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A PRELIMINARY STUDY ON USING Chironomus sp. AS A BIOREMEDIATION AGENT FOR TREATING POND – BASED ORGANIC WASTE

Nor Fazliyana Binti Mahtar @ Mohtar

This project report is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement of the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agrotechnology (Aquaculture)

FACULTY OF AGROTECHNOLOGY AND FOOD SCIENCE UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA TERENGGANU

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to utilize bloodworm (*Chironomus* sp.) as a bioremediation agent for treating pond-based organic waste. This experiment aims to determine the acceptability, consumption rate and the growth rate of *Chironomus* sp. on pond waste. This experiment was conducted with three treatments for 12 days which were growth of *Chironomus* sp. under organic free condition, degradation of pond waste by the autochthonous microbes and utilization of *Chironomus* sp. to enhance organic matter degradation in the pond waste. Results revealed that *Chironomus* sp. could consume 0.64 mgC.g⁻¹.day¹.ind⁻¹ of pond waste. Microbial community in the pond waste is playing a vital role in removing pond waste at 40.5 % of the organic waste by consuming 1.61 mgC.g⁻¹.day¹. The presence of *Chironomus* sp. in the system can further improved 57.3 % the removal rate of organic carbon. The growth rate of *Chironomus* sp. in the pond waste was determined at 1.36 x 10⁻¹ g C.day⁻¹.ind⁻¹ while the growth rate of *Chironomus* sp. in the organic free condition was determined at 7.8 x 10⁻² g C.day⁻¹.ind⁻¹. Overall, this experiment suggested that *Chironomus* sp. is a potential bioremediation agent for treating pond based organic waste.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk menngunakan cacing darah (*Chironomus* sp.) sebagai satu agen bioremediasi bagi merawat sisa organik di dalam kolam ternakan. Eksperimen ini bertujuan untuk menentukan kadar penerimaan, pemakanan, dan kadar hidup *Chironomus* sp. pada sisa organik. Eksperimen telah dijalankan dengan tiga rawatan iaitu pertumbuhan *Chironomus* sp. dalam keadaan bebas organik, pengurangan sisa organik oleh mikrob semulajadi dan penggunaan *Chironomus* sp. dalam meningkatkan pengurangan sisa organik di kolam selama 12 hari Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa *Chironomus* sp. mampu merawat kolam dengan memakan sisa organik sebanyak 0.64 mgC.g⁻¹.day¹.ind⁻¹. Selain itu kehadiran bakteria pada kolam membantu dalam pengurangan karbon organik dalam kadar 40.5 % di mana ia telah memakan sebanyak 1.61 mgC.g⁻¹.day¹. Dengan kehadiran *Chironomus* sp. kadar pengurangan karbon organik bertambah kepada 57.3 %. Kadar pertumbuhan *Chironomus* sp. dalam sisa organik ialah 1.36 g C.day⁻¹.ind⁻¹ manakala dalam keadaan bebas organik adalah 7.8 x 10⁻² g C.day⁻¹.ind⁻¹. Secara keseluruhannya didapati *Chironomus* sp. adalah berpotensi sebagai agen bioremediasi untuk rawatan kolam.