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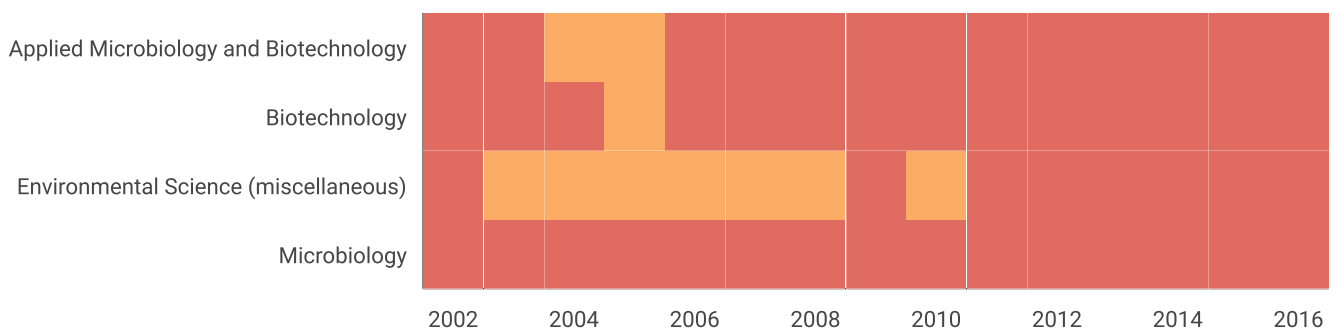
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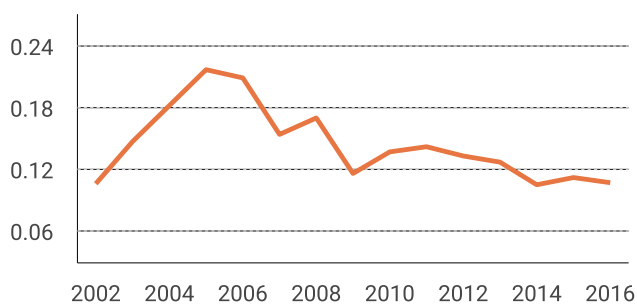
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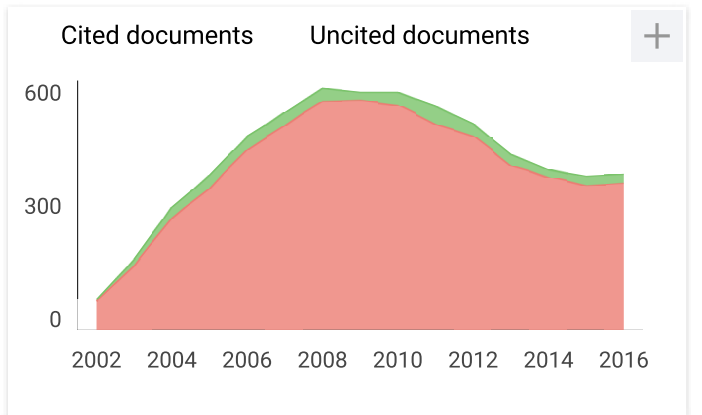
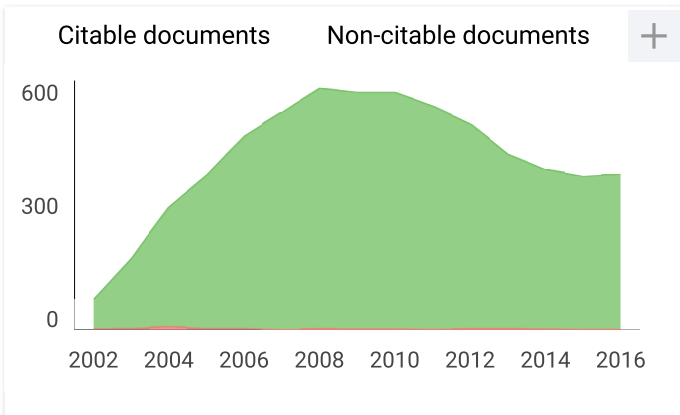
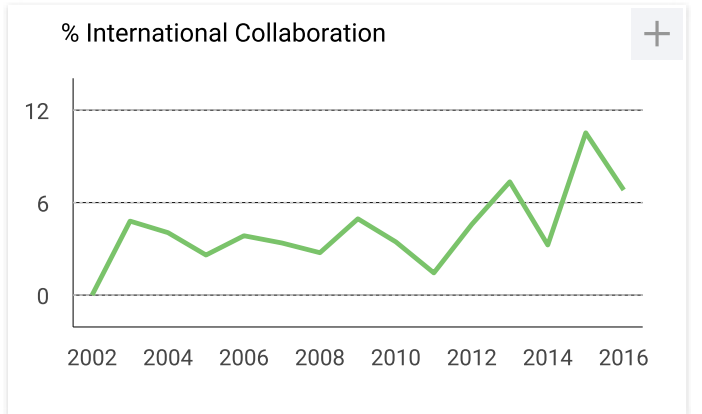
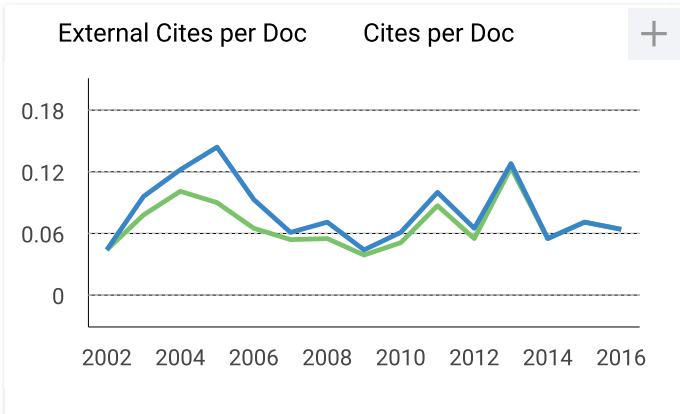
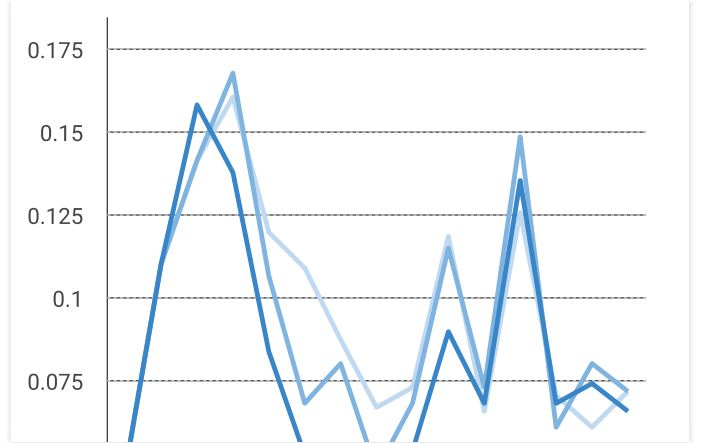
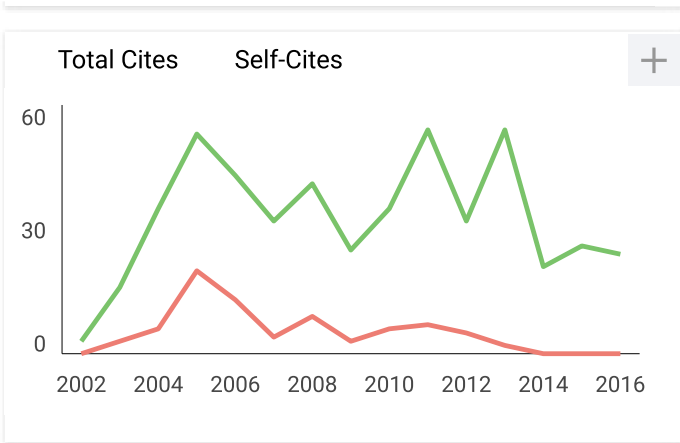


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[Back to AJMBES Journal Details](#)



**ASIAN JOURNAL OF MICROBIOLOGY, BIOTECHNOLOGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
(VOL. 19, NO. 3, 2017)**

CONTENTS

487–482	INVESTIGATION OF <i>B. BASSIANA</i> PERSISTENCE AND VIRULENCE FACTOR AGAINST <i>P. XYLOSTELLA</i> OF PEATLAND IN CENTRAL KALIMANTAN —ICI PITER KULU, ABDUL LATIEF ABADI, AMINUDIN AFANDHI AND NOORAIKAWATI
483–490	PRODUCTION OF CELLULASE FROM PALM OIL INDUSTRIAL SOLID WASTE BY ACTINOMYCETES ISOLATE 12.3.A —HAMKA NURKAYA, O. WATHANACHAIYINGYONG, MARWATI, S. CHAIYANAN AND S. CHAIYANAN
491–495	MYCOBACTERIUM TUBERCULOSIS DETECTION FROM DUST AND WATER SAMPLE IN HOUSE OF BTA (+) LUNG TUBERCULOSIS PATIENT THROUGH POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION METHOD IN MALANG —DWI YUNI NUR HIDAYATI, NGAKAN PUTU PARSAMA PUTRA, HARUN AL RASYID, FATIMA K. MEGAWATI AND WIRA NIRWANA
496–508	IDENTIFICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF THERMOPHILIC AND PECTINOLYTIC BACTERIA ISOLATED FROM GUNUNG PANCAR HOT SPRING BOGOR INDONESIA —GALIH AYHUSTA LARAS, MIMIN NUR HANDAYANI, LAURA NAVIKA YAMANI, PURKAN AND NI NYOMAN TRI PUSPANINGSIH
509–520	ISOLATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF HIGH POTENTIAL ANTIMICROBIAL PRODUCING LACTIC ACID BACTERIA FROM TRADITIONAL THAI FERMENTED MINCED FISH (SOM-FAK) PRODUCTS —SUMETH PIAYURA, RANDY W. WOROBO AND BORWONSACK LEENANON
521–525	ISOLATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF CHITOSAN FROM LOCAL MUSSELS' SHELL (<i>PILSBRYOCONCHA</i> SP.) —FAIZA A. DALI
526–530	POTENTIAL OF BACTERIOPHAGES IN CONTROLLING DRUG RESISTANT SHIGELLA SONNEI —WORALUK RATTANABORVORN, PARICHAT PHUMKHACHORN AND PONGSAK RATTANACHAIKUNSOFFON
531–539	AN EXTRACELLULAR α -L-ARABINOFURANOSIDASE IN <i>ESCHERICHIA COLI</i> USING SECRETORY EXPRESSION SYSTEM —LAURA NAVIKA YAMANI, MOHD. ANUAR JONET, AFAF BAKTIR, ROSLI MD. ILLIAS AND NI NYOMAN TRI PUSPANINGSIH
540–544	STUDY OF THE EFFECT OF DIFFERENT FACTORS ON GROWTH OF <i>ASPERGILLUS TERREUS</i> AND <i>PENICILLIUM</i> FUNGI THAT ISOLATED FROM APPLE FRUITS —HASSAN A. BAYDAA
545–550	BIOLOGICAL PARAMETERS OF BAMBOO SPINY LOBSTER (<i>PANULIRUS VERSICOLOR</i> , Latrielle, 1804) IN THE WATERS OF THE SPERMONDE ISLANDS OF SOUTH SULAWESI, INDONESIA —HASRUN, ENDANG YULI, DADUK SETYOHADI AND GATUT BINTORO
551–559	EXPLORING LEVAN-PRODUCING BACTERIA <i>CHROMOHALOBACTER JAPONICUS</i> BK-AB 18 FOR BIO-BENEFICIATION OF BAUXITE THROUGH THE INVESTIGATION OF ITS LEVANSUCRASE PROPERTIES —RUKMAN HERTADI, DARIS QODARISMAN NASIR AND NANDANG MUFTI
560–564	GENETIC VARIATION OF <i>GYRINOPS VERSTEGII</i> ORIGINATED FROM PAPUA BASED ON RAPD —RIMA HERLINA S. SIBURIAN, ULFAH J. SIREGAR AND ISKANDAR Z. SIREGAR
565–572	COMBINING SATELLITE IMAGE ANALYSIS AND IN-SITU MEASUREMENT TO DETERMINE THE CONDITION OF CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM OF MANDANGIN ISLAND EAST JAVA INDONESIA —ZAINUL HIDAYAH AND DWI BUDI WIYANTO
573–576	PREDICTION OF ALCOHOL-INDUCED HEPATIC INJURY USING AST/ALT RATIO AND EVALUATION OF THE CHANGES IN LIVER ENZYMES LEVELS AFTER ALCOHOL WITHDRAWAL DURING A DEFINED PERIOD —SAEED ALINEJAD MOALLEM, AZAM GHORBANNA DELAVAR, SEYED MOHAMMAD HOSEIN IRANINEJAD AND Omid KHANMOHAMMADI OTAGHSARA
577–587	ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE AND ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY OF DADIH ORIGINATED <i>LACTOBACILLUS CASEI</i> SUBSP. CASEI R-68 AGAINST FOOD BORNE PATHOGENS —USMAN PATO, VONNY SETIARIS DJOHAN, FITRI KHAIRUNNISA AND RAJA DOLI H. HASIBUAN
588–593	EXPLORATION OF MARINE SPONGES-ASSOCIATED FUNGI PRODUCING ANTIFUNGAL COMPOUNDS —AGUS TRIANTO, AGUS SABDONO, BASKORO ROCHADDI AND DESY WULAN TRININGSIH
594–597	MODELLING OF LACTATION —ANDRIANOV E.A., SHATSKY V.P., ANDRIANOV A.A. AND BORODIN S.A.
598–609	ISOLATION, IDENTIFICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF A <i>BACILLUS</i> SPECIES ISOLATED FROM A COMMON FERMENTED FISH PRODUCT (TAREEH) OF WHITE SARDINELLA (<i>SARDINELLA ALBELLA</i>) IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN RELATION TO FATTY ACIDS PROFILE: ELONGASE AND DESATURASE ACTIVITIES —SALWA AL-THAWADI, KAREEMA SALEH, AFNAN FREIJE, ALI BIN THANI AND AYSHA AL-KAABI
610–618	STRUCTURE-FUNCTION ANALYSIS OF THE MULTI-DOMAIN BETA-KETOACYL SYNTHASE INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION OF EICOSAPENTAENOIC ACID, DOCOSAHEXAENOIC ACID AND ANTIBIOTICS BY <i>IN-SILICO</i> COMPARATIVE APPROACHES AND PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSIS —ALI BIN THANI, SALWA AL-THAWADI AND AFNAN FREIJE
619–624	PRESENCE OF MRSA ON FOOD CONTACT ARTICLES AND FOOD HANDLERS FROM RESTAURANTS IN THAILAND —KANNIPA TASANAPAK, SIRIWAT KUCHAROENPHAIBUL, JINTANA WONGWICKARN, RAPEE THUMMEEPAK, RATHANIN SENG, KUNSUDA NIMANUSSORNKUL AND SUTTHIRAT SITTHISAK
625–630	REMOVAL OF ZINC FROM WASTEWATER BY USING JORDANIAN NATURAL ZEOLITE —ABDAL-KAREEM M.A. DAWAGREH
631–638	BIOSYNTHESIS OF GOLD NANOPARTICLES BY LEAF EXTRACT OF <i>MORINDA COREIA</i> : A NOVEL APPROACH TOWARDS GREEN SYNTHESIS —SOUMYA CHAKRABORTY AND A. YOGAMOORTHY

(Continued on Inside Back Cover)

ASIAN JOURNAL OF MICROBIOLOGY, BIOTECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

(VOL. 19, NO. 3, 2017)

CONTENTS

(Contents Continued from Back Cover)

- 639-642 ASSESSING THE EFFECT OF ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY OF COLEUS AMBONICUS LEACHATE INFUSED TWILL TAPE AGAINST BACTERIAL ISOLATES
—G.K. BALAMURUGAN AND S.BABUSKIN
- 643-647 ASSESSMENT OF BACTERIOLOGICAL CONTAMINATION IN FOOD OUTLETS, NOIDA, INDIA
—VANDANA CHAUHAN, MAANSI VERMANI AND AANCHAL GUPTA
- 648-653 DETERMINATION OF SOIL AGGREGATING EFFICACY OF EXOPOLYSACCHARIDES PRODUCING BACTERIA ISOLATED FROM PRISTINE SOILS OF SIRUVANI FORESTS
—GILBERT ROSS REX K. AND DAVID PAUL RAJ R.S.
- 654-656 EFFECT OF CULTURE MEDIA ON *SCLEROTINIA SCLEROTIUM* FOR MOST SUITABLE MYCELIA GROWTH UNDER *IN-VITRO* CONDITIONS
—PRAMOD KUMAR FATEHPURIA, RAJNI SINGH SASODE, DEVASHISH R. CHOBE AND VEERENDRA GUPTA
- 657-661 ISOLATION AND MOLECULAR IDENTIFICATION OF OIL DEGRADING BACTERIA FROM WORKSHOP YARD SOIL IN KOLLAM DISTRICT, INDIA
—D.S. SAI, SARANYA SYAMALAN AND K. VINOD KUMAR
- 662-666 *BACILLUS AMYLOLIQUEFACIENS*-B1 AND *BREVUNDIMONAS DIMINUTA*-B2: THE POTENT HYDROLYTIC BACTERIAL ISOLATES FROM BIOGAS DIGESTER RUN ON VEGETABLE WASTE
—V. S. PATIL AND H. V. DESHMUKH
- 667-680 RAPID DETECTION OF METHICILLIN AND VANCOMYCIN RESISTANCE IN *STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS* BY DETECTION OF *MECA*, *VANA*, *VANB* GENES BY PCR
—R. SHARMA, B. MALHOTRA AND R.S. BEDWAL
- 681-691 VALIDATION OF *ALCALIGENES FAECALIS* RBL1 EFFICACY ON ZINC SOLUBILIZATION IN *SORGHUM BICOLOR* RHIZOSPHERE SOILS
—ROBERT ANTONY A., NIVAS D., CHANDRU S., SANGEETHA DEVI R., KANNAN K. AND RAJESH KANNAN V.
- 692-697 *IN VITRO* CYTOTOXICITY AND ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITY OF A CRUDE PIGMENT FROM *ASPERGILLUS TERREUS*
—R. SREEDEVI AND B.V. PRADEEP
- 698-702 A STUDY ON CHARACTERISTICS OF FENUGREEK (*TRIGONELLA FOENUM-GRACUM*)
—K. MIRUNAALINI, S. IVO ROMAULD AND P. BRINDHA DEVI
- 703-714 ALKALIPHILIC AND HALOALKALIPHILIC PHOSPHATE SOLUBILIZING BACTERIA FROM COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS OF GOA
—NEHA PRABHU, SUNITA BORKAR AND SANDEEP GARG
- 715-718 *TRICHODERMA VIRIDE* AS BIOCONTROL AGENT AGAINST FISH PATHOGENIC WATERMOULDS
—GAURAV K. SRIVASTAVA, AUSAF AHMAD AND SHAKTI K. PRABHUJI
- 719-721 STANDARDIZATION OF A METHOD FOR PREPARATION OF PROBIOTIC CURD
—A.M. PATIL, C.D. KHEDKAR S.D. KALYANKAR, R.B. YEDATKAR AND D.N. BAJAD
- 722-730 EVALUATION OF SITE CHARACTERISTICS AROUND COAL-BURNED THERMAL POWER PLANT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY
—SUBHAS ADAK, KALYAN ADHIKARI AND KUSHIK BRAHMACHARI
- 731-738 METHOD OF THE METABOLISM OPTIMIZATION IN COWS AND EFFECTS ON THE CONSUMER PROPERTIES OF MILK DURING DENITRIFICATION
—MARINA G. KOKAEVA, OLEG K. GOGAEV, BORIS G. CUGKIEV, FATIMA F. KOKAEVA AND MARIYA S. GALICHEVA
- 739-742 AN ONTOLOGICAL REPRESENTATION FOR ASSESSMENT USING ANCHOR NODES FOR THE OCCURENCE OF THE DRUG RESISTANT VIRUS IN HIV/AIDS TREATMENT
—R. GEETHA AND S. SIVASUBRAMANIAN
- 743-750 NUTRIENT PROFILE OF *SCENEDESMUS ABUNDANS* INDICATES IT'S POTENTIAL AS FOOD SUPPLEMENT
—ONWURAH CHRISTIAN AND SHAHANA MAJUMDER
- 751-755 INVESTIGATION OF *B. BASSIANA* PERSISTENCE AND VIRULENCE FACTOR AGAINST *P. XYLOSTELLA* OF PEATLAND IN CENTRAL KALIMANTAN
—ICI PITER KULU, ABDUL LATIEF ABADI, AMINUDIN AFANDHI AND NOORAI DAWATI
- 756-761 ADSORPTION STUDIES OF VAT DYE (BROWN G) FROM AQUEOUS SOLUTION USING CHEMICALLY MODIFIED TREE LEAVES
—A. MOLY AND A. SHAHUL HAMEED
- 762-764 BIOREMEDIATION POTENTIAL OF *BRASSICA JUNCEA* IN FISH AND SHRIMP DISPOSAL
—I. JEEVAN MADHUKAR AND C.V. NARASIMHA MURTHY
- 765-770 CHARACTERIZATION OF AMYLASE PRODUCING BY *BACILLUS* SPECIES ISOLATED FROM RHIZOSPHERE SOIL OF POMEGRANATE PLANT
—RAJENDRABHAI D. VASAIT
- 771-775 PREVALENCE OF DENTAL FLUOROSIS IN RELATION WITH DIFFERENT FLUORIDE LEVELS IN DRINKING WATER AMONG CHILDREN OF JODHPUR DISTRICT, RAJASTHAN, INDIA
—SUMAN RATHORE, CHETRAM MEENA, SUPRIYA DWIVEDI, G.S.TOTEJA, KUMUD BALA AND S.S. MOHANTY
- 776-781 ISOLATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF BACTERIA ISOLATED FROM MUNICIPAL SEWAGE WATER OF NANDYAL, KURNOOL, A.P.
—S. MAHESH, P. ALEEM BASHA AND B. KAVITHA

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INVESTIGATION OF *B. BASSIANA* PERSISTENCE AND VIRULENCE FACTOR AGAINST *P. XYLOSTELLA* OF PEATLAND IN CENTRAL KALIMANTAN

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Key words : *Beauveria bassiana*, *Conidia*, *Larvae*, *mortality*, *Plutella xylostella*

Abstract - Biological control using *Beauveria bassiana* has very low conidial virulence and persistence. This research aims to study the virulence and persistence factors of *B. bassiana* against *Plutella xylostella*, which was isolated from peatland in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia. There were four isolates of *B. bassiana* (B1M3T3S2, B1P1T1S1, B1M3T3S1, and B2P3T3S1), which were arranged in a Complete Randomized Design. Virulence was tested on *P. xylostella* larvae. Mortality of larvae was observed. Persistence was determined by the calculation of conidia numbers after UV irradiation. Conidia numbers were calculated after inoculation. The virulence test results showed that B1M3T3S2, the isolate with a conidia concentration of 10^8 conidia/mL, caused the highest mortality in *P. xylostella* larvae. The persistence test showed that B1M3T3S2 had the densest spore and highest growth rate. B1M3T3S2, an indigenous isolate, was the best isolate as a biological control agent of *P. xylostella*.

INTRODUCTION

Plutella xylostella Linn. (Lepidoptera; Plutellidae) is the main pest that attacks Brassicaceae farming in Central Kalimantan Province, especially in Palangkaraya, which has the largest production of vegetables. This pest will cause 70-80% damage to farming and without synthetic pesticide application it will cause 100% damage. In the dry season, the harvest will fail if this pest is not controlled.

Commonly, farmers on the mustard farms of Kalamangan District, Central Kalimantan, use synthetic insecticides to control *P. xylostella*. Using synthetic insecticides will have negative effects on the environment, such as the mortality of non-target insects as natural enemies (predators and parasitoids) and cause insecticide residue. In addition, long-term pesticide use can cause pest-resistance to pesticides. In order to minimize the utilization of synthetic pesticides against *P.*

xylostella a biological control is required as an ecofriendly alternative solution. Biological control is chosen as an alternative method because it has no negative effects on the environment. One biological control of *P. xylostella* is the application of the entomopathogenic mold *Beauveria bassiana*.

B. bassiana mold can be found easily worldwide due to its multitude of host variations. Hosts of *B. bassiana* are mostly from Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Diptera, and Hymenoptera orders (Tanada and Kaya, 1993). Species diversity of *B. bassiana* is shown in its differentiation of pathogenicity level (Hajek and Leger, 1994). According to previous studies, the differentiation of *B. bassiana*'s pathogenicity level will determine its physiological activity in the biological control of the coffee pest *Heliothis hampei* (Varela and Morales, 1996). One problem of using *B. bassiana* as a biological control is its low conidial persistence, which is caused by environmental factors. Beside of that, another problem is the limitation of its

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virulent isolate availability. Therefore, this research was done to study the persistence and virulence level of *B. bassiana* against *P. Xylostella*, which was isolated from peatland in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials used in this study were: potato dextrose agar yeast medium, peptone dextrose agar yeast medium, peatland sample, four *B. bassiana* isolates (B1M3T3S2, B1P1T1S1, B1M3T3S1, and B2P3T3S1), sterile aqua dest, and 2nd instar of *P. xylostella* larvae (Kulu *et al.*, 2015). Research was carried out on a mustard farm. The equipments we used included: scale, hand tally counter, BX41 microscope with DP 26 camera, micropipettes, shaker, incubator, medium bottle (250 mL), oose needle, bunsen, object glass, cover glass, laminar airflow, autoclave, and plastic jar.

P. xylostella larvae breeding

P. xylostella larvae were collected from the mustard farm. Larvae were maintained in a plastic jar and fed daily with fresh mustard leaves. The imago which emerged from the pupa were then transferred into a bigger jar and fed with a diet containing 10% honey. Eggs were bred from the imago, then collected into reaction tubes until they became 1st instar larvae. Instar I larvae were taken care of until they became 2nd instar larvae for use in the virulence test.

Virulence test of *B. Bassiana* against *P. xylostella* larvae

This research used 1-day-old 2nd instar of *P. xylostella* larvae. Conidia isolates were 10 mL in volume with concentrations of 10² conidia /mL, 10⁴ conidia /mL, 10⁶ conidia/mL, and 10⁸ conidia /mL. *B. Bassiana* mold suspensions were sprayed on mustard leaves with 20 *P. xylostella* larvae. Treatment was repeated three times. Larvae mortality was evaluated every day for 7 days after inoculation of *B. Bassiana* mold. The experiments were arranged in a completely randomized design (CRD) analysis with four isolate variations. The obtained data were analyzed by variance and Duncan's test at 5% of real level.

Ultraviolet (uv) irradiation on *B. bassiana*

B. bassiana persistence level was based on the

number of conidia surviving after UV irradiation of varying time lengths (0, 30, 60, 120, and 240 minutes). The experiments were arranged in CRD analysis by using four isolate variations and triplication. The obtained data were analyzed with variance and Duncan's test at 5% of real level.

B. bassiana persistence test in peatland

Peatland sample was sifted and measured for 1 kg, then sterilized using an autoclave on 121 °C, 1.5 atm for 20 minutes. Sterilized peatland was put into a plastic box measuring 25 × 12.5 × 8 cm. *B. bassiana* suspension with a concentration of 10⁸ conidia/mL was sprayed onto the sterilized peatland and mixed thoroughly. Observations were made at 0, 24, 48, 72, 96, and 120 hours after inoculation. The experiments were arranged in CRD analysis by using four isolate variations and triplication. The obtained data were analyzed with variance and Duncan's test at 5% of real level.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Virulence of *B. bassiana* isolate against *P. xylostella* pest from peatland in Central Kalimantan

Virulence tests were performed to evaluate the effectiveness of four *B. bassiana* isolates against *P. xylostella* larvae. The mortality percentage of *P. xylostella* larvae after *B. bassiana* application is presented in Figure 1. The results show that all treatments by *B. bassiana* isolate at a concentration of 10⁸ conidia/mL show the highest mortality percentage of *P. xylostella* larvae among other concentrations. Isolate B1M3T3S2 with a concentration of 10⁸ conidia/mL shows the highest percentage of *P. xylostella* mortality from the fourth until the eight observations. Otherwise, the mortality rate of *P. xylostella* in all of the other treatments is significantly higher than that of the control (Figure 1).

The results of this study show that all of the isolates in a concentration of 10⁸ conidia/mL can induce the highest percentage of mortality in *P. xylostella*. According to a previous study, *B. bassiana* is a potential biological control agent for *P. Xylostella* (Valda *et al.*, 2003). This study shows that *P. xylostella* larvae mortality percentage is about 48.75-87.5%. Another study also showed a similar result, with *B. bassiana* causing *P. xylostella* larvae mortality of about 20-94% (Godonou *et al.*, 2009).

Persistence level of *B. bassiana* isolate from peatland in Central Kalimantan against UV irradiation

The persistence of *B. bassiana* isolates were

measured from the calculating their conidia, which were irradiated with UV light for varying times of exposure. Those isolates with the highest conidial density have the potential to be used as biopesticides. The average number of *B. bassiana*

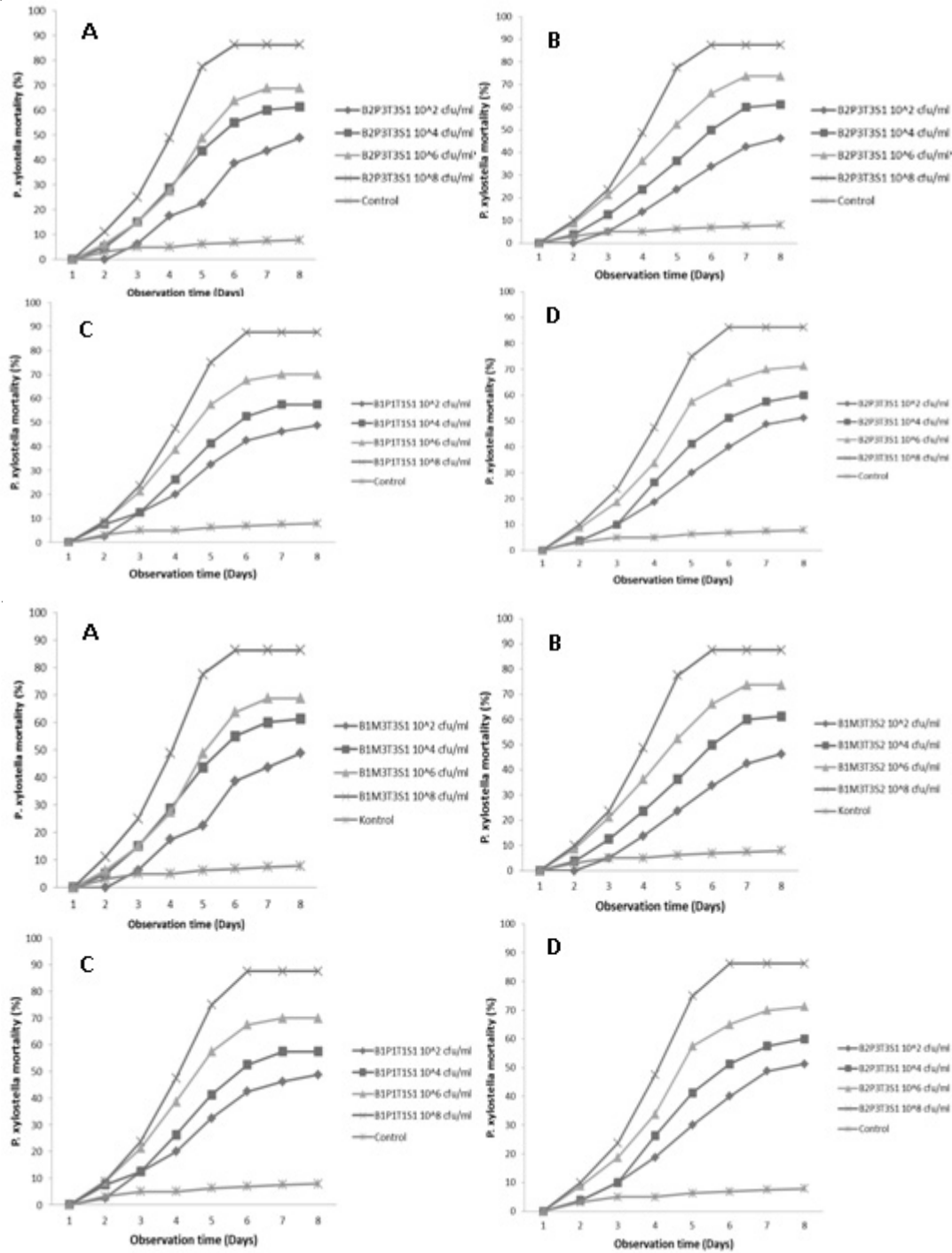


Fig. 1 Percentage of *P. xylostella* mortality after *B. bassiana* application (A) B1M3T3S1 (B) B1M3T3S2 (C) B1P1T1S1 (D) B2P3T3S1.

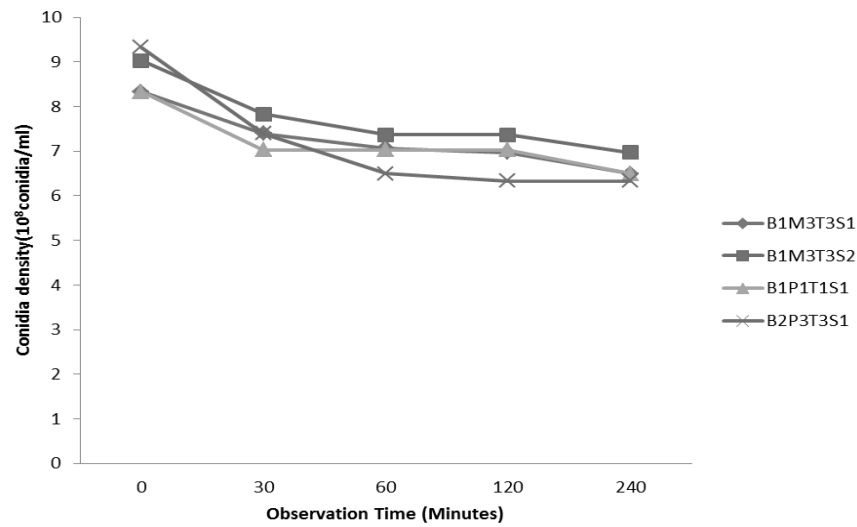


Fig. 2 Mean of the number of *B. bassiana* conidia that survive after UV irradiation under various time of exposure.

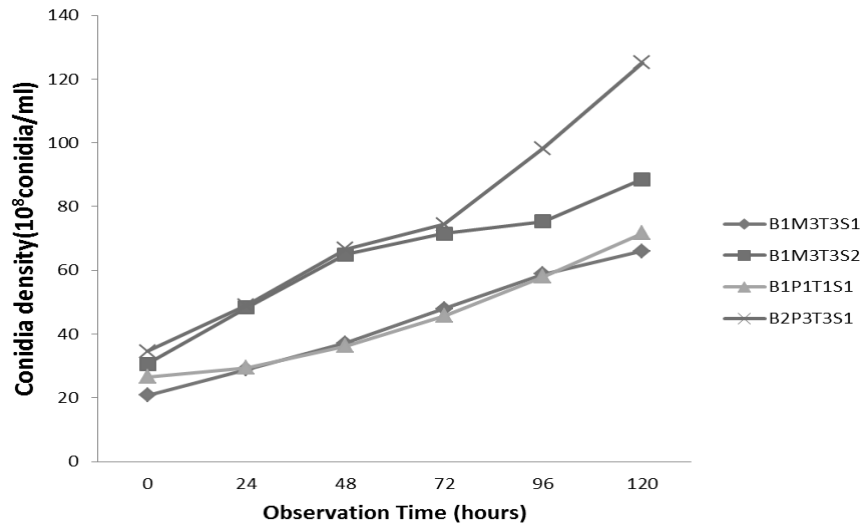


Fig. 3 *B. bassiana* conidial density in peatland after inoculation at varying observation times.

conidia is shown in Figure 2.

UV irradiation time of exposure influences conidia density of *B. bassiana*. The longer the time of exposure, the lower the conidia density. It can be expected that UV light causes damage and inhibits conidial sporulation of *B. bassiana*. This is related to a previous study in which it is stated that UV light has a negative effect on *B. bassiana* and reduces conidial sporulation ability (Trizelia, 2005). UV from direct sunlight can deactivate entomopathogenic mold because it causes cell damage. Cell damage can be expected as a result of DNA mutation after UV irradiation, which causes cell death. Another study states that UV irradiation

can cause DNA mutation in microorganisms, which leads to cell death (Inglis *et al.*, 1999). Because of that, UV light can determine the effectiveness of *B. bassiana* as a biological control.

Persistence of *B. bassiana* in peatland

The persistence of *B. bassiana* provides it with an ability to survive in peatland, which can be observed after the suspension inoculation in peatland with time variations. Results show that the B1M3T3S2 isolate has the highest growth rate among the others (Figure 3). *B. bassiana* is a mold that can survive in saprophyte soil and inside plant tissue (Bruck and Lewis, 2002). Soil is a natural

ecosystem for entomopathogenic mold, acting as a UV shelter with optimum temperature and humidity. In addition, the mold uses decomposed insects and roots as nutrient sources to survive (Leger, 2008). The persistence of *B. bassiana* in soil is determined by certain factors, such as plant residue, rainfall, temperature, humidity, ground water contents, and pH (Bruck and Lewis, 2002; Lingg and Donaldson, 1981). The results of this study also show that *B. bassiana* can grow in sterile peatland which is in accordance with a study by Ling and Donaldson in which it is stated that *B. bassiana* will grow better in sterile soil than in unsterile soil (Lingg and Donaldson, 1981). Another study indicated that the survival ability of *B. bassiana* conidia is directly determined by physical factors and soil microbial population (Studdert *et al.*, 1990). Conidia will survive better in sandy loam soil with low organic matter than in peatland with high organic matter. These results support the notion that *B. bassiana* can potentially be used as micropesticide that has the ability to survive in any soil conditions.

B. bassiana mold as a biological control agent can be achieved using varying methods. It can be applied directly to ecosystem or by inoculation. The successful rate of *B. bassiana* inoculation is influenced by the similarity between the isolate's original habitat and its place of inoculation. A previous study reported that the application of a *B. bassiana* isolate in a cabbage farm ecosystem, which is a similar environmental condition to the isolate's origin is more persistent than isolates from different environmental conditions (Trizelia, 2005).

CONCLUSION

Various factors can influence the successful use of pathogenic *B. bassiana* mold as a biological control for pest. Pest control will be more effective if a high virulent and persistent isolate of *B. bassiana* is available in environment. Results of this study show that each isolate has different levels of virulence and persistence. The highest virulence

level of *B. bassiana* against *P. xylostella* (87.5%) is shown by the B1M3T3S2 isolate with a concentration of 108 conidia/mL. This isolate also shows the highest persistence in a mustard farm after UV irradiation, which supports the theory that it can be used as a biological control agent.

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