

## ALTERNATE USE OF DIFFERENT RICA PROBIOTIC BACTERIA ON SURVIVAL RATE AND PRODUCTION OF CULTURED TIGER SHRIMP IN SEMI-INTENSIVE PONDS

Muharijadi Atmomarsono<sup>#</sup> and Nurbaya

Research and Development Institute for Coastal Aquaculture, Maros

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### ABSTRACT

Tiger shrimp diseases have occurred in Indonesian shrimp ponds for more than two decades. In order to overcome this problem, five types of the RICA probiotic bacteria were tested in nine 250 m<sup>2</sup> semi-intensive ponds of the Research and Development Institute for Coastal Aquaculture Marana Station. In the present study three different alternate use of the RICA probiotics were tested for tiger shrimp culture incompletely randomized design experiment. There were three treatments here namely: A) alternate use of probiotic bacteria RICA-1, RICA-2, RICA-3; B) alternate use of probiotic bacteria RICA-4, RICA-5, RICA-3, and C) control (without probiotic bacteria); each treatment were applied in three replications. The results showed that survival rate and production of tiger shrimp in treatment A (55.8% and 14.9 kg/pond) and B (52.7% and 16.7 kg/pond) were significantly better ( $P < 0.05$ ) than those of in control ponds (37.4% and 10.9 kg/pond). However, survival rate and production of tiger shrimp between treatment A and B were not significantly different ( $P > 0.05$ ). The average total bacteria population in the cultured water media of treatment A ( $4.32 \times 10^4$  cfu/mL) and B ( $5.18 \times 10^4$  cfu/mL) were relatively higher than control ( $1.46 \times 10^4$  cfu/mL). However the percentage ratio of *Vibrio* spp. and total bacteria population in the cultured water media of treatment A and B were relatively lower than control. The lower survival rate and production of tiger shrimp in control (C) compared to probiotic treatments (A and B) were not just affected by the increase of *Vibrio* spp. ratio, but also affected by the increase of total organic matter and nitrite concentrations in the control ponds that were relatively higher than treatment A and B.

**KEYWORDS:** RICA probiotic, alternate use, tiger shrimp, semi-intensive

### INTRODUCTION

Shrimp diseases have caused high mortality in brackishwater shrimp aquaculture in Indonesia (Atmomarsono, 2004). Researchers have developed various approaches to improve shrimp survival, including using water reservoir and biofilter organisms for wastewater treatment (Atmomarsono *et al.*, 1995; Muliani

*et al.*, 1998; Atmomarsono, 2004). The use of antibiotics to control *Vibrio* is not supported because of the development of resistant strains of *Vibrio*. An alternative approach is to use probiotic bacteria as an approach to reduce potential environmental impacts.

Probiotic bacteria are non-pathogenic bacteria that compete with pathogenic bacteria,

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<sup>#</sup> Corresponding author. Research and Development Institute for Coastal Aquaculture  
Jl. Makmur Dg. Sitakka No. 129, Maros 90512, Sulawesi Selatan, Indonesia. Phone: +62 411 371544  
E-mail: hari\_atmo@yahoo.com

demineralise organic matter and improve water quality (Poernomo, 2004). Probiotic bacteria can be isolated from the sea water and sea sediment, coral, pond sediment, mangrove leaves, and macroalgae (Haryanti *et al.*, 2000; Muliani *et al.*, 2003, 2004, 2006; Atmomarsono *et al.*, 2009; Tampangallo *et al.*, 2013).

Many species of bacteria have been proposed as probiotics, including: *Bacillus* sp., *Bacillus subtilis*, *Lactobacillus* spp., *Brevibacillus* sp., *Pseudomonas* sp., *Pseudoalteromonas* sp., *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Vibrio alginolyticus*, and *Vibrio carchariae*. Probiotic bacteria have been used in hatcheries for the larval rearing of swimming crab *Portunus trituberculatus* and *P. pelagicus* (Nogami & Maeda, 1992; Susanto *et al.*, 2005), rainbow trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (Brunt & Austin, 2005; Brunt *et al.*, 2007), tiger shrimp *Penaeus monodon* (Meunpol *et al.*, 2003) as well as for brine shrimp *Artemia* culture (Villamil *et al.*, 2003).

The use of probiotics by farmers has had mixed success due to the use of different kinds of probiotics, their doses, and the method of application. The Research and Development Institute for Coastal Aquaculture (RICA), Maros, South Sulawesi, has developed several strains of probiotics bacteria which were isolated from brackishwater ponds, mangrove leaves, sea sediments, and macroalgae. RICA-1 is *Brevibacillus laterosporus* that is used to control total organic matter and H<sub>2</sub>S in shrimp culture water (Muliani *et al.*, 2006; Atmomarsono *et al.*, 2009). RICA-2 is *Serratia marcescens* that is used to control nitrite and nitrate in shrimp culture water (Muliani *et al.*, 2004) and to enhance shrimp growth (Atmomarsono *et al.*, 2009). RICA-3 is *Pseudoalteromonas* sp. Edeep-1 that is used to decrease nitrite and control *Vibrio* spp. in shrimp culture water (Muliani *et al.*, 2003, 2005; Atmomarsono & Susianingsih, 2013). RICA-4 is *Bacillus subtilis* that has an effect similar to RICA-1. RICA-5 is *Bacillus licheniformis* that is used to control ammonia and nitrite in the pond water (Tampangallo *et al.*, 2013).

Some laboratory-scale experiments had been undertaken to evaluate these five RICA probiotics, including the effects of different probiotics and application of the dose rates (Muliani *et al.*, 2007), the composition of the probiotics (Nurbaya *et al.*, 2007; Muliani *et al.*, 2008a; Atmomarsono *et al.*, 2009), and ratio of probiotic (Muliani *et al.*, 2008b). Other aspects

that are important are when and how to apply this probiotic bacteria to get better survival rate and production of shrimp (Atmomarsono & Susianingsih, 2013). In this study we tested these five RICA probiotics to evaluate their effect on tiger shrimp survival and production in semi-intensive brackishwater culture ponds.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was carried out at the Marana Experimental Ponds of the RICA, Maros, South Sulawesi, using nine 250 m<sup>2</sup> ponds aerated with "supercharge blower". Each pond was stocked with PL-12 black tiger shrimp fry (initial average body weight 3 mg) at an initial stocking density of 10 shrimps/m<sup>2</sup>. Prior to stocking the PLs were tested using PCR (IQ2000 test kit) to ensure that they were negative WSSV. The experimental design used was completely randomized design (CRD) with three treatments in three replicates. Three treatments tested here were: (A) alternate use of probiotic bacteria RICA-1, RICA-2, and RICA-3; (B) alternate use of probiotic bacteria RICA-4, RICA-5, and RICA-3; and (C) control (without probiotic bacteria). The tiger shrimp were fed with a commercial pellet diet, containing 37%-38% crude protein and 4%-4.5% fat, from 100% of total biomass per day (given twice a day) at the beginning of the trial, decreasing to 2% of total biomass/day (given four times/day) at the end of the culture period (13 weeks).

Before being added to the ponds, probiotic bacteria (200 mL) were cultured using 1 kg of rice bran, 400 g of fish meal, 500 g of molasses, and 100 g of yeast in 20 L of brackishwater pond water (Poernomo, 2004). Probiotic bacteria cultures were applied twice each week at about 10 mg/L of 3-day fermented culture of bacteria. Alternating use of probiotic bacteria for treatment A and B was done every two weeks until harvest.

Survival rate and production of the tiger shrimp were measured after 13 weeks. Data were then analyzed using analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Least Significant Difference analysis (Steel & Torrie, 1981).

Total bacterial count (TPC) in the pond water was analyzed using tryptic soy agar (TSA) media, while total *Vibrio* count (TBV) was analyzed using thiosulphate citrate bile-salt sucrose agar (TCBSA) media every other week (Austin, 1987; Buller, 2004). Data were then analysed graphically and discussed descriptively.

Water quality variables of the shrimp pond water were monitored and measured in every two weeks. Total organic matter (TOM) and total alkalinity were measured titrimetrically, while nitrite-nitrogen (NO<sub>2</sub>-N) and nitrate-nitrogen (NO<sub>3</sub>-N) were measured using spectrophotometer (Boyd, 1990; American Public Health Association, 1995). Water temperature and dissolved oxygen (DO) were monitored using DO-meter YSI model. Water pH was checked with pH-meter, while salinity was checked with Atago hand refractometer. Data were then analysed graphically and discussed descriptively.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Population of Bacteria

#### Total Bacteria and Total *Vibrio* spp. in the Pond Water

Figure 1 shows the change in total bacteria and total *Vibrio* spp. count (in logarithmic values) in the pond water during the experiment. For all treatments, total bacteria in the pond water tended to decrease for the fourth week to the sixth week, but increased again for the eighth week and the twelfth week of culture period. Total bacteria counts in the shrimp culture pond water in treatment A ( $5.8 \times 10^3$  cfu/mL to  $1.45 \times 10^5$  cfu/mL with  $4.32 \times 10^4$  cfu/mL in average) and treatment B ( $8.8 \times 10^3$  cfu/mL to  $1.2 \times 10^5$  cfu/mL with  $5.18 \times 10^4$  cfu/mL in average) were relatively higher than that of in treatment C ( $4.2 \times 10^3$  cfu/mL to  $3.19 \times 10^4$  cfu/mL with  $1.46 \times 10^4$  cfu/mL in average). However, there were no significantly difference ( $P > 0.05$ ) among the three treatments tested here. Descriptively, this shows that the

RICA probiotic bacteria grows in the shrimp pond water, so that the number of total bacteria in treatment A and B were slightly higher than that of in treatment C. Similar research reported by Susianingsih *et al.* (2012a), with the use of probiotic bacteria RICA-1 (1<sup>st</sup> month), RICA-2 (2<sup>nd</sup> month), RICA-3 (3<sup>rd</sup> month), and RICA-1 (4<sup>th</sup> month) that total bacteria in the pond water tended to decrease from  $10^8$  cfu/mL at the beginning to  $10^5$  cfu/mL by the end of experiment. The continuous growth of probiotic bacteria in the pond waters will improve water quality variables like decreasing total organic matter, ammonia, and nitrite that finally increase the survival rate and production of the shrimp (Table 3).

The numbers of total *Vibrio* spp. (TBV) from the beginning of the experiment to the sixth week were relatively constant for all three treatments, but increased to  $3.45 \times 10^3$  cfu/mL in the eighth week in treatment B and decreased again to less than  $1.0 \times 10^3$  cfu/mL until the end of experiment. Eventhough *Vibrio* spp. in the pond water in treatments A and B were sometime relatively higher than in treatment C, the numbers of *Vibrio* spp. were still less than  $10^4$  cfu/mL, so that this *Vibrio* numbers were still safe for shrimp growth. According to Defoirdt (2007), the number of total *Vibrio* spp. will be pathogenic to the cultured shrimp if over  $10^4$  cfu/mL.

However, it appears that the ratio of total *Vibrio* spp. compared to total bacteria in the shrimp pond water is more important than the *Vibrio* spp. number it self. Table 1 shows that the ratio of *Vibrio* to total bacteria tended to increase during the culture period. This ratio

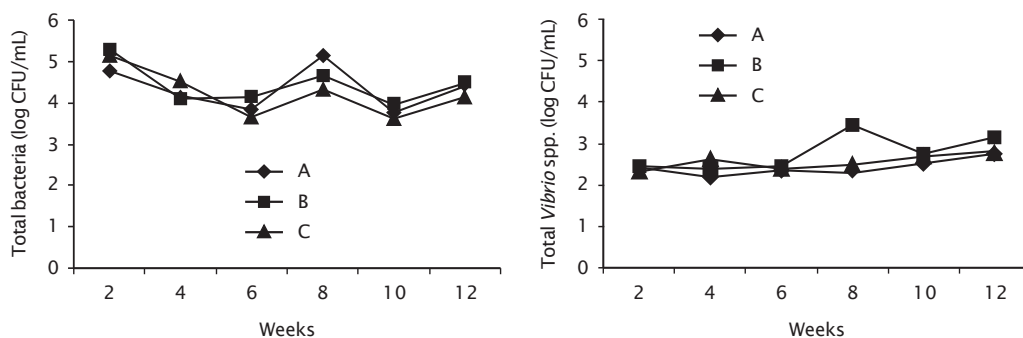


Figure 1. Total bacteria (TPC) and total *Vibrio* spp. (TBV) counts for three probiotic treatments in brackishwater ponds: A) alternate use of probiotic bacteria RICA-1, RICA-2, RICA-3; B) alternate use of probiotic bacteria RICA-4, RICA-5, RICA-3; C) control (without probiotic bacteria)

Table 1. The ratio of *Vibrio* spp. number compared to total bacteria (%) in the shrimp culture pond water

Treatments	Tiger shrimp culture period (weeks)					
	2	4	6	8	10	12
A	0.46	1.01	3.13	0.14	5.74	2.26
B	0.14	2.00	1.95	0.62	6.50	5.03
C	0.14	1.30	5.78	1.54	11.08	5.06

Noted: A = Alternate use of probiotic bacteria RICA-1, RICA-2, RICA-3; B = Alternate use of probiotic bacteria RICA-4, RICA-5, RICA-3; C = Control (without probiotic bacteria)

in treatment A (0.14%-5.74%) and B (0.14%-6.50%) were relatively lower than in treatment C (0.14%-11.08%). This ratio might be correlated with the shrimp mortality in treatment C (control), especially when the *Vibrio* to total bacteria ratio increased over 10% as occurred in the tenth week of this experiment. This ratio in treatment C was 11.08%, while in treatment A it was only 5.74% and in treatment B was 6.50%. The increase in the *Vibrio* ratio could be dangerous to the cultured shrimp especially when some water quality variables like total organic matter, ammonia-nitrogen, and nitrite-nitrogen were also getting worse. In this experiment, the increase of *Vibrio* ratio in treatment C over 10% along with relatively higher concentration of total organic matter (73.4 mg/L) and nitrite-nitrogen (0.1328 mg/L) may have increased the mortality of the cultured tiger shrimp.

The survival rate of cultured tiger shrimp in treatment C (37.4%) was significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) lower than in treatment A (55.9%) and B (52.7%) (Table 3). This may have been caused by the

increase in the *Vibrio* ratio in the reared tiger shrimp pond water in control (C).

### Total Bacteria and Total *Vibrio* spp. in the Pond Sediment

Total bacteria in the pond sediment were relatively stable at about  $10^6$  cfu/g from the beginning to the end of experiment (Figure 2). This shows that the application of alternate use of RICA probiotic bacteria did not affect to the number of total bacteria in the shrimp pond mud. Populations of total bacteria in the pond sediment during the experiment in all treatments were relatively similar to those reported by Susianingsih *et al.* (2012) i.e.  $10^6$ - $10^7$  cfu/g, but they were lower than those reported by Garland (1983) *in* Buller (2004) which reached  $10^7$ - $10^8$  cfu/g. The number of total bacteria and total *Vibrio* spp. in the pond sediment in this experiment are still in normal number for the cultured tiger shrimp, since they were lower than those reported by Garland (1983) *in* Buller (2004).

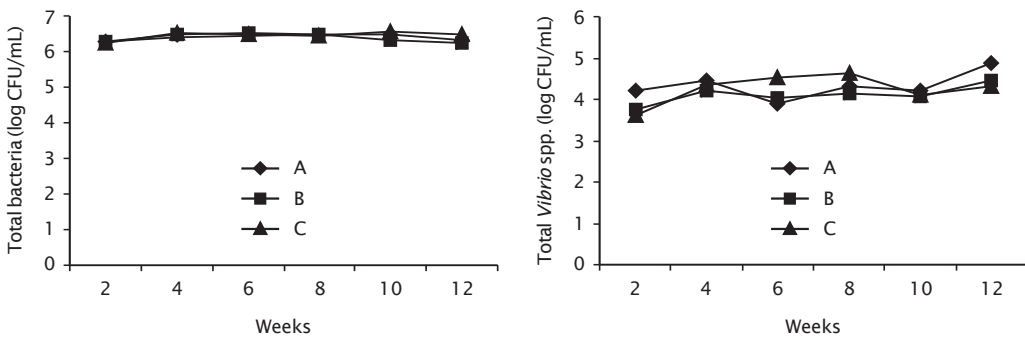


Figure 2. Total bacteria (TPC) and total *Vibrio* spp. (TBV) counts in pond sediments for three probiotic treatments in brackishwater ponds: A) alternate use of probiotic bacteria RICA-1, RICA-2, RICA-3; B) alternate use of probiotic bacteria RICA-4, RICA-5, RICA-3; C) control (without probiotic bacteria)

## Water Quality

### Total Organic Matter (TOM)

In general, the concentration of total organic matter in the cultured shrimp pond water tended to increase from beginning of the experiment (33-37 mg/L) to the fourth week (56-64 mg/L) (Figure 3), but then remained relatively constant (54-64 mg/L) for the remainder of the experiment, except for the tenth week when TOM increased slightly to 70-73 mg/L, before decreasing again to 65-68 mg/L. The fluctuation of TOM in the pond waters for the three treatments were relatively similar, but the highest concentration (73.4 mg/L) of TOM occurred in the control pond after ten weeks (Figure 3). This shows that the alternate use of the RICA probiotic bacteria (in treatments A and B) had a positive effect in decreasing TOM in the cultured shrimp pond water. Susianingsih *et al.* (2012b) reported lower values of TOM (15-40 mg/L) than were recorded in this experiment. The higher concentration of TOM in the pond water during this experiment was possibly caused by different condition of the climate, that is dry season in this experiment, and rainy season in Susianingsih *et al.* (2012b) experiment.

### Nitrite-nitrogen (NO<sub>2</sub>-N)

Nitrite-nitrogen levels in pond water were relatively stable from the beginning to the fourth week of the experiment, but then increased sharply for the sixth week of culture

in all three treatments (Figure 4). Highest levels were recorded in treatment C (Control), followed by treatments A and B respectively (Figure 4). At the eighth week, concentration of nitrite-nitrogen slightly decreased until the end of experiment (twelfth to thirteenth week) (Figure 4). The increase in nitrite-nitrogen concentration by the end of the sixth week showed that the nitrification process occurred in the pond water due to the availability of nitrification bacteria like *Nitrosomonas* that change ammonia-nitrogen to nitrite-nitrogen. Then the second step of nitrification process, that is oxidation of nitrite-nitrogen to nitrate-nitrogen is carried out by nitrite oxidizing bacteria such as *Nitrobacter* (Ebeling *et al.*, 2006). This second step was a relatively slower process especially in treatment C (control), so that the concentration of nitrite-nitrogen in control pond water was relatively higher than in treatments A and B. The contribution of *Pseudoalteromonas* sp. that has a role in controlling nitrite-nitrogen in treatments A and B showed a lower concentration of nitrite-nitrogen in these two treatments compared to that of the control. The role of decreasing nitrite-nitrogen was also carried out by the bacteria *Bacillus licheniformis* (RICA-5) in treatment B and bacteria *Serratia marcescens* (RICA-2) in treatment A. Both these bacteria could change ammonia-nitrogen to nitrite-nitrogen and finally to nitrate-nitrogen (Muliani *et al.*, 2003, 2005; Atmomarsono & Susianingsih, 2013; Tampangallo *et al.*, 2013). Overall the concentrations of nitrite-nitrogen in this experiment

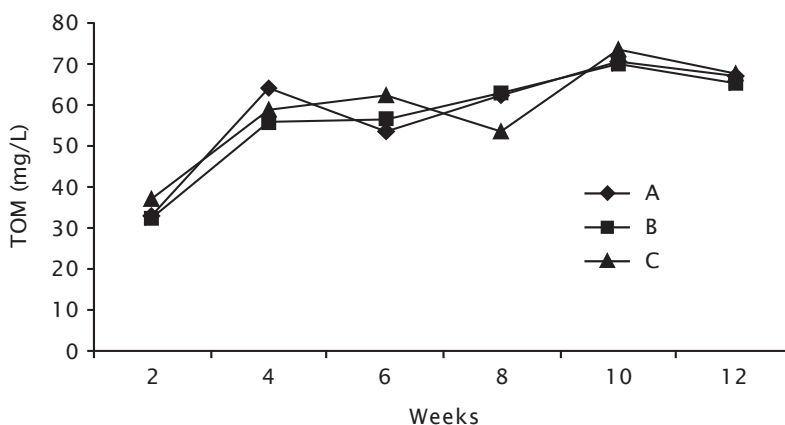


Figure 3. Total organic matter concentrations for three probiotic treatments in brackishwater ponds: A) alternate use of probiotic bacteria RICA-1, RICA-2, RICA-3; B) alternate use of probiotic bacteria RICA-4, RICA-5, RICA-3; C) control (without probiotic bacteria)

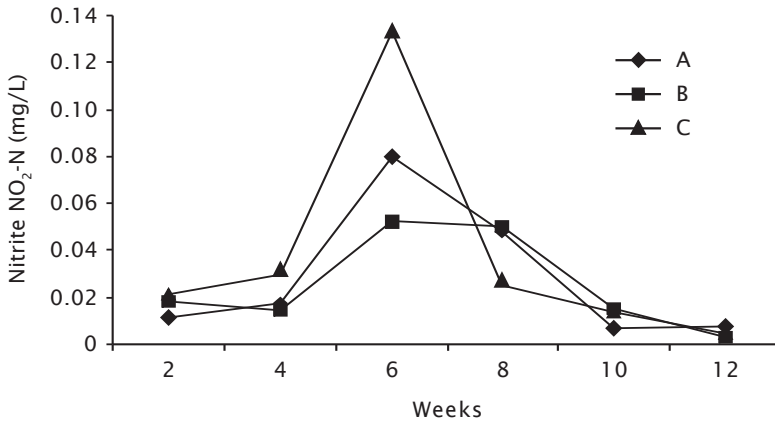


Figure 4. Nitrite-nitrogen concentration for three probiotic treatments in brackishwater ponds: A) alternate use of probiotic bacteria RICA-1, RICA-2, RICA-3; B) alternate use of probiotic bacteria RICA-4, RICA-5, RICA-3; C) control (without probiotic bacteria)

were safe for the growth of cultured tiger shrimp, because they were much lower than the level of 4 mg/L that is considered dangerous for cultured tiger shrimp (Boyd & Fast, 1992).

**Nitrate-nitrogen (NO<sub>3</sub>-N)**

Concentration of nitrate-nitrogen (Figure 5) tended to increase from the sixth week to the eighth week, except in treatment A which had relatively lower nitrate-nitrogen than the other two treatments in the eighth week. Concentration of nitrate-nitrogen during the tenth week

had substantially decreased, but increased sharply at the twelfth week in treatments A and C (Figure 5). It was reported by Susianingsih *et al.* (2012b), that the concentration of nitrate-nitrogen in the cultured shrimp pond water tended to decrease from the beginning to the end of experiment. Generally, the concentration of nitrate-nitrogen for the three treatments were not dangerous to the cultured shrimp, because nitrate-nitrogen is less toxic than ammonia-nitrogen and nitrite-nitrogen. However, to prevent from possible eutrophication in the cultured pond waters, the concentra-

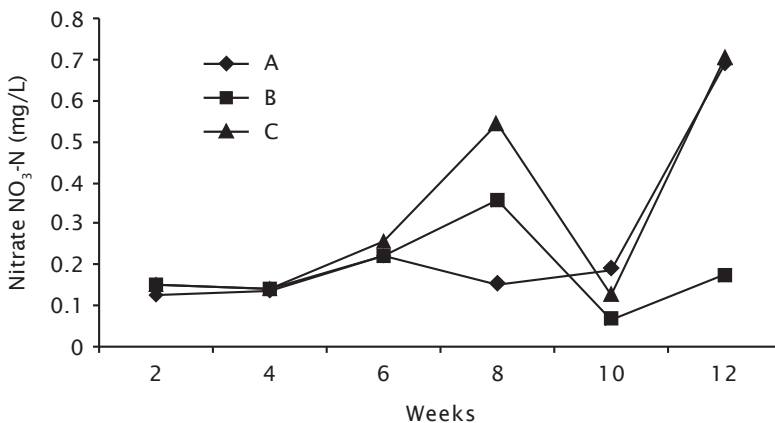


Figure 5. Nitrate-nitrogen concentration for three probiotic treatments in brackishwater ponds: A) alternate use of probiotic bacteria RICA-1, RICA-2, RICA-3; B) alternate use of probiotic bacteria RICA-4, RICA-5, RICA-3; C) control (without probiotic bacteria)

tion of nitrate-nitrogen should not exceed 1 mg/L (Wedemeyer, 1996).

### Other Water Quality Variables

Concentration of total alkalinity, dissolved oxygen (DO), water temperature, and salinity in the cultured tiger shrimp pond waters were relatively the same for the three probiotic treatments (Table 2). Water pH in treatments A (7.2-8.7) and B (7.2-8.6) were slightly lower than in treatment C (7.4-9.0) (Table 2). This might be caused by application of probiotic bacteria in treatments A and B which could maintain water pH more stable than in control (C). According to Atmomarsono (2004), these water quality variables (Table 2) are still in good ranges for tiger shrimp culture.

### Performance of Cultured Tiger Shrimp

Performance of tiger shrimp in this experiment was evaluated from the specific growth

rate (SGR) of the shrimp, their survival rates, and their production. Table 3 shows that specific growth rates of shrimp in the three treatments were not significantly different ( $P>0.05$ ). This result shows that the environmental factors like available feed, pond water quality, and pond sediment quality might not affect directly to the shrimp growth. The average final weight of the cultured shrimp ranged between 11-13 g. This was smaller than reported by Susianingsih *et al.* (2012b) who achieved 44-53 g with the use of the same RICA probiotic bacteria, but with four months culture period, compared with three months for this study. This different result of the shrimp growth might be caused by different quality of the shrimp fry, different season, or the shorter culture period.

Survival rate and production of the cultured tiger shrimp in treatment C (control) were significantly ( $P<0.05$ ) lower than in treatments A and B (Table 3). This suggests that the alternate use of the RICA probiotic bacteria either

Table 2. Ranges of water quality variables in the shrimp culture pond water

Water quality variables	Treatments		
	A	B	C
Temperature (°C)	28.5-32.6	28.4-32.5	28.4-32.8
Salinity (g/L)	18-35	18-35	18-35
Dissolved oxygen (mg/L)	2.9-6.6	2.8-6.9	2.8-6.6
Total alkalinity (mg CaCO <sub>3</sub> equivalent/L)	85.6-167.2	83.6-150.5	83.6-171.4
pH	7.2-8.7	7.2-8.6	7.4-9.0

Noted: A = Alternate use of probiotic bacteria RICA-1, RICA-2, RICA-3; B = Alternate use of probiotic bacteria RICA-4, RICA-5, RICA-3; C = Control (without probiotic bacteria)

Table 3. Size, specific growth rate, survival rate, and production of tiger shrimp reared with three different probiotic treatments

Variables	Treatments		
	A	B	C
Initial weight (g)	0.003	0.003	0.003
Final weight (g)	10.6±0.9 <sup>a</sup>	12.9±2.6 <sup>a</sup>	11.8±1.7 <sup>a</sup>
Daily specific growth rate (%/day)	9.08±0.09 <sup>a</sup>	9.28±0.22 <sup>a</sup>	9.19±0.16 <sup>a</sup>
Survival rate (%)	55.9±6.7 <sup>a</sup>	527±9.0 <sup>a</sup>	37.4±5.7 <sup>b</sup>
Production (kg/250 m <sup>2</sup> )	14.9±3.0 <sup>a</sup>	16.7±0.2 <sup>a</sup>	11.0±0.1 <sup>b</sup>
Production (kg/ha)	596±120 <sup>a</sup>	668±8 <sup>a</sup>	440±4 <sup>b</sup>

Notes: Values followed by the same superscript in the same rows mean not significantly different ( $P>0.05$ ) among treatments tested



in treatment A (RICA-1, RICA-2, and RICA-3) or in treatment B (RICA-4, RICA-5, and RICA-3) could protect the cultured tiger shrimp from the attack of pathogenic *Vibrio* spp. and other pathogenic organisms. In addition, the alternate use of the RICA probiotic bacteria (in treatment A or B) tended to have better water quality especially in controlling total organic matter, nitrite-nitrogen, and pH in the cultured shrimp pond waters, which may also have contributed to better survival and production of tiger shrimp. However, the survival rates and production of tiger shrimp here were lower than those reported by Susianingsih *et al.* (2012a; 2012b).

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the above results and discussions, it is concluded that the alternate use of the RICA probiotic bacteria could reduce total organic matter and nitrite-nitrogen, as well as the ratio of *Vibrio* spp. to total bacteria in the cultured shrimp pond water. The alternate use of the RICA probiotic bacteria in treatments A and B could protect the cultured shrimp from possible pathogenic *Vibrio* spp., increasing the survival rate and production of the shrimp.

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