The Control of *Microcystis* spp. Bloom by Combining Indigenous Denitrifying Bacteria From Sutami Reservoir with *Fimbristylis globulosa* and *Vetiveria zizanoides*

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**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this research is to know the ability of polyculture macrophyte (*Fimbristylis globulosa* and *Vetiveria zizanoides*) and the combination of both with consortium of indigenous denitrifying bacteria from Sutami reservoir that was added by *Microcystis* spp. or not to reduce the concentration of nitrate, dissolved phosphate and the carrying capacity of *Microcystis* spp. The experiment was done in a medium filled up with Sutami reservoir water enriched with 16 ppm of nitrate and 0.4 ppm of phosphate. The denitrifying bacteria used in this research were DR-14, DU-27-1, DU-30-1, DU-30-2, TA-8 and DU-27-4 isolated from Sutami reservoir. The treatments were incubated within 15 days. *Microcystis* spp. abundance was calculated every day, but the measurement of the concentration of nitrate and dissolved phosphate was done every six days. The results showed that both treatment and the combination of both macrophytes with a consortium of denitrifying indigenous bacteria were added or not either *Microcystis* able to reduce nitrate at 99% and 93-99% orthophosphoric. The combination of macrophytes with denitrifying indigenous bacterial consortium from Sutami reservoir was able to inhibit the carrying capacity of *Microcystis* spp. highest up to 47.87%. They could also significantly reduce the abundance of *Microcystis* from $10^7$ cells/mL in earlier days of the treatment into $0.35 \times 10^4$ cells/mL after fifteen days of incubation.

**Keywords:** control of *Microcystis*, denitrifying bacteria, *Fimbristylis globulosa*, Sutami reservoir, *Vetiveria zizanoides*

**INTRODUCTION**

Sutami reservoir located in the Karangkates Village, Sumber Pucung District, Malang, is the largest reservoir in the province of East Java. Sutami reservoir is one of the artificial aquatic ecosystems that are multifunctions. Some of them include electricity generation, flood control, irrigation for agriculture, fishery as well as one of tourist attractions in Malang [1]. In 2002, the Sutami Reservoir once bloomed *Microcystis* spp. The result of the monitoring carried out in 2004-2006, *Microcystis* spp., together with *Ceratium* and *Synedra* always had the highest number of population in the reservoir [2].

This phenomenon was probably caused by an increase in nutrients resulting in nutrient concentration and imbalance ratios that existed in these waters (eutrophication). Microalgal explosion resulted in the reduced productivity of fisheries. *Microcystis* spp. is one type of cyanobacteria that can produce toxins which are harmful to other living things [3]. Accordingly, it is used in this research effort control, using bioremediation techniques to incorporate the denitrifying indigenous bacterial consortium in Sutami reservoirs and macrophyte. The macrophite used is Mendong (*Fimbristylis globulosa*) and Akar Wangi (*Vetiveria zizanoides*).

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The experimental study was conducted purely in a laboratory scale using a completely randomized design with treatments as follows:

1. a. Sutami reservoir water + Wetland soil, and + *Microcystis* spp.
   b. Sutami reservoir water + Wetland soil, and without *Microcystis* spp.
2. a. (*F. globulosa* + *V. zizanoides*) + Sutami reservoir water + Wetland soil, and +

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**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The nitrate concentrations at the beginning of the treatment varied from 18.51 to 23.32 mg/L (Figure 2). This ranging value was previously anticipated because of the variation in nitrate content in the water from Sutami reservoirs, the medium used for the treatment. Based on the test each time the concentration of nitrate observations is compared with the day-to-zero (Figure 2), it can be concluded that the remediation process resulted in lower nitrate concentrations significantly in each treatment from the sixth day of observation, that is to be 3.8 mg/L the percentage of 57-83% reduction. Decrease in the higher on the day of the twelfth and fifteenth, respectively, to 0.02 to 0.65 mg/L and 0.01 to 0.09 mg/L. The percentage decrease in nitrate in the medium each day for twelve observations is 96-99%, whereas on the fifteenth day of observation is more than 99%. Decrease in nitrate concentrations that occur are expected to affect the density of *Microcystis* cells in the medium treatment, which lowers the density of *Microcystis* cells, given the minimum nitrate concentration for the growth of algae in aquatic ecosystems is approximately 0.259 mg/L [4].

The nitrate concentrations in the medium control without the addition of nitrate decreased the number of *Microcystis* in the fifteenth day up to 99.68%, whereas in the control medium with the addition of nitrate, its number decreased approximately 99.74%. The cells of *Microcystis* spp. were able to utilize nitrate as a nitrogen source to form amino acids, chlorophyll and other organic compounds [5]. The decrease of nitrate in the medium macrophyte comprising the combination of *F. globulosa* and *V. zizanoides* without the addition of *Microcystis* in the fifteenth day reached about 99.94%, whereas the macrophyte combination in the medium with the addition of *Microcystis* was approximately 99.84%. The lower decrease in the nitrate macrophyte combination medium with the addition of *Microcystis* was allegedly caused by competition in the utilization of nitrate.

The decrease in nitrate concentration in the denitrifying bacteria consortium medium without the addition of *Microcystis* in the fifteenth day reached about 99.59%, while in the denitrifying
bacteria consortium medium with the addition of Microcystis the decrease was approximately 99.89%. The medium with the addition of Microcystis appeared to enable positive interaction between denitrifying bacteria consortium and Microcystis, so both organisms benefited from each other’s nitrate contents taken from the environment. The denitrifying bacteria have the ability to secrete enzymes to break down nitrate reductase. The nitrate compounds are used as sources of nitrogen for metabolic processes in the growth period [6]. The decrease in nitrate concentration in the denitrifying bacteria consortium with a macrophyte combination medium, which was able to reduce the nitrate without the addition of Microcystis in the fifteenth day reached about 99.81%. Yet, in the same medium treatment with the addition of Microcystis, the decrease was approximately 99.93%. The decrease in the nitrate concentration in the sizable amount was allegedly due to the positive interaction between a denitrifying bacteria consortium in the combination of both macrophytes.

As was the case in nitrate, the concentration of orthophosphoric at the beginning of each treatment was also different (0.30 to 1.10 mg/L) (Figure 3). This is presumably due to the addition of orthophosphoric content into the Sutami reservoir media as a source of treatment media. The orthophosphoric concentrations in each treatment medium has had a significant decrease \( p < 0.05 \) after six days of incubation ranging from 0.04 to 0.09 mg/L. Nevertheless, on day twelve and fifteen the concentrations increased, each being 0.03 to 0.11 mg/L and 0.01 to 0.15 mg/L (Figure 3). The increased value of the orthophosphoric that occurred in the twelfth and fifteenth day of the observation was allegedly caused by the treatment to the activity of phosphate reducing bacteria that naturally exist in both media, the Sutami reservoirs water and the wetland soil. In addition, the cause of the increased value of orthophosphoric return could be derived from the bacterium that caused the orthophosphoric compounds in the soil medium to become dissolved in the water treatment medium [7].

Orthophosphoric overall decline in the media for each day of the sixth observation was about 74-92%, while the decline within twelve days of observation was about 62-94%. The decrease of the concentration of orthophosphoric on the fifteenth day of observation was 51-99%. The decrease in the concentration of the orthophosphoric occurred in connection with Microcystis cell density in the medium treatment, which lowered the density of Microcystis cells. The decrease in phosphate concentration in the control medium either without or with addition of Microcystis until the fifteenth day of each was about 97.71 and 98.03%. This situation indicates that the Sutami reservoirs water has allegedly already contained microorganisms that can
reduce orthophosphoric. The orthophosphoric's decline in the medium macrophytes addition of *Microcystis* until the fifteenth day of each was about 99.24 and 93.16%. The macrophyte was able to take advantage from the orthophosphoric for metabolic processes [8].

The orthophosphoric decrease in the bacterial consortium medium either without or with addition of *Microcystis* until the fifteenth day was around 51.73 and 54.86%. The use of denitrifying bacteria consortium alone was only able to slightly reduce the concentration of orthophosphoric. This situation was probably due to the many organisms, the utilized nitrate will be hampered even if other nutrients are abundant [10].

The growth curve of *Microcystis* spp. on each treatment medium is shown in Figure 4. The observations indicate that *Microcystis* spp. cells in control medium and the combination of bacterial consortium with macrophyte of *F. globulosa* and *V. zizanoides* medium occurred in the fourth day of observations, each of which was 25x10^4 and 13x10^4 cells/mL. Meanwhile, the exponential phase in combination treatment macrophite *F. globulosa* and *V. zizanoides* medium occurred on the fifth day of observation with a total of 18x10^4 cells/mL. Then the exponential phase to the treatment of bacterial consortium medium occurred on the fourth day of observation with a

Figure 3. Comparison of the observed 0-6 days (a), 0-12 days (b), and 0-15 days (c). KT=Control; NPFV= Nitrate&Phosphate+ (*F. globulosa*), (V. zizanoides); NPKB= Nitrate&Phosphate + Denitrifying bacteria indigenous consortium. The same letters on the block showed no significantly different by ANOVA followed by t test α 0.05
total of $16 \times 10^4$ cells/mL. Respective medium control treatment, FV, KB and KBFV in stationary phase but not having directly experienced the death phase. Once passing through the exponential phase, the cells of Microcystis spp. cells directly experienced a significant decline.

The observations in the medium combination of denitrifying bacteria consortium indigenous treatment with a macrophyte F. globulosa and V. zizanoides showed that it was able to inhibit the growth of Microcystis cells the most if compared with other treatment media. This was indicated by the maximum abundance of Microcystis cells which only occurred until the fourth day of observation with Microcystis cell density of $13 \times 10^4$ cells/mL. It means that the availability of nutrients that support the growth of Microcystis

Figure 4. The growth curve of Microcystis spp. medium at various treatment. FV: Combination of F. globulosa dan V. zizanoides; KB: Denitrifying bacteria consortium. Microcystis spp. cells in each treatment medium directly into the exponential growth phase characterized by an increase in cell number of the most high.

The growth rate of Microcystis spp. cell in a variety of treatment medium was obtained from the increase in abundance or density of cells every day. The growth rate shows the relative ecological success of a species of organism to be able to adapt well to the environment or the place of growth medium. The growth rate of Microcystis spp. cells. in the control medium was 0.14 cells/mL / day, whereas for FV treatment medium, the KB and KBFV were respectively 0.11: 0.21 and 0.13 cells/mL / day (Figure 5). The growth rate of Microcystis spp. was relatively

Figure 5. Growth rate (a) and carrying capacity (b) of Microcystis spp. in a variety of different treatment medium. FV: Combination of F. globulosa and V. zizanoides; KB: Bacterial consortium. The same letters on the block showed no difference based on ANOVA test followed by Tukey test HSD (BNJ) at $\alpha$ 0.05.

The growth rate of Microcystis spp. in stationary but not having directly experienced the death phase. Once passing through the exponential phase, the cells of Microcystis spp. cells directly experienced a significant decline.
similar to the medium control treatment, FV, KB and KBFV (p > 0.05). The carrying capacity of the medium control, FV, KB and KBFV were 25 x 10^4; 18 x 10^4; 19 x 10^4 and 13 x 10^4 cells/mL, respectively. The treatment medium which is the combination of consortium of denitrifying bacteria with macrophyte of F. globulosa and V. ziganoidea was able to inhibit the growth of Microcystis the most. This indicated that the carrying capacity of the lowest (13 x 10^4 cells / mL) was in medium (Figure 5). These results were supported by the highest percentage of the decrease in the abundance of Microcystis. This was shown in the denitrifying bacteria indigenous consortium medium combined with a macrophyte F. globulosa and V. ziganoidea which was 47.87%, while in the combination of F. globulosa and V. ziganoidea medium the decrease reached 27.93% and 23.35% in the medium denitrifying indigenous bacterial consortium.

CONCLUSION

The results showed that both treatment and a combination of both macrophytes with a consortium of denitrifying indigenous bacteria were added or not either Microcystis able to reduce nitrate at 99% and 93-99% orthophosphoric. The macrophytes combinations with denitrifying indigenous bacterial consortium were able to degrade the carrying capacity of Microcystis spp. at the most, reaching up to 47.87%. The Microcystis’s number of 10^7 cells/mL in the beginning of the treatment was inhibited as much as 0.35 x10^4 cells/mL after incubation for fifteen days.

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