralization of organic material which produces enzymes including amylases, proteases, esterases and lipases (Dias *et al.* 2009).

The results based on the identification of 16 S-rRNA genes indicated that the C-02 isolates were identified as *Bacillus subtilis*. C-11 isolates were identified as *Bacillus firmus*

and isolates C-13 and C-14 were identified as *Bacillus flexus*. Bacteria were gram-positive bacillus, rod-shaped, endospores form was resistant to high temperature, low temperature, radiation, drying and disinfectants, aerobic or facultative anaerobic (Turnbull, 1996). Bacteria of the genus *Bacillus* has been widely used and developed as an agent to decompose organic material and pathogen control. The capability of *Bacillus* bacteria to produce antibacterial compounds were carried out by Vaseeharan and Ramaswamy (2003) who tested the BT application of *Bacillus subtilis* 23 to control vibrio bacteria in shrimp farming.

The result of the selection of carbon and nitrogen sources for the production of probiotic bacteria was shown in Table 1 and Table 2. Based on the analysis of the growth rate (Table 1) showed that the C2 *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus firmus* C11, and *Bacillus*

Table 1 The growth rate of probiotic bacteria on different carbon source media treatment

Isolates	Growth Rate of Bacteria (OD/hours)		
	Fructose	Glucose	Molase
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> C2	0.037±0.0014 ^a	0.047±0.0063 ^b	0.050±0.0048 ^b
<i>Bacillus firmus</i> C11	0.040±0.0013 ^a	0.049±0.0057 ^b	0.052±0.0052 ^b
<i>Bacillus flexus</i> C13	0.014±0.0017 ^a	0.049±0.0010 ^c	0.046±0.0008 ^b
<i>Bacillus flexus</i> C14	0.043 ±0.0091 ^a	0,046±0.0076 ^a	0.053±0.0063 ^a

Note: The average of ± standard deviation, Italic letters on the same value in the same row are not significantly different at $p>0.05$.

Table 2 The growth rate of probiotic bacteria on different nitrogen source media treatment

Isolates	Growth Rate of Bacteria (OD/hours)		
	Pepton	Yeast extract	Urea
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> C2	0.018±0.0018 ^b	0.024±0.0020 ^c	0.005±0.0003 ^a
<i>Bacillus firmus</i> C11	0.032±0.0021 ^b	0.036±0.0080 ^b	0.013±0.0033 ^a
<i>Bacillus flexus</i> C13	0.033±0.0075 ^b	0.045±0.0010 ^c	0.017±0.0035 ^a
<i>Bacillus flexus</i> C14	0.025±0.0018 ^a	0,041±0.0053 ^b	0.022±0.0014 ^a

Note: The average of ± standard deviation, Italic letters on the same value in the same row are not significantly different at $p>0.05$.

Table 3 The growth of probiotic bacteria on optimized carbon sources media treatment

Isolates	Nutrition	Growth Rate of Bacteria (OD/hours)		
		1%	2%	4%
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> C2	Molase	0.0171±0.0024 ^a	0.0341±0.0043 ^c	0.0313±0.0088 ^b
<i>Bacillus firmus</i> C11	Molase	0.0154±0.0013 ^a	0.0218±0.0044 ^b	0.0142±0.0002 ^a
<i>Bacillus flexus</i> C13	Glucose	0.0141±0.0001 ^a	0.0312±0.0010 ^b	0.0252±0.0002 ^b
<i>Bacillus flexus</i> C14	Molase	0.0189±0.0002 ^a	0,0284±0.0041 ^b	0.0324±0.0067 ^b

Note: The average of ± standard deviation, Italic letters on the same value in the same row are not significantly different at $p>0.05$.

flexus C14 have a high growth rate on 1% molasses respectively the rate of change in OD/hour at 0,050±0,0048^b, 0.052±0,0052^b, and 0.053±0,0063^a. While *Bacillus flexus* C13 had the highest growth rate at addition of 1% glucose is 0.049±0,0010^c.

The high growth in Zobell liquid medium which was enriched with molasses was occurred due to the molasses as carbon source as well as sources of minor vitamin and nutrients that can be used as a growth factor (Kulpreecha *et al.* 2005). The low capability of *Bacillus flexus* C13 to use molasses indicated that C13 strains had different physiological

characteristics, primarily related to the ability to produce extracellular enzymes which was needed to break down complex organic carbon such as molasses. Glucose is a simple sugar that is available to be directly used for bacteria.

Based on the analysis of growth rate (Table 2) showed that the best source of nitrogen as a co-substrate to increase the growth rate of those 4 bacteria was yeast extract. It might be possible because of yeast extract had advantages over other nitrogen sources. It was In line with research Peighamya-Ashnaei *et al.* (2007) that yeast extract was

Table 4 The growth of probiotic bacteria on optimized nitrogen sources media treatment

Isolates	Concentration of Yeast Source at pH 8		
	0.25%	0.5%	1%
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> C2	0.0300±0.0087 ^b	0.0368±0.0004 ^b	0.0061±0.0004 ^b
<i>Bacillus firmus</i> C11	0.0162±0.0033 ^a	0.0256±0.0001 ^b	0.0153±0.0020 ^b
<i>Bacillus flexus</i> C13	0.0232±0.0037 ^a	0.0294±0.0023 ^b	0.0204±0.0020 ^a
<i>Bacillus flexus</i> C14	0.0344 ±0.0010 ^b	0,0230±0.0055 ^a	0.0242±0.0018 ^a

Note: The average of ± standard deviation, Italic letters on the same value in the same row are not significantly different at $p>0.05$.

Table 5 The growth of probiotic bacteria on optimum carbon sources and pH with temperature media treatment

Isolates	Carbon Source with a Temperature (°C)		
	30	34	38
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> C2	0.2898±0.0055 ^c	0.2350±0.0018 ^a	0.2630±0.0026 ^b
<i>Bacillus firmus</i> C11	0.2148±0.0010 ^c	0.1878±0.0019 ^b	0.1694±0.0018 ^a
<i>Bacillus flexus</i> C13	0.2937±0.0055 ^c	0.2820±0.0026 ^a	0.2223±0.0018 ^b
<i>Bacillus flexus</i> C14	0.4157 ±0.0016 ^c	0,2537±0.0021 ^a	0.3925±0.0049 ^b

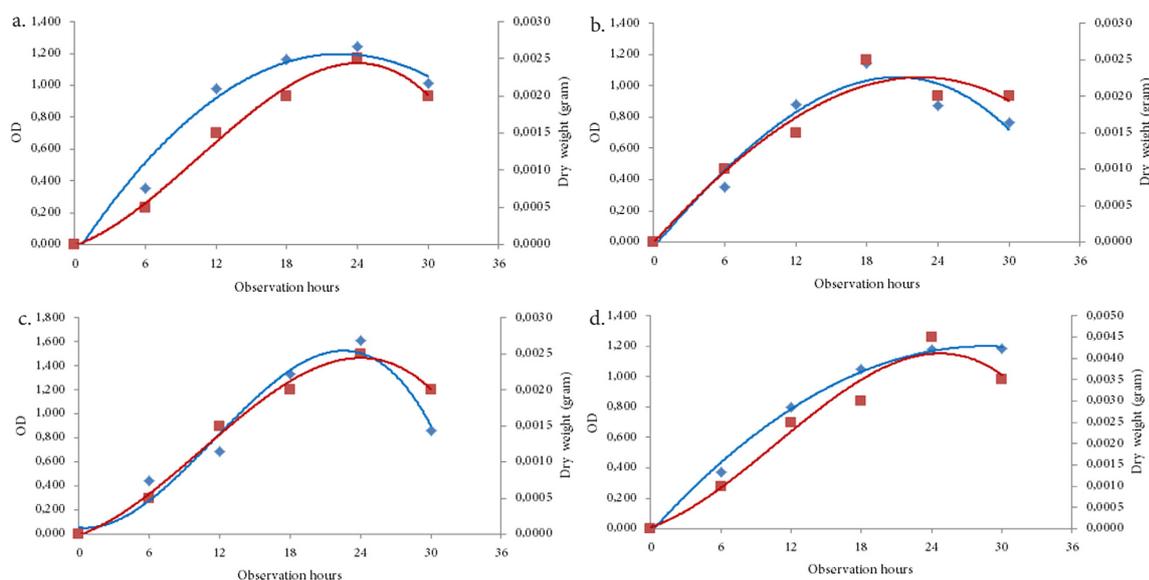
Note: The average of ± standard deviation, Italic letters on the same value in the same row are not significantly different at $p>0.05$.

a good source of nitrogen for the growth of most *Bacillus subtilis* compared with urea and malt extract (Figure 2).

Based on the results of carbon source screening, that followed by optimization of concentration (Table 3). Results of optimization of the concentration of carbon source (glucose and molasses) showed that the optimum concentration of glucose were added to cultures of *Bacillus flexus* C13 was the concentration of 2%, whereas the optimum concentration of molasses which were added to the culture C2 *Bacillus subtilis*, and *Bacillus firmus* C11 were 2 %, and *Bacillus flexus* C14 was 4% (Figure 3).

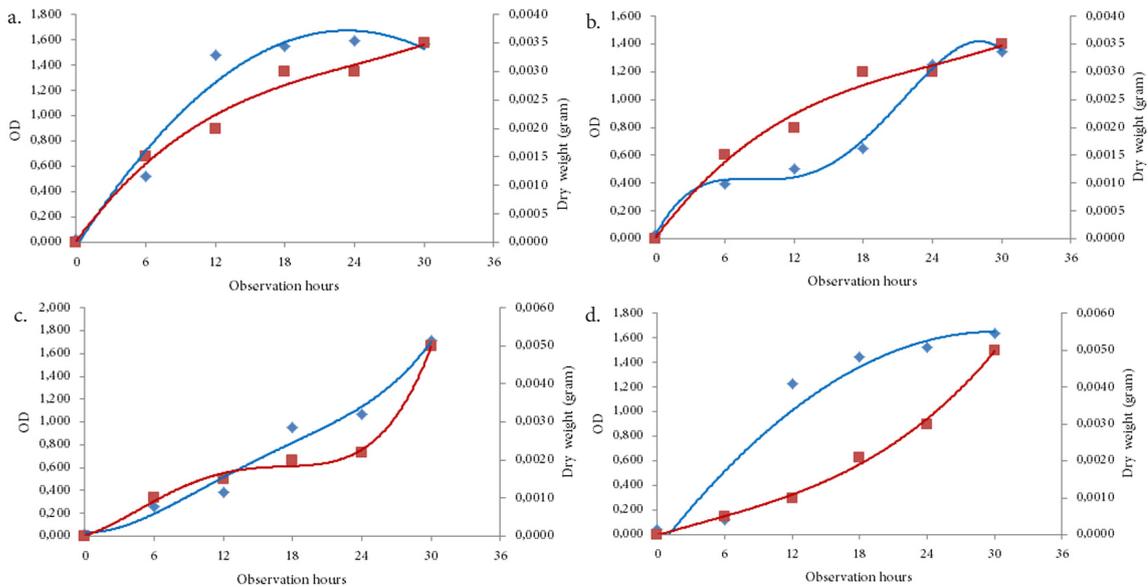
The results above indicated that different bacterial strains had an optimum concentration for different source (molasses). The results of the study Magdi *et al.* (2010) obtained different results with this research that molasses concentration optimal for growth of *Bacillus subtilis* KO was 10%. This suggests that different bacterial strains had an optimum concentration for different. C source (molasses).

Based on the results of nitrogen source screening, that followed by optimization of nitrogen source concentration. The Results of optimization of the concentration of the nitrogen source (yeast extract) (Table 4)



Note: A. *Bacillus subtilis* C2, Yeast 0,5% pH 8. B. *Bacillus firmus* C11, Yeast 0,5% pH 8. C. *Bacillus flexus* C13, Yeast 0,5% pH 8. D. *Bacillus flexus* C14, Yeast 0,25% pH 8. ◆ : OD, ■ : Dry Weight (gram).

Figure 2 OD and Dry weight of bacteria on optimum nitrogen sources concentration media



Note: A. *Bacillus subtilis* C2, Molase 2% pH 8. B. *Bacillus firmus* C11, Molase 2% pH 8. C. *Bacillus flexus* C13, Glucose 2% pH 8. D. *Bacillus flexus* C14, Molase 4% pH 8. —◆— : OD, —■— : Dry Weight (gram).

Figure 3 OD and dry weight of bacteria on optimum carbon source concentration media

were occurred at a concentration of 0.5% except *Bacillus flexus* C14 was occurred at a concentration of 0.25%.

The results of the study Magdi *et al.* (2010) obtained different results with this research that molasses concentration optimal for growth of *Bacillus subtilis* KO was 10%.

Based on the pH optimization results obtained optimum pH for the growth of all four types of bacteria on Zobell liquid medium with the addition of a source of C and N at the optimal concentration was 8 (Figure 4 and 5). It indicated that all four types of bacteria were classified to bacteria alkalophilic.

Alkalophilic Bacteria were microorganisms that lived well at alkaline pH

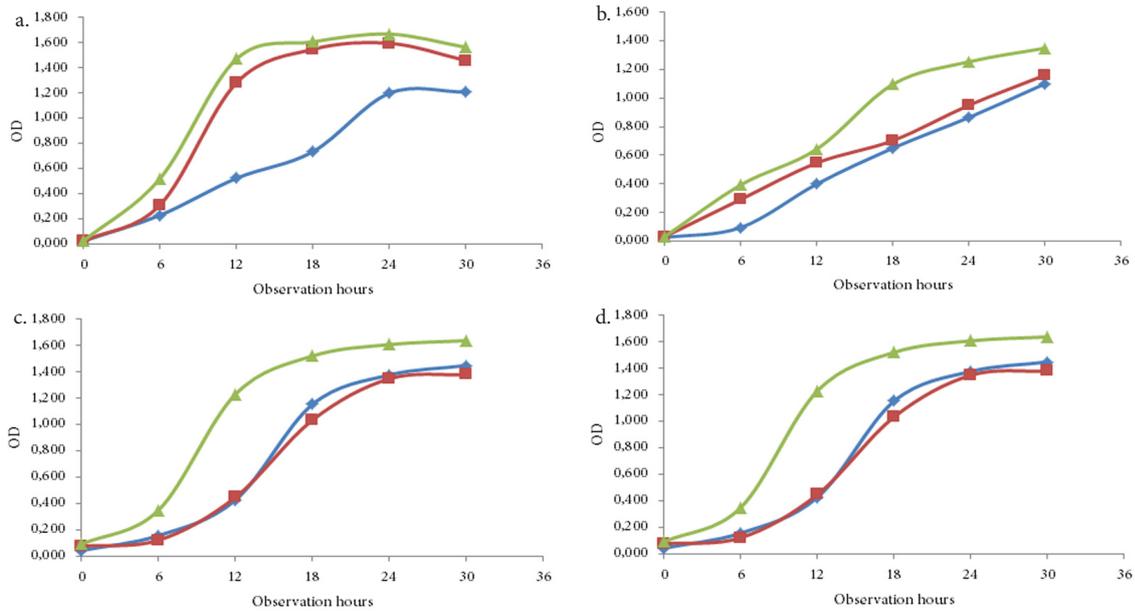
(above pH 7). Results of research conducted by Magdi *et al.* (2010) in *Bacillus subtilis* KO obtained optimum pH of 6.5 - 7 pH. The Optimization results for *Bacillus firmus* was carried out by Roosdiana *et al.* (2013) that obtained an optimum pH value of 7-8. pH, it was in line with the results of this research.

Other environmental factor that greatly affects the rate of bacterial growth was temperature. Temperature had effect on the stability of the functional molecular structure especially the enzyme. Enzyme was catalysts of metabolic reactions. Results of optimization of cultivation temperature for the four types of bacteria in Zobell liquid medium with the addition of a carbon source (molasses and

Table 6 The growth of probiotic bacteria on optimum nitrogen sources and pH media with temperature optimization treatment

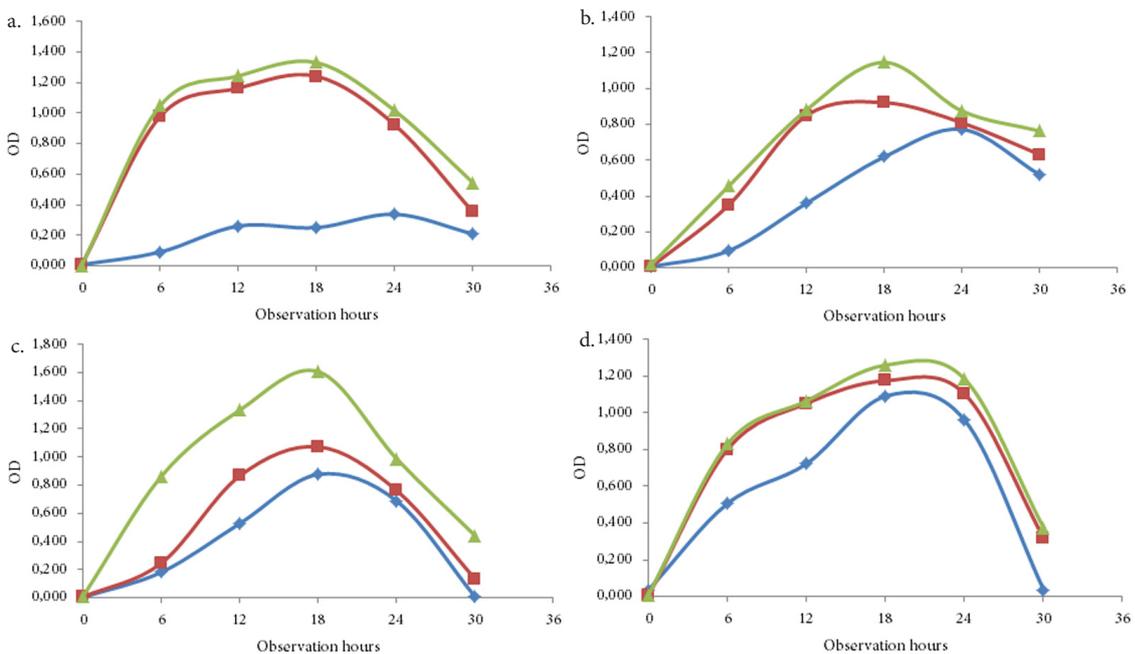
Isolates	Carbon Source with a Temperature (°C)		
	30	34	38
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> C2	0.2868±0.0028 ^c	0.0917±0.0013 ^a	0.1918±0.0011 ^b
<i>Bacillus firmus</i> C11	0.2025±0.0019 ^c	0.1676±0.0039 ^b	0.1216±0.0012 ^a
<i>Bacillus flexus</i> C13	0.2480±0.0044 ^b	0.2375±0.0017 ^a	0.3120±0.0016 ^b
<i>Bacillus flexus</i> C14	0.3806±0.0012 ^c	0.2014±0.0014 ^a	0.2615±0.0068 ^b

Note: The average of ± standard deviation, Italic letters on the same value in the same row are not significantly different at $p > 0.05$.



Note: A. *Bacillus subtilis* C2, Molase 2%. B. *Bacillus firmus* C11, Molase 2%. C. *Bacillus flexus* C13, Glucose 2%. D. *Bacillus flexus* C14, Molase 4%. —◆— : pH 6, —■— : pH 7, —▲— : pH 8

Figure 4 OD bacteria at optimum carbon source media optimization ph treatment



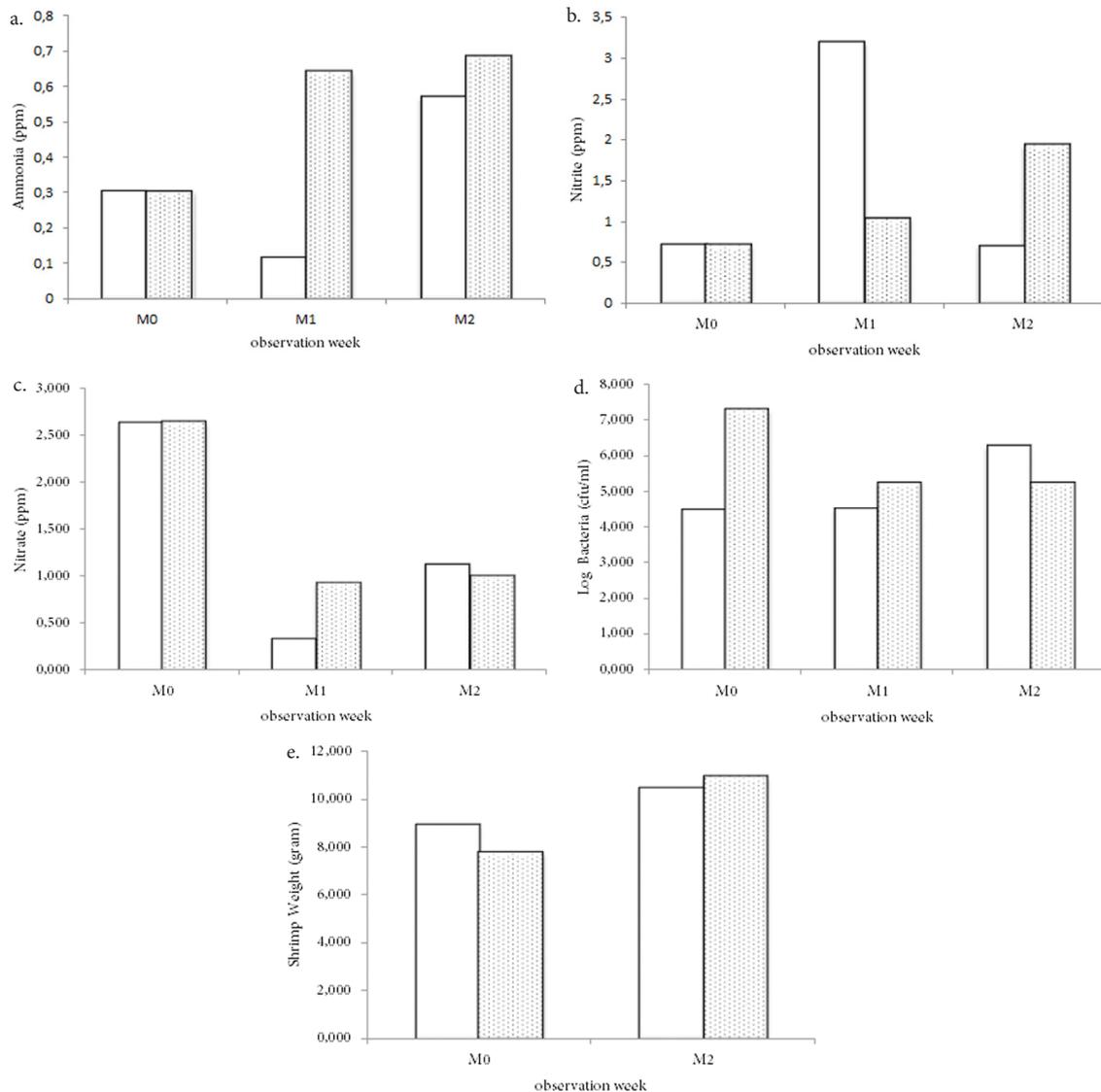
Note: A. *Bacillus subtilis* C2, Yeast 0.5%. B. *Bacillus firmus* C11, Yeast 0.5%. C. *Bacillus flexus* C13, Yeast 0.5%. D. *Bacillus flexus* C14, Yeast 0.25%. —◆— : pH 6, —■— : pH 7, —▲— : pH 8

Figure 5 OD bacteria at optimum nitrogen source media optimization ph treatment

glucose) and nitrogen source (yeast extract) were shown in Table 5 and Table 6.

The result of the growth analysis showed that all four types of bacteria grew optimally at 30°C. Bacteria that lived optimally

at 30°C including mesophilic bacteria group. Mesophilic microorganisms were microorganisms that grew in the temperature in range 20-30°C. The different results obtained in the study Falguni and Sharma



Note: Concentrations of ammonia (a.), nitrite (b.), nitrate (c.), total bacteria in water medium (d.) and shrimp weight (e.) with probiotic applications treatment. M0, 1, 2 : observation week 0, 1, 2. □ Control, ▨ Probiotic

Figure 6 Analysis of ammonia, nitrite, nitrate and total bacteria in Water Medium with Probiotic Applications Treatment

(2012) that the optimum temperature for growth of *Bacillus flexus* FPB17 was 35°C. The difference in the optimum temperature for *Bacillus firmus* might occur due to different strains.

The results of analysis of ammonia, nitrite, nitrate and total bacteria in Water Medium with Probiotic Applications Treatment were shown in Figure 6. The Results showed an increase of ammonia during the research. Ammonia is a product of nitrification of

nitrogenous organic material by bacteria and excretion activity by shrimps. According Hovanec and De Long (1996), the types of nitrifying bacteria include: the group of ammonia-oxidizing bacteria that consisting of *Nitrosomonas europaea*, *Nitrosococcus mobilis*, *Nitrosolobus multiformis*; The group of nitrite-oxidizing bacteria consisted *Nitrobacter winogradskyi*, *Nitrobacter agilis*, *Nitrococcus mobilis*. The pattern changes of ammonia, nitrite and nitrate in this tests

showed that the high nitrification process on treatment, the oxidation process from ammonia to nitrite was low and the process of oxidation from nitrite to nitrate was high.

Probiotic consortium application showed the changes of microbiological community. Isolates 13 and isolates 14 were isolates that having antagonistic activity against *Vibrio* bacteria. So the existence of these two isolates causing changes bacteriological community. This change brought a positive effect on shrimp growth. This was indicated by the effect of increasing the weight of shrimp in the application of probiotic, which caused an increase compared to the control. Antagonistic activity by consortium members against pathogenic bacteria, especially bacteria *vibrio* might be possible to control the presence of harmful bacteria.

Conclusion

The results of this study showed a total of 44 isolates having proteolytic activity, 35 isolates had amylolytic activity, 35 isolates had lipolytic activity, and 18 isolates had cellulolytic activity of, 12 isolates of nitrifying bacteria, and 59 isolates of bacteria that have antagonistic activity against *Vibrio* bacteria. The results of this study concluded that there were 4 selected isolates from selection of bacteria isolates. *Bacillus subtilis* C-02, C-11, *Bacillus firmus*, *Bacillus flexus* C-13 and C-14 *Bacillus flexus* were potential to be developed as consortium of probiotic for shrimp farming because of their non-antagonistic to each other. Cultivation of *Bacillus subtilis* C2 and *Bacillus firmus* C11 reached an optimum at 2% carbon molase sources and yeast extract nitrogen sources 0.5% at pH 8 and temperature 30°C. *Bacillus flexus* C13 had optimum at 2% glucose carbon sources and yeast extract nitrogen sources 0.5% at pH 8 and temperature 30°C. *Bacillus flexus* C14 had optimum at 4% molasses carbon sources and yeast extract nitrogen sources 0.25% at pH 8 and temperature 30°C. The result of culture applications of these 4 isolates showed an effect

of increasing shrimp weight achieved by the control. Water quality analysis indicated levels of ammonia, nitrite and nitrate tended to be higher in the treatment than in the control.

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