

# BASIC 2019

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## Utilization of lablab bean (*Lablab purpureus*) and palm sugar (*arengapinnata*) as natural medium to grow Mataram indigenous isolate of entomopathogenic *Bacillus thuringiensis* for controlling *Aedes aegypti* larvae

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**Abstract.** The purpose of the study was to grow Lombok Island indigenous isolate of entomopathogenic *Bacillus thuringiensis* using some combinations of lablab bean (*Lablab purpureus*) as protein source and palm sugar (*Arengapinnata*) as carbohydrate source and to test its toxicity against *Aedes aegypti* 3rd instar larvae. This study used entomopathogenic *B. thuringiensis* isolate Bt-TP2B, locally isolated from soil in Mataram City. Lablab bean was mixed with palm sugar and water to form liquid medium. The based concentration for lablab bean and palm sugar was 50 g/L each. The medium was made into four weight-based concentration combinations, which were 1:1; 1:3; 1:5 and 1:7, respectively. NYSM (Nutrient broth Yeast Extract Salts Medium) supplemented with Amoxicillin was used as standard medium. Six hundred of 3rd *Aedes aegypti* instar were used as target in toxicity test. The test was performed in 5 culture dilutions (10<sup>-1</sup> to 10<sup>-5</sup> dilutions) against *A. aegypti* larvae. Larvae mortality was recorded in 24, 48 and 72 hours observation. Lethal concentration values were calculated using Probit Analysis. The highest cell concentration was reached by *B. thuringiensis* grown in 1:1 combination medium (5.95 x 10<sup>7</sup> cell/mL). Almost all *B. thuringiensis* grown in natural and NYSM medium showed decreasing trend within 72 hours incubation. Only 1:1 combination medium showed increasing trend from 24 to 72 hours incubation. The highest endospore concentration was reached at 4.32 x 10<sup>8</sup> endospore/mL by 1:1 combination medium in 72 hours incubation. All medium showed increasing trend within 72 hours incubation. The lowest LC50 value was reached by 1:7 combination medium (1.44 x 10<sup>5</sup> cell/mL) and the lowest LC90 value was reached by 1:5 combination medium (9.06 x 10<sup>5</sup> cell/mL). We concluded that lablab bean mixed with palm sugar can be used to grow Lombok indigenous isolate of entomopathogenic *B. thuringiensis* to substitute standard/industrial medium with almost similar toxicity.

### 1. Introduction

Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) or Dengue Fever is still becoming health problem in Lombok Island, Indonesia. disease is caused by Dengue Virus, spread widely by *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. In 2017, 1,605 people were reported suffering from this disease in this island [1]. One approach to eliminate the disease is by eliminating *A. aegypti* mosquito spread. The recommended procedure is using integrated mosquito management. One component of the approach is applying biological control



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using bacterial agent, namely *Bacillus thuringiensis*[2]. *B. thuringiensis* is soil bacterium that is widely spread almost all over the world. Some strain of this bacterium is capable of killing mosquito larvae, caused by specific endotoxin they harbour[3]. Since 1980s *B. thuringiensis* is used to control mosquito larvae in US and other countries. The most popular strain is *B. thuringiensis* serovar Israelensis, as it was discovered in Israel dessert [4].

Until recent time, there is no local bacterial-based biopesticide product available in Indonesia. Such product must be imported from other countries. This situation will hamper mosquito control program. To develop local biopesticide product, it is very important to have indigenous entomopathogenic isolate of bacterial strain/isolate for developing the product. Isolation of entomopathogenic isolate of *B. thuringiensis* from sewage sediment at Mataram, Lombok was previously done by some researchers [5,6]. Local material (preferably from natural source) is also needed for producing the cell and toxin needed for the biopesticide preparation. The isolate was able to kill *C. quinquefasciatus* and *A. aegypti* larvae in their laboratory experiment.

The research in applying natural material for *B. thuringiensis* culture and toxin production medium have been accomplished by several researchers [7-9]. Other study showed that *B. thuringiensis* could grow and produced the highest amount of toxin when grown in natural medium with high content of carbohydrate [10].

Many materials potentially used for *B. thuringiensis* growing medium are widely available in Lombok. Some of them are lablab bean (*Lablab purpureus*) as protein source and palm sugar as carbohydrate source. They are all easy to get or buy almost at many places in this area. The aims of the study were to examine the affectivity of lablab bean and palm sugar to grow *B. thuringiensis* and to induce the toxicity of this bacterium against 3<sup>rd</sup> instar larvae of *A. aegypti*.

## 2. Material and Method

### 2.1. *B. thuringiensis* Isolate and Culture Refreshing

*B. thuringiensis* isolate used in this research was Bt-TP2B provided kindly by Ms. Herfiyanti. Culture refreshing was done by subculturing *B. thuringiensis* culture stock onto Nutrient Agar solid medium supplemented with 30 µg/L Amoxicillin to avoid contamination. The culture was incubated aerobically at 35°C for 24 hours.

### 2.2. Medium Preparation

Medium used in this study were grounded lablab bean mixed with palm sugar in 4 combinations, which were 1:1 (1 part of lablab bean and 1 part of palm sugar); 1:3; 1:5 and 1:7, respectively. All medium combinations were added with aquades to meet 1 L final volume. Based concentration was 50 g/L for every solid ingredient. Standard medium used was NYSM (Nutrient Broth-Yeast Extract-Salt-Medium) liquid medium [11], supplemented with 30 µg/L of Amoxicillin.

### 2.3. Fermentation

One full loop from *B. thuringiensis* single colony was transferred into fermentation medium (4 combinations of lablab bean-palm sugar medium and standard NYSM medium). The cultures were then incubated in 35°C with shaking for 72 hours. Within 72 hours incubation, cell, endospore and crystal protein concentration were observed every 24hours. At the end of fermentation, all cultures were subjected to bioassay against *A. aegypti* 3<sup>rd</sup> instar larvae.

### 2.4. Larval Rearing of *A. aegypti*

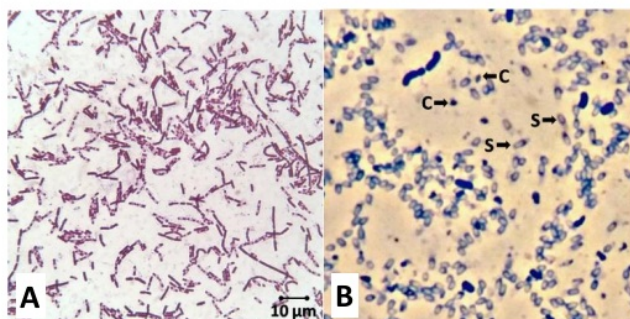
*A. aegypti* larvae were hatched from eggs obtained from Institute of Tropical Disease, Airlangga University, Surabaya. All eggs were submerged in untreated water with 12 hours light and 12 hours dark periods. After 1 week submerging, all eggs were hatched and 3<sup>rd</sup> instar larvae were ready in 6 days. When 3<sup>rd</sup> instar larvae were ready, bioassay can be performed shortly.

### 2.5. Bioassay

One thousand five hundred larvae were prepared for all groups (4 lablab bean-palm sugar medium combinations and NYSM standard medium). Each experiment consisted of 5 ten-fold concentration difference in 3 replications. Three hundred larvae were used in every group. Larval death was recorded every 24 hours (within 72 hours) from all experiment. Data obtained was analysed using Probit Analysis [12] to gain Lethal Concentration (LC) value using Minitab V16 for windows [13].

### 3. Result and Discussion

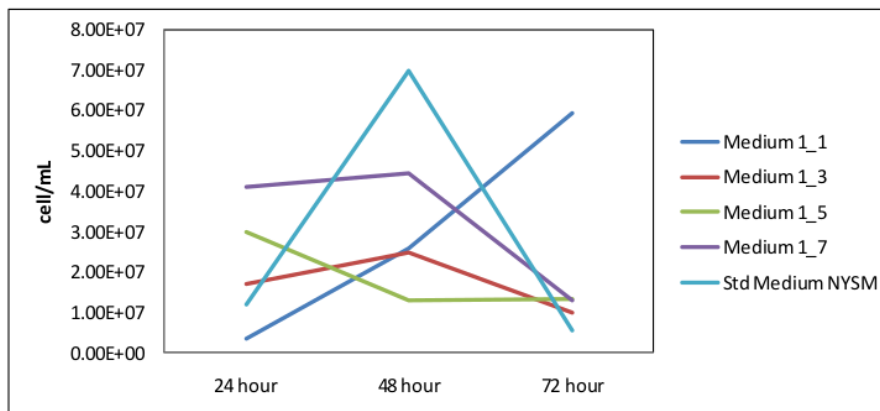
*B. thuringiensis* is one member of Genus Bacillus that (some strains/isolates) has ability to kill mosquito larvae. Along with other species (*B. sphaericus*), *B. thuringiensis* becomes popular as biological control agent used to control mosquito larvae. The ability to kill mosquito is caused by toxin ( $\delta$ -endotoxin) it harbour in its chromosome [14]. Cell, endospore and crystal toxin morphology of *B. thuringiensis* is presented in **Figure 1**.



**Figure 1.** (A) Cell and endospore morphology of *B. Thuringiensis* (B) Endospore and toxin crystal morphology of *B. Thuringiensis*; C: Crystal; S: Spore (Endospore) (1,000x magnification)

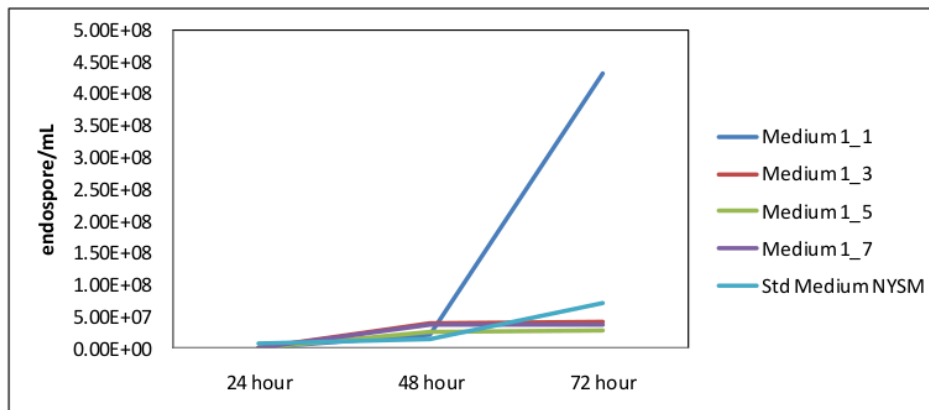
In laboratory experiment, *B. thuringiensis* is usually grown in NYSM (Nutrient Broth Yeast Salt Medium) or LBB (Lurian Bertani Broth) medium [11]. Despite those medium can give high degree in growth and toxicity, price of the medium is very expensive. Therefore, it is necessary find alternative ingredient for its culture medium. Lablab bean and palm sugar that are highly abundant in Lombok Island can be alternative for growing *B. thuringiensis*. Although not staple food, lablab bean is consumed by Lombok people as alternative food for protein source. Palm sugar is sweetener substituting cane sugar.

When grown in medium consisted of lablab bean mixed with palm sugar, almost all medium combinations and NYSM standard medium showed similar trend (**Figure 2**). On the first 24 hours observation, almost all lablab bean-palm sugar combinations and standard medium showed increasing trend, with concentration value ranging from  $1.30 \times 10^7$  to  $7.00 \times 10^7$  cell/mL. The next 24 hours, all combinations showed decreasing in concentration, ranging from  $5.50 \times 10^6$  to  $1.35 \times 10^7$  cell/mL. Increasing trend only occurred on bean-palm sugar medium combination 1:1, which reached  $5.95 \times 10^7$  cell/mL. The cell concentration decreased almost in all medium.



**Figure 2.** Cell concentration from *B. thuringiensis* grown in all medium combinations and NYSM standard medium within 72 hours observation

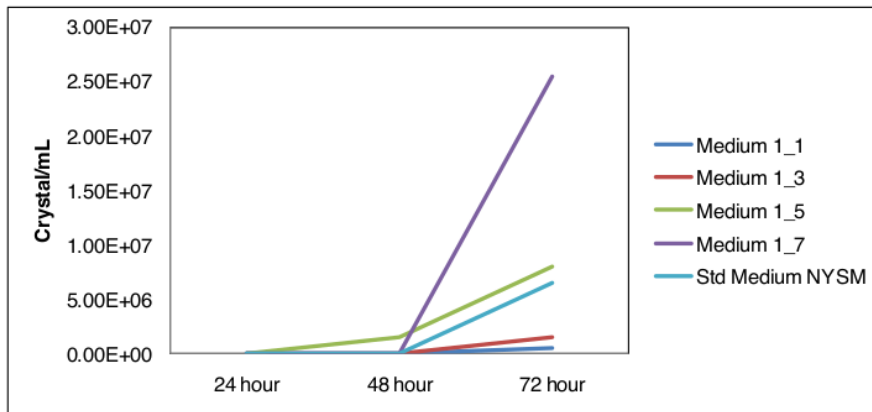
Endospore formation within 72 hours incubation was presented in chart in **Figure 3**. *B. thuringiensis* grown in all combinations of lablab bean-palm sugar medium did not show any endospore in the first 24 hours observation. Only *B. thuringiensis* grown in NYSM standard medium showed endospore formation (the endospore concentration was  $6.50 \times 10^6$  endospore/mL). In 48 hours incubation, *Bacillus thuringiensis* grown in all combinations of lablab bean-palm sugar medium showed endospore formation. Within 72 hours observation, the highest endospore concentration was reached by *B. thuringiensis* grown in Lablab bean – palm sugar 1:1 medium combination ( $4.32 \times 10^8$  endospore/mL), while 3 other combinations showed  $2.90 \times 10^7$  to  $7.00 \times 10^7$  endospore/mL.



**Figure 3.** Endospore concentration from *B. thuringiensis* grown in all medium combinations and NYSM standard medium within 72 hours observation

Toxin crystal concentration within 72 hours observation is presented in **Figure 4**. The highest crystal concentration in 72 hours was reached by *B. thuringiensis* grown in lablab bean-palm sugar medium 1:7 combinations (which was  $2.55 \times 10^7$  crystal/mL). Other combination and NYSM standard medium only showed  $1.50 \times 10^6$  to  $2.55 \times 10^7$  crystal/mL. This observation was negatively correlated with endospore concentration observation in 72 hours.

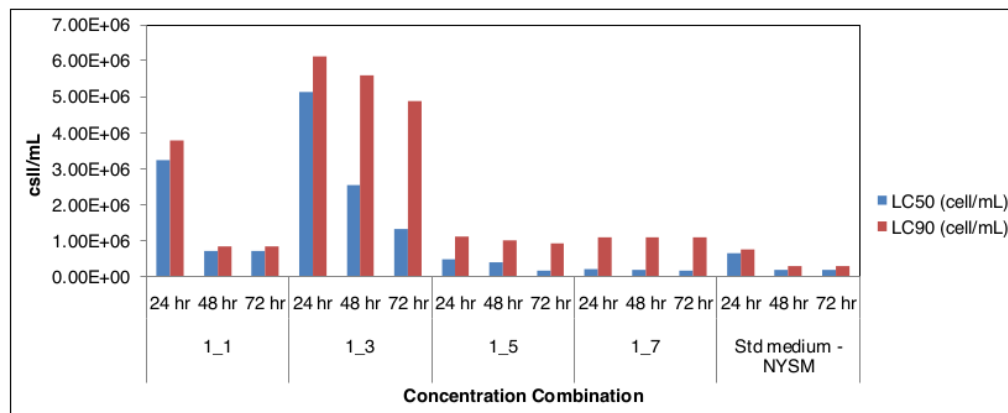




**Figure 4.** Crystal toxin concentration from *B. thuringiensis* grown in all medium combinations and NYSM standard medium within 72 hours observation

Lethal Concentration (LC) values (LC<sub>50</sub> and LC<sub>90</sub>) from all lablab bean-palm sugar medium combinations are presented in **Figure 5**. The lowest LC<sub>50</sub> value of *B. thuringiensis* grown in lablab bean-palm sugar medium was reached by 1:7 medium combination (which was  $1.97 \times 10^5$  cell/mL in 24 hours,  $1.71 \times 10^5$  cell/mL in 48 hours and  $1.44 \times 10^5$  cell/mL in 72 hours, respectively). These values were followed by 1:5 combination (which was  $4.66 \times 10^6$  cell/mL in 24 hours,  $3.84 \times 10^5$  cell/mL in 48 hours and  $1.52 \times 10^5$  cell/mL in 72 hours, respectively). The lowest LC<sub>90</sub> value of *B. thuringiensis* culture was only reached by *B. thuringiensis* grown in NYSM standard medium (which was  $7.47 \times 10^5$  in 24 hours and  $2.67 \times 10^5$  in 48 and 72 hours, respectively).

The low LC<sub>50</sub> value of *B. thuringiensis* grown in lablab bean-palm sugar medium 1:7 combination seemed to have positive correlation with very high crystal toxin showed by *B. thuringiensis* grown in this medium. However, *B. thuringiensis* grown in lablab bean-palm sugar medium 1:7 combination did not show very high endospore concentration within 72 hours observation. Endospore production rate presumably did not positively-correlated with crystal toxin production.



**Figure 5.** Toxicity of *B. thuringiensis* grown in all medium combinations and NYSM standard medium against *A. aegypti* 3<sup>rd</sup> instar larvae within 72 hours observation

Lablab bean has 23% protein content and 21% carbohydrate contents, respectively [15]. We

suggest that low protein content was not sufficient for *B. thuringiensis* to produce potent toxin protein against tested larvae in 72 hours incubation. These were showed by 1:1, 1:3 and 1:5 ratios. Therefore, more carbohydrate was needed by the bacterium to be able produce enough toxin to kill the larvae. The results were in agreement with study by Ferrera et al.[10] demonstrated that 1:7 ratio on Carbon and Nitrogen was needed by *B. thuringiensis* to produce large amount of toxin to effectively kill mosquito larvae when grown in natural plant-based medium.

Besides certain protein and carbohydrate ratio, more incubation time is needed to produce large amount toxin protein. In this study, incubation time was limited to 72 hours. In 72 hours incubation, sporulation and protein production was not taken place completely. Therefore, longer incubation time is needed to gain maximum amount of *B. thuringiensis* toxin. We suggest that for higher toxin production, incubation should be done in 5-7 days.

In killing mosquito larvae, toxin produced by *B. thuringiensis* works as follows. After being ingested by larvae, the protein crystal is solubilised and activated by high pH and protease in mosquito larval midgut. The activated toxins then bind to apical microvilli of midgut cells. Then, a part of the toxin inserts into the membrane lipid bilayer forming ionic-selective channel or pore. This will cause entry of water into the cell, exit of ions and other larger components. This condition leads to swelling and lysis of the cell [2].

Price comparison between laboratory medium (NYSM) and lablab bean-palm sugar medium is presented in **Table 1**.

**Table 1.** Price comparison between NYSM standard medium and lablab bean-palm sugar combinations medium for 1 L medium based on recent market price

Medium	Price/L
NYSM	Rp 92,750 (7.13 US\$)
Lablab bean-palm sugar	Rp 45,200 (3.47 US\$)

The price of lab-lab bean-palm sugar medium was closed to 1/2 that of NYSM standard medium. Besides cheaper, culture medium based on lablab bean and palm sugar easier to get/buy at almost any local market in Lombok Island and some places in Indonesia at any season. This will ease *B. thuringiensis*-based biopesticide producing effort using local material in Lombok Island and Indonesia.

#### 4. Conclusion

In this study, growth medium consisted of lablab bean and palm sugar medium in 1:7 combination can be used to grow entomopathogenic indigenous *B. thuringiensis* isolates from Lombok and retained its toxicity against 3<sup>rd</sup>-instar *A. aegypti* larvae.

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