

## Effectiveness of Indigenous Lead (Pb) Reducing Bacteria Consortia of Waste Water Treatment in Agar Flour Industry

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### Abstract

Lead (Pb) is known as toxic element in environment. It is produced from processing of Agar Flour industry activities. Enhancement of Pb in the wastewater of agar flour is very dangerous for human health. Effect of lead damage some organ e.g. kidney, liver, and hair. Environment standard of lead concentration on waste water based on Governor of East Java Regulation No. 72 of 2013 is 1 mg.L<sup>-1</sup>, otherwise, initial lead levels of waste water are 3.114 mg.L<sup>-1</sup>. The aim of the research is reducing the level of lead to be harmless for the environment. One method to decrease a high concentration of lead in wastewater is biosorption. Consortia of *Bacillus alvei* and *Bacillus pumilus* as indigenous bacteria are used to decrease Pb level in the wastewater. The experiment was carried out with varies of wastewater concentration and bacteria 3 %, 4%, 5%, 6%, and 7%. Consortium of *B. alvei* dan *B. pumilus* at 7 % concentration have the highest potency 93.58 % to reduce lead reach 0.2 mg.L<sup>-1</sup>.

**Keywords:** Bacteria, Consortia, Concentration, Pb, Waste of Agar Flour

### INTRODUCTION

Industry development in Indonesia has negative impact on ecosystem. The Effects were characterized by pollution. Pollution came from pollutants [1], such as hazardous industrial waste water which badly manage. It is also found at agar flour industrial waste water in Malang city. This pollution cause many problems in environment.

Problems occurred because heavy metal (Pb) found in the waste of agar flour industry. These lead (Pb) is truly toxic, non biodegradable, potentially pollute the environment [2,3]. It is also carcinogenic and highly toxic [4]. Therefore, to control environmental pollution by Pb, it is necessary to restrict maximum content of Pb in the waste water that discharged into the environment. Based on observation, Pb levels in the waste water of agar flour industrial are 3.114 mg.L<sup>-1</sup> which too high compared to the standard quality 1 mg.L<sup>-1</sup> according Governor of East Java Regulation No. 72 of 2013.

The concentration of Pb higher than the standards would be harmful to living organisms, especially indirect impact on the human health, it can damage the brain which reduce the

intelligence of children [2]. Lead cause interference on nervous system, reproductive system and urinary tract [5]. Lead enter the waters through efflorescence in the air with the help of rain water [3]. Alternative treatments should be done to avoid such health problems, especially treatment for waste problem.

Biotechnology offers a solution to the polluted environment. There are several treatments that are offered in biotechnology, in this case the solution used for this study is using bacteria for bioremediation of Pb contaminated environment [6,7]. Indigenous bacteria are used as a natural agent to reduce waste water, biosorption principle is used to minimize the impact of Pb [8]. Biosorption is biological process using dead cells and living cells, caused surface of cell to bind metals. Biosorption is known as the other different mechanism of bioremediation [9]. In this case, biosorption is a metal ion absorption process using indigenous bacteria as biological agents. All microbial such as bacteria has ability to absorb heavy metal from water solution. Cell walls play an important role in binding metals ions. The advantages apply biosorption method using bacteria are giving low cost due to use bacteria as biological origin of materials, it can remove heavy metals in large quantities, and metal recovery [10].

Consortia of bacteria are known to reduce the levels of Pb in waste water better than individual bacteria. Using the bacterial consortia was more

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effective in reducing waste [11]. Thus, this study use a consortia of bacteria to assay the rate of reducing Pb.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Starter of Bacteria Isolates

Indigenous bacteria were used for treatment. Indigenous bacteria obtained from industry of agar flour waste water, such as *B. alvei* and *B. pumilus*. Culturing bacteria used Nutrient Agar and multiply bacteria used nutrient broth. Culture starter for lead reducing experiment consist of tree starter of individual and both species of *B. alvei* and *B. pumilus*. Consortia starter of *B. alvei* and *B. pumilus* was developed using combination of both species at 24 hours age with the same volume and cell density is  $3 \times 10^8$  cell/mL of each species.

### Treatment

The concentration of bacteria in the waste water used were 3 %, 4 %, 5 %, 6 % and 7 %. As a comparison this study use two control treatments, positive control and negative control. Positive control is concentration of Pb on sterilized waste added with sterilized aquades, while the negative control is concentration of Pb on unsterilized waste added with sterilized aquades. Each treatment and control take place in shaker with 100 rpm for 7 days. After 7 days, Pb concentration on each treatment was measured using Atomic Absorption Spectrometry (AAS). The last result of the Pb concentration will compare with Governor of East Java Regulation No. 72 of 2013 [13].

### Statistical Data Analysis

Statistical analysis in this study using SPSS 22.0 for Windows for analysis percentage of Pb reducing among treatments . If the level of significance  $<0.05$ , the research hypothesis is accepted and the null hypothesis is rejected. If the data showed significant results, then conducted a further test of Duncan.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Biotechnology in the environment fields provides an important role to help the existing problems in the neighborhood. The aims of processing waste water is decreasing concentration of hazardous waste, thus it can fulfill as the standards quality. Method used for this problem is using bacteria as a bioremediation agent to reduce hazardous

metals concentration such as Pb in the waste water.

Capability of indigenous bacteria to reduce the toxic effect of Pb could be effectively used in environmental biotechnology. Indigenous Bacteria is a mixture of a wide variety of beneficial microbe which originally lives in a particular area. It have potential in the process of biodegradation, bioleaching, composting, and nitrogen fixation [14]. In this study, we used bacteria that are a native bacterium of agar flour waste water. Bacteria that isolated and identified from waste water are *Bacillus alvei* and *Bacillus pumilus*. These bacteria tested in laboratory scale to determine its benefits for reducing Pb which contained in the waste water.

Test result (Fig. 1) showed that indigenous bacteria can reduce Pb concentration. Initial Pb concentration of waste water is  $3.114 \text{ mg.L}^{-1}$ , after 7 days each single treatment able to reduce Pb levels. Increasing of culture concentration at 7 days experiment showed increased of percentage of Pb reducing. Starter of *B. alvei*, *B. pumilus*, and consortia of both species are able to reduce of Pb concentration until  $0.910 \text{ mg.L}^{-1}$  (70.78 %),  $1.544 \text{ mg.L}^{-1}$  (50.41 %), and  $0.200 \text{ mg.L}^{-1}$  (93.58 %) respectively at culture concentration 7 %. The figure 1 showed percentage of Pb reduction among treatments. Consortia of *B. alvei* and *B. pumilus* at 7 % culture concentration in 7 days experiment have highest percentage of Pb reduction.

Effectiveness of bacteria consortia is due to the synergistic action of both species in the broth culture or due to different metabolism pathway by individual bacteria [15,16]. *Bacillus alvei* and *Bacillus pumilus* are indigenous bacteria that are exploited from waste water. Indigenous bacteria of both species from Pb contaminated habitat was adapted and it can still grow on their environment. Reducing Pb levels by bacteria consortia produced significantly higher and more efficient results [17].

Indigenous bacteria have the ability to reduce Pb concentration in the agar flour waste water significantly. In this case, *Bacillus* identified from agar flour waste water. *Bacillus* is Gram positive and aerobic. Gram positive bacteria have the ability to bind heavy metal compared to Gram negative bacteria, because its cells wall structure, it contains peptidoglycan, teichoic, teichuronic acid that responsible for Pb binding. Phosphate and carboxyl group in the cells wall also plays an important role to bind Pb [17,18,19]. *Bacillus* used by many researchers to investigate the

reduction of Pb, because it has high potential of reduction to remove heavy metal and also as biosorbent, for reducing Pb based on biosorption principal [20,21].

Biosorption of Pb by consortia of *B. alvei* and *B. pumilus* was highest at 7% culture concentration. Culture concentration indicates the number or density of bacterial cells that affect the biosorption process. The culture concentration 7 % in 7 days experiment have highest potency to Pb reduction, Pb level reduce

to be 0.200 mg.L<sup>-1</sup> (thus absorbed Pb reached 2.914 (mg.L<sup>-1</sup>) or 93.58%). The results appropriate with the aim of biosorption to reduce concentration of environmental pollutant [22].

Degradation of wastes by bacterial consortia is highly significant [17]. Based on statistical data analysis, value of Pb reduction by bacteria decrease significantly and also it fullfill quality standard of Governor of East Java Regulation No. 72 of 2013 [13], that Pb level after treatment harmless than Pb level before treatment.

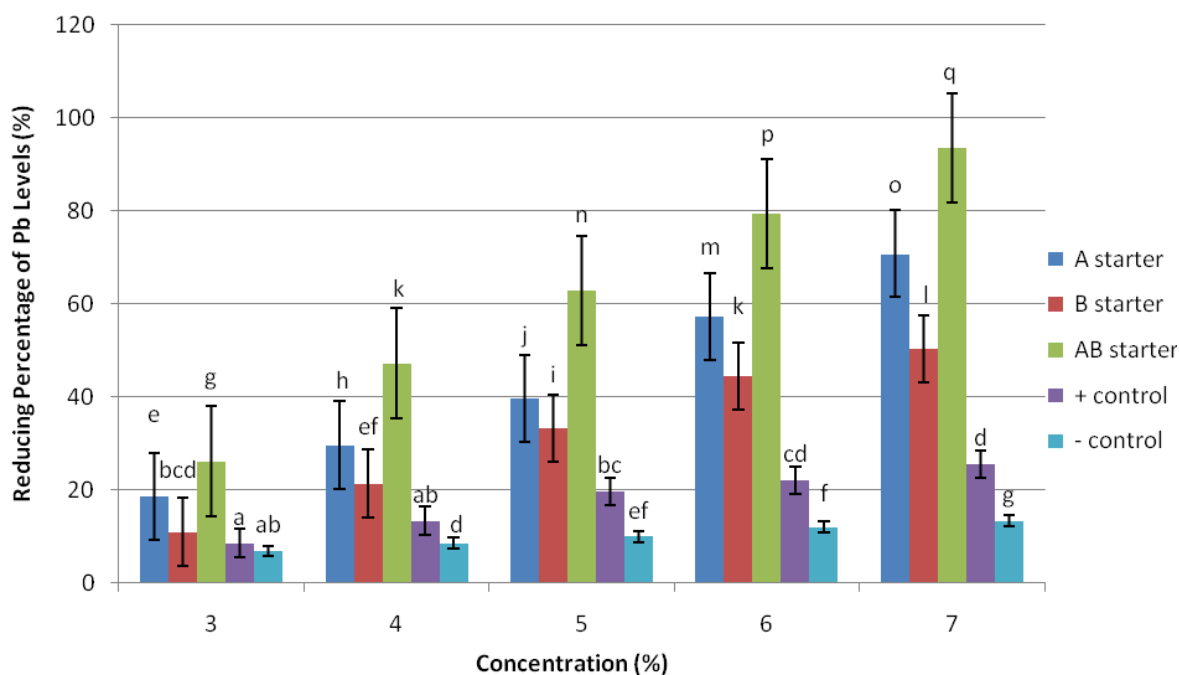


Figure 1. Reducing of Pb levels with each concentration and starter

### CONCLUSIONS

Consortia of *B. alvei* and *B. pumilus* reduce Pb concentration higher than individual species. The culture concentration of the bacteria consortia at 7% have highest potency 93.58%, it reduced Pb concentration to be 0.200 mg.L<sup>-1</sup>; it fullfill standard quality Based on Governor of East Java Regulation No. 72 of 2013.

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