

# The Alternative Use of Water Hyacinth and Reed as Attached Growth of Microbial in Waste Water Treatment

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**Abstract**—Aquatic plants have ability to decrease of waste water contaminant. The Water Hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*) and Reed (*Imperata cylindrical*) are aquatic plants which have ability to reduce concentration of BOD, TSS, COD, Total Nitrate and Total Phosphate in wetland. The other side, it can be used for media support in anaerobic treatment. Because of their abilities, there is some possibilities that Water Hyacinth and Reed can be used as attached growth of microorganisms. The aims of this study was to investigate the potential of water hyacinth and reed as attached media of microbe growth. Part of the plants are used is the trunk part. A slices of trunk is 1 cm. The analysis were conducted for 14 days with ratio 60% waste water and 40% air of reactor. Results of this study for water hyacinth that TSS decrease up to 71%. COD and Total Phosphate decrease 60%, Total Nitrate decrease 85%. While, for reed, TSS decrease up to 41%. COD decrease 56%, Total Phosphate decrease 41%. Total Nitrate decrease 10%. In conclusion, both of them had a potential as attached media of microbe growth. But, Water Hyacinth was better as media support than reed.

**Keywords**— Attached, Decrease, Growth, Reed, Water Hyacinth.

## I. INTRODUCTION

One of type of domestic wastewater is canteen wastewater. Canteen wastewater produces from washing dishes. Canteen wastewater, household wastewater, restaurant wastewater has highly organic substance (Apriyadi, 2008). In other side, the high organic substance can influence aquatic biota. Therefore it need to be treated canteen wastewater.

Wetland treatments system can decrease highly organic substance. Wetland water treatment use aquatic plants. Aquatic plants which usually uses wetland system are *Eichhorniacrassipes* and *Imperataclindrycal*. *E. crassipes* and *I. clindrycal* have cellulose which supported growth of microba. *I. clindrycal* has 58,62% of cellulose (Sutiya et al, 2012) and *E. crassipes* has 64,51% of cellulose (Kriswiyanti and RD, 2009). The other side, cellulose used of microorganism for nutrition which degradation organic substance. The nutrition is one of important characteristic in the processing of wastewater, although the required is less nutrition. The kinds nutrition which added to wastewater treatment can from fertilizer, such us NPK (Paramita, 2012). But, the used of fertilizer need more investastation cost than *E. crassipes* and *I. clindrycal*.

The added of *E. crassipes* and *I. clindrycal* in wastewater treatment as packed media. The added of packed media can increase organic substance removal, especially COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand) and BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand). The competency of anaerobic reactor added with packed media reached COD removal 76-86%, and BOD removal 70-91% (Banu et al, 2007). Banu et al (2007) said that supported material helped growth of biofilm. Biofilm adhered on packed media has used in that reactors. Most of reactors used packed media for treated wastewater by attached growth was more effective than suspended growth.

Many research use anorganic material as packed media (Banu et al, 2007 and Syafila et al, 2003). There is a lack of research use organic material as packed media and as supported nutrition for degradation organic substance. This research aims is to investigate the potential of water hyacinth and reed as attached media of microbe growth. The *E. crassipes* and *I. clindrycal* as attached media use for decreasing COD and BOD which added total N and total P.

## II. METHOD

Wastewater used in this research from canteen at Sciency and Technology Faculty, Airlangga University Surabaya, Jawa Timur. The canteen wastewater was collected from fresh canteen wastewater without any preliminary treatment. The than *E. crassipes* and *I. clindrycal* which used with specific characteristic.

The reactor volume was 1 liter and 30% of reactor volume was used as packed media. Ractor was made from LDPE with height 30 cm and diameter 10 cm. The system of this anaerobic reactor was batch system. There were two steps of this reactor: first step studied ability of *Imperata cylindrical* and *Eichhornia crassipes* which had highest removal efficiency (with the same height: 1 cm); the second step was studied the best specific size (1 cm or 2 cm) for used from media which chosen in first step.

Parameters had observed in this research were COD; BOD; TSS; VSS; pH; suhu; NO<sub>3</sub>; Methods used based on standard methods. Wastewater incubated in 7 days, paremeters investigated before and after incubation.

## III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Reactor used was a batch system. Whereas doesn't need oxygen in the process of wastewater degradation. Media used are trunk of the plant. Trunk of *E. Crassipe* and *I. cylindrical* cut approximately 1 cm. The ratio of the loaded media is 60% wastewater and 40% of air. Analyses were performed with a 14-day incubation period.

The addition of media is influent to decreased value of COD, TSS, VSS, total N and total P. The content of cellulose in the *E. Crassipe* and *I. cylindrical* was

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important nutrients for microorganism. It increased the ability of Decreased of TSS was higher in waste water hyacinth added compared to reed added. Water hyacinth surface area was larger than the reeds, so that the water hyacinth underneath the reactor and causing microbes attached to them, while reeds will float on the surface of the reactor. This resulted in the growth of microbes to degrade more waste was found in the water hyacinthmicroorganisms to degrade organic substance in canteen waste water. Cellulose content of *E. Crassipe* is higher than *I. cylindrical*, so *E. Crassipe* removal percentage is greater than *I. cylindrical*. This causes the microbes are attached to the *E. Crassipe* media more if compared with *I. cylindrical* and without media.

Experiment were performed for incubation 14 days. The results showed that after incubation 14 days, COD decreased from 1000 mg/L to 1992 mg/L for wastewater; 3984 mg/L for wastewater added *E. crassipe*; 4316 mg/L for wastewater added *I. cylindrical*. The removal of TSS and VSS had the same thing, after 14 days incubation TSS decrease from 860 mg/L to 570 mg/L for only waste water. The other side, additional media can decrease TSS from 860 mg/L to 245 mg/L with *E. crassipe*.

The result in in figure 2 showed that after incubation 14 days, VSS increased from 453,3 mg/L to 483,3 mg/L for wastewater; VSS decreased 453,33 mg/L to 238,3 mg/L for wastewater added *E. Crassipe*.; VSS decreased 453,33 mg/L to 178,33 mg/L for wastewater added *I. cylindrical*.

Addition of media could entrapped suspended solid in the bottom of reactor. The entrapped particle could decreased of TSS. The decreasing of TSS effect of decreasing of VSS. TSS contain VSS around 70-80%. Decreasing of COD and TSS followed by decreasing of nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) and Phosphat (PO<sub>4</sub>). Nitrate and phosphate are makro nutrient that used for energy to decreasing of COD and TSS. Figure 3, showed that Nitrate form 4,31

mg/L decreasing to 0,31 mg/L after incubation COD.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The addition of *E. Crassipe* as attached media can decrease COD until 60%, TSS 71.5%, NO<sub>3</sub> 85.4%, PO<sub>4</sub> 58%. While the addition of *I. cylindrical* as attached media can reduce 56.84% of COD, TSS 41.27%, NO<sub>3</sub> 9.95%, PO<sub>4</sub> 41.2%. In conclusion, both of them had a potential as attached media of microbe growth. But, Water Hyacinth was better as media support than reed.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research was funded with DIPA Airlangga University 2013 with number contract 001/UN3.6/KR/U/PPK/2013, 2 May 2013. Numbered Letter of Rector Airlangga University 7673/UN3/KR/2013 (2 May 2013). This research was supported with solid team: Deavy Trianingtyas; Bidayatus Saadah; Fandi Nufinda Rahman; Hairul Amin; Adelia Anju Asmara; Santini Ika R.; Rosvita Tri J.; Sofiyudin; Defananda..

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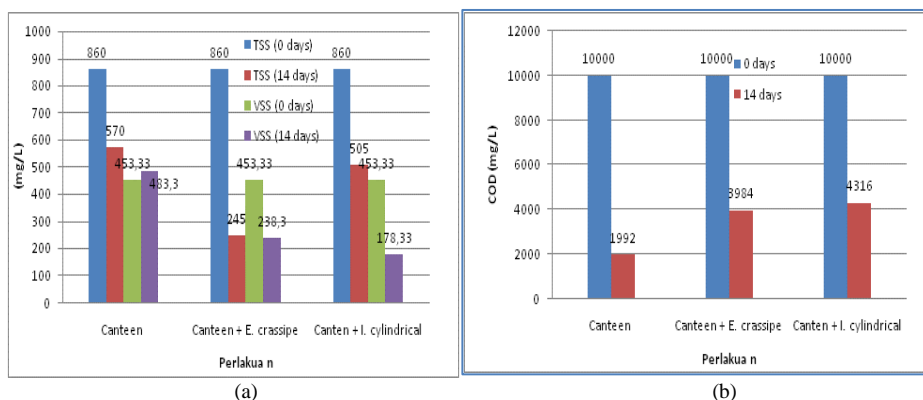


Figure 1. (a) The value of TSS (Total Suspended Solid) and VSS (Volatil Suspended Solid) removal (b) The value of COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand) removal



Figure 2. (a) I. cylindrical cutting along 1 cm (b) I. cylindrical as attached media in reactor (c) E. crassipes cutting along 1 cm (d) E. crassipes as attached media in reactor

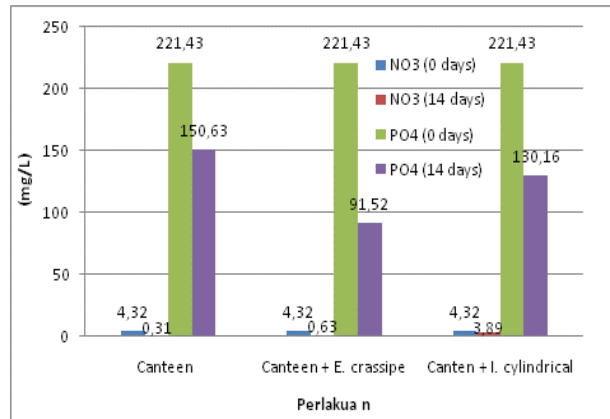


Figure 1. The Value of NO3 and PO4 removal