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Comment 1

Abstract is not prepared according to the journal format and it does not provide basic content of the paper. Please note that the journal requires the Abstract to be divided into the following sections: Background/Objective, materials and methods, results and Conclusion.

Background/Objective: In this section, a brief description of the context and purpose of the study is presented.

Materials and Methods: In this section author briefly describe how the study was performed and which statistical tests were being used.

Results: Author presents the summary of main findings of the study.

Conclusion: In this section author states the conclusions of the study clearly and concisely.

The following example will serve to illustrate the structure of an Abstract.

Abstract

Background: The cecum of the chicken gut may be susceptible to pathogens because it is readily colonized by microbes. The lower segment of the gut is also the primary tissue that permits the invasion of microorganisms from the external environment and the cloaca. Mucins, which are composed of glycoproteins, play significant roles in forming the barrier against infection on the mucosal surface. **Objective:** The aim of this study was to determine the differences in the mucosal barrier of the lower segment of the gut between Indonesian naked neck chickens and normal feathered chickens. **Methodology:** The lower segments of the gut (rectum, colon and cecal tonsil) of Indonesian indigenous naked neck chickens and normal chickens were collected. The expression of the mucin 2 gene in the gut mucosa was analyzed by reverse-transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). The localization and molecular sizes of the mucosal glycoproteins were analyzed by Western blot. Wheat Germ Agglutinin (WGA) and jacalin lectins were used for Western blot analysis. **Results:** The mucin 2 gene was expressed in the mucosal gut of the rectum, colon and cecal tonsil in both naked neck chickens and normal chickens. Western blot analysis showed a single band for both WGA and jacalin from the mucosal gut of the rectum, colon and cecal tonsil in both naked neck chickens and normal chickens. **Conclusion:** These results suggest that the mucin 2 gene and glycoproteins containing WGA and jacalin positive sugars cover the surface of mucosal gut in both naked neck chickens and normal chickens, most likely to form a mucosa barrier.

Comment 2

Significance Statement (120 words maximum) (Compulsory)

57 A statement about the significance of this research work should be included in the
58 manuscript. The significance statement should provide the novelty aspect and significance of
59 this research work with respect to the existing literature and more generally to the society. It
60 should be a short summary which describe what this paper adds to and what was already
61 known.

62

63 **Start this statement with the following words:**

64

65 This study discover the ----- that can be beneficial for

66

67 **And the last sentence of this statement could be such as:**

68

69 This study will help the researcher to uncover the critical areas of ----- that many
70 researchers were not able to explore. Thus a new theory on ----- may be arrived at.

71

72 **A Model Significance Statement:**

73

74 This study discovers the possible synergistic effect of vitamin E, calcium, and vitamin D combination
75 that can be beneficial for osteoporosis-induced ovariectomized rats. This study will help the
76 researcher to uncover the critical area of postmenopausal bone loss that many researchers were not
77 able to explore. Thus, a new theory on these micronutrients combination, and possibly other
78 combinations, may be arrived at.

79

80 **Comment 3**

81

82 **Statement on Conflicts of Interest**

83

84 A statement on conflicts of interest should be included in the manuscript. Either mention:
85 'none declared', or specify the authors' financial or other interests which should be known to
86 the readers.

87

88 **You are requested that please modify your article according to the above instructions**
89 **and according to the side notes given below in the text and re-submit it as early as**
90 **possible for further processing.**

91

92

93 **SCREENING AND CHARACTERIZATION OF KERATINOLYTIC**

94 **BACTERIA FROM PUFFER FISH SKIN WASTE**

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110 **ABSTRACT**

111 Puffer fish skin tannery is an alternative to substitute the production of hide and animal skin in
112 Indonesia that has been decreasing. To improve the quality of puffer fish leather, keratinase
113 was needed by removing the thorns. The purpose of this study is to screen bacteria that show
114 keratinolytic activity. The result of the screening was that 3 of 5 kinds of strains exhibited
115 caseinolytic activity (by showing the clear zone) when put into the media of skim milk agar.
116 Three *Bacillus* bacteria that were newly isolated from puffer fish waste—using a feather
117 enrichment technique—were identified on the basis of 16S ribosomal RNA gene sequence
118 analysis, physiological and carbohydrates assimilation tests. They were revealed as the strains
119 of *Bacillus thuringiensis* for BRAW_PT isolate, *Bacillus aerius* for BRAW_PB isolate, and
120 *Bacillus firmus* for BRAW_PI isolate. The results of proteolytic enzymes assay showed that
121 *Bacillus firmus* BRAW_PI has the highest protease and keratinase activity, which was
122 37.52±0.96 U/mg and 6.781±0.479 U/mg consecutively. All bacteria obtained were the
123 superior bacteria that can be used for the removal of thorns from puffer fish skin in the
124 tanning process.

125 Key words: Screening, Characterization, Microbia, Keratinolytic, Pufferfish

126 INTRODUCTION

127 Puffer fish (*Arothron reticularis*) is an underutilized fish in any fishing. It can be
128 superior product for the surrounding communities. One of the utilization of puffer fish skin is
129 for tannery business. The tanning of puffer fish leather can be an alternative to tanning
130 industry that is currently limited to the production of cattle leather. The leather industry in
131 Indonesia was only able to produce 350 million sqft/year, while the demand for the footwear
132 industry and the finished goods amounted to 673 million sqft/year so there was a shortage of
133 323 million sqft per year¹. Additionally, puffer fish also has a uniqueness that lies in its
134 rounded body shape.

135 The quality of puffer fish leather can be improved by removing the thorns. One of the
136 ways to destroy the thorns is to degrade the protein keratin in it with the keratinase enzyme.
137 Keratinase is important for the pre-tanning process in leather industry so the skin tanning can
138 be an eco-friendly process by reducing the use of sodium sulfate².

139 Keratinase that is produced by microbes is an enzyme capable of degrading the structural
140 protein that is generally found in feathers, hair, and wool. The types of bacteria that have been
141 screened to produce extracellular keratinase that can degrade fur and keratin, are for example
142 *Bacillus licheniformis*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus cereus* and *Bacillus pseudofirmus*³.
143 Therefore, the screening of bacteria keratinolytic is one of the innovative solutions in tannery
144 and interesting to be developed and studied in depth.

145 .MATERIALS AND METHODS

146 **Materials:** Materials used in this research were 30 pieces of 14-days-rotten puffer fish skin.
147 The skin was taken randomly from the fish market in TPI Tanjungsari of Marine and Fisheries
148 Agency of Rembang. It is used as raw material for the isolation and identification of microbes.

149 The growth medium for the isolation process was the same as the one used by Macedo
150 *et al.*⁴ with modification: puffer fish skin flour as the sole carbon and nitrogen sources as
151 much as 10 g; and as mineral sources are: 0.5 g of NaCl, 0.3 g of K₂HPO₄, and 0.4 g of
152 KH₂PO₄. The medium for the stock solution includes 1 g of yeast extract, 1 g of biological
153 peptone, 0.5 g of NaCl and 100 mL of H₂O.

154 The materials for microbial identification are: (a) simple staining including 70%
155 alcohol, safranin; Gram staining including, gram A (crystal violet), gram B (Lugol iodine),
156 H₂O, gram C (acetone alcohol washing solution), gram D (safranin); Ziehl Neelsen's stain
157 includes ZN A carbol fuchsin solution as the primary stain, ZN B acid alcohol solution (37%)
158 as a laxative, and ZN C Loeffler's methylene blue solution. The materials for molecular
159 identification consist of tris-HCl, NaCl, EDTA, SDS, proteinase K, phenol, chloroform, TE,
160 ethanol, RNAase, PCR extraction kit (Genaid), sequencing kit, primary.

161 The equipments used in this research are: *HIRAYAMA* autoclave-Japan, *LABCONCO*
162 laminar air flow, *MEMMERT* oven, *MEMMERT* water bath, *SOCOREX* macro and
163 micropipettes, *HANNA* pH meter, *THERMOLYNE* stirrer, *OHAUS* analytical balances,
164 *MOTIC* test tubes, loopful, microscopes, *SNE 4500M* SEM microscope, *PERKIN ELMER*
165 *Lambda 25* UV/Vis Spectrophotometer, *ROTOFIX 32* coolbox, and centrifuge, *EPPENDORF*
166 *5804R* refrigerated centrifuge, *PCR BIO-RAD T100 Thermal Cycler* sequencer, *STUART*
167 shaker, *Jouan Maxi Artic* refrigerator, Glove BOX, *MEMMERT* and *HERAEUS* incubators,
168 *IWAKI* and *HERMA* glasswares, such as Erlenmeyer, Petri dishes, glass slide, bunsen, glass
169 beaker, measuring glass, and flask.

170 **Screening of keratinolytic bacteria:**The isolated bacterial strains were screened for the
171 production of extracellular keratinase using skim milk agar medium. The pure cultures were
172 streaked on the skim milk agar plates, and the plates were incubated at 37°C for 48 h. After
173 incubation, the formations of a clear zone around the bacterial growth were observed⁵.

174 **Caseinolytic Activity:** Skim milk agar medium was sterilized at 121°C for 15 min at 15 lbs
175 pressure. The isolates were streaked on the medium. The zone formed around the colonies due
176 to the production of caseinase enzyme was considered as a positive result. The organisms
177 screened with skim milk agar medium were subcultured by growing the bacterium in nutrient
178 broth medium at 37°C for 24 h⁶.

179 **Morphological Test:** The identification of bacteria can be conducted by viewing the colony
180 morphology both macroscopically and microscopically, including simple, Gram, Zn and spore
181 staining as well as viewing on the bacterial biochemical test. The morphology of bacteria
182 includes the shape, size, texture, colony color, and motility. The biochemical test was
183 conducted to ensure the species of bacteria; it included the test of catalase, oxidase, and
184 fermentation of carbohydrates.

185 **Production of keratinolytic enzymes:** The enzyme production was based on the method of
186 Hoq *et al.*⁷ with slight modification. Each of the isolates was cultivated in a basal medium
187 (per liter of the solution: NaCl, 0.5 g; K₂HPO₄, 0.3 g; K₂HPO₄, 0.4 g) containing
188 keratinous substrates: (10.0 g of puffer fish; pH 7.5) as the only source of nitrogen, carbon,
189 and sulfur. The supplementation of 1.0 g of nitrogen (yeast extract) and 1.0 g of carbon
190 sources (bacteriological peptone) together was also tested in presence or absence of keratinous
191 substrates under identical conditions. Cultivation was done with 5 mL of 24 h grown
192 inoculum (in nutrient broth) of the respective bacterial cultures (100 mL) on the liquid
193 medium in a 500 mL Erlenmeyer flask at 37°C under shaking (120 rpm) for 24 h. The samples
194 were withdrawn at 24 h and centrifuged at 4500 rpm at 6°C for 20 min. The supernatants were
195 preserved at 4°C and assayed for protein and enzymes.

196 One pure isolate was cultured in 5 mL of sterile Pre-Culture medium (Stock
197 solution) and incubated at 30°C for 48 h in a shaker incubator at 120 rpm. After incubation,

198 the broth was centrifuged at 4500 rpm for 20 minutes, and the supernatant was used to study
199 the keratinolytic activities.

200 **Protease Activity:** Protease activity was determined with the method of Bergmeyer *et al.*⁸.
201 One unit (U) of proteolytic enzyme activity is defined as the amount of enzyme that releases 1
202 μmol tyrosine per millilitre per minute at standard test condition. Specific activity is stated in
203 enzyme activity unit per milligram of protein.

204 **Keratinolytic Activity:** Keratinolytic activity was determined with the method of Wang *et*
205 *al.*⁹. The substrate used was Keratin Azure. The keratinase enzyme activity was measured by
206 using several types of keratin substrates such as feather flour^{10,11,12}, and keratin azure^{13,14,9}.
207 Keratin azure is pure keratin derived from wool that is stained with azo dyes. Keratin azure
208 that is added with water and is reacted with specific enzyme will produce a blue-colored
209 reaction product. The amount of keratinase enzyme activity is determined by the unit, where
210 one unit (U) of keratinase activity is defined as the amount of enzyme required to improve the
211 absorbance of 0.01 between the sample and the control at a wavelength of 595 nm in
212 accordance with the test conditions^{15,9}

213 **Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM):** The fixation solution was made by using 0.2145 g of
214 sodium cacodylic, 1.0081 g of NaCl, 630 μl of HCl 0.2 M, 1 mL of glutaraldehyde and was
215 added with H₂O for a volume of 100 mL using a Volumetric flask. After all of the ingredients
216 were dissolved and mixed together until the mixture was homogenous, the solution was put
217 into a dark bottle and stored in the refrigerator.

218 Agar medium was made using 3.5 g of agar, 0.1 g of gelatin, and added with 1/100
219 stock solution for dilution that consisted of 1 mL of stock solution added with 99 mL of H₂O.
220 The 100% stock solution was made by putting 1 g of meat extract, 1 g of microbiological
221 peptone, 0.5 g of NaCl and 80 mL of H₂O into a glass beaker. It was then stirred well until it
222 dissolved evenly and the pH was adjusted to 7.2. If it is too acidic, it can be added with 0.1 N

223 of NaOH and if it is too alkaline, it can be added with 0.1 N of H₂SO₄. Then, the solution was
224 poured into the Erlenmeyer and added with H₂O to get 100 mL volume. It was then boiled on
225 the stove and stirred constantly until it dissolved evenly. After that, it was sterilized with an
226 autoclave.

227 The steriled agar medium was then poured into the petri dish. A special filter paper
228 that had been cut to the size of 5x5 mm (previously sterilized) was put on the un-ossified agar,
229 and we waited until it was cool and ossified. The isolates which had previously been grown on
230 preculture medium and shaken for one night was taken 1 µl and dripped on the filter paper
231 that had been placed on the agar, then it was incubated for four days.

232 Filter paper that had been overgrown by isolates on the agar was then taken and put in
233 microcentrifuge tube, added with 1 mL of fixation solution, and incubated at 4°C for 30
234 minutes. The fixation solution was then taken using a pipette until it was empty, added with 1
235 mL of acetone 60%, and incubated at room temperature for 15 minutes. The acetone 60% was
236 then taken until it was empty and replaced by 1 mL of acetone 80%. The acetone 80% was
237 then taken until it was empty and replaced by 1 mL of acetone 100%; the process with acetone
238 100% was repeated twice. After the acetone had been removed and replaced by 1 mL of
239 pentyl acetate and stored at room temperature for 20 minutes, it was dried using filter vacuum.
240 When the fluid was gone, the sample had reached the critical point drying. It was then coated
241 and ready to be observed using a SEM¹⁶.

242 **Molecular Identification:** The molecular identification was conducted using the 16S rRNA
243 gene sequence. The sequencing of 16S-rRNA gene consisted of several stages, including
244 DNA extraction, amplification between 16S-rRNA gene and PCR, and sequencing using
245 Sequencer machine.

246 Amplification of 16S rRNA gene was conducted using thermal cyclers. The Primers
247 used were the couple of 8F (5' - AGAGGTTGATCCTGGCTCAG-3'), primer 1492R (5' -

248 GTTTACCTTGTTACGACTT-3'). The PCR process began with initial denaturation stage at a
249 temperature of 94°C for 5 minutes, and continued with the process of as many as 30 cycles
250 consisted of denaturation process at a temperature of 94°C for 1 second, primer attachment at
251 a temperature of 55°C for 1 minute, and elongation at 72°C for 1 minute. After the 30 cycles
252 had finished, it was followed by lengthening process on the temperature of 72°C for 10
253 minutes, and the PCR process stopped at a temperature of 12°C. PCR results were then
254 viewed by electrophoresis on agarose gel of 0.8%.

255 **Phylogenetic Analysis:** The identical 16S rDNA sequences were identified by phylogenetic
256 tree analysis and manual comparison, where the sequences with a similarity of more than 90%
257 were described as identical, and these sequences were used for further phylogenetic analysis
258 as Operational Taxonomic Unit (UTO). The evolutionary tree was based on distances
259 compiled using the nearest neighbor algorithm.

260 **Data Analysis:** Bacterial Isolation and Identification were conducted with descriptive
261 method. The microbial activity tests were analyzed using a Completely Randomized Design.
262 Furthermore, if there are significant differences, the analysis will be followed by Duncan's
263 New Multiple Range Test.

264 RESULTS

265 Totally five isolates were found from puffer fish waste. All the isolates were subjected
266 to primary screening on Milk Agar plate, and 3 of 5 isolates formed the clear zone, which
267 supported the degradation and utilization of casein (Skim Milk) by the respective isolates.
268 Those organisms were named as BRAW_PT, BRAW_PB, and BRAW_PI strains (BRAW –
269 Buntal Rembang Ari Wibowo). The macroscopic observation on bacterial isolates was shown
270 in Table 1.

271 They capable of growing and degrading puffer fish skin at 35°C within 14 days. The
272 BRAW_PT, BRAW_PB, and BRAW_PI strains which appeared single or in the chain had

273 straight rods. They were Gram-positive, endospore-forming organisms, aerobic, motile, strong
274 oxidase, and catalase positive. The additional morphological, physiological, and biochemical
275 test were shown in Table 2.

276 **Caseinolytic Activity:** Table 3 showed the results of clear zone diameter in 72 h of
277 observations, BRAW_PT strains showed the largest colony diameter (3.06 mm), followed by
278 BRAW_PI strain (2.40 mm). The smallest colony diameter (1.34 mm) belonged to
279 BRAW_PB strain. The results of clear zone diameter and the diameters of colonies from the
280 largest to the smallest were then sorted and tested to determine the protease activity.

281 **Proteolytic Activity:** The results of proteolytic enzyme assay showed that BRAW_PI had a
282 specific activity of 37.52 ± 0.96 U/mg (Table 4). This was the highest activity of the three
283 isolates. The test showed significantly different results among the treatments. A further test
284 using Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT) showed that BRAW_PI had a significantly
285 different proteolytic enzyme activity ($P < 0.05$) than other isolates. Proteinase enzyme activity
286 of BRAW_PT and BRAW_PB had no significant differences ($P < 0.05$).

287 **Keratinase Activity:** Keratinase activity assay was carried out on all of 3 isolates. The test
288 results of keratinase activity were shown in Table 5. Based on the table, BRAW_PI strain had
289 the highest specific keratinase activity of 6.78 U/mg. BRAW_PI had a significantly different
290 proteolytic enzyme activity ($P < 0.05$) than other isolates. The proteinase enzyme activity of
291 BRAW_PT and BRAW_PB had no significant differences ($P < 0.05$).

292 **Molecular taxonomy, sequencing, and phylogenetic analysis:** Results of PCR with 16S
293 rRNA primer was then viewed by electrophoresis on a 0.8% agarose gel as shown in Figure 3.
294 The isolates had a very close genetic relationship with *Bacillaceae* family based on the 16S
295 rRNA gene sequencing method. BRAW_PT was closed to *Bacillus thuringiensis* by showing
296 99% similarity, BRAW_PB was closed to *Bacillus aerius* by showing 99% similarity, and
297 BRAW_PI was closed to *Bacillus firmus* by showing 99% similarity. The phylogenetic tree
298 (Figure 2) was constructed by the neighbor-joining method using Molecular Evolutionary
299 Genetics Analysis 6 (MEGA6) program.

300

DISCUSSION

301 Skim milk contains casein, a milk protein which will be degraded by proteolytic
302 microorganisms into dissolved nitrogen compounds so the colony will be surrounded by a
303 clear area. It showed that these microbes had proteolytic activity¹⁷. Based on this test, there
304 were only three isolates that had the ability to degrade casein isolates while the other two did
305 not.

306 Three of five isolates that showed protease activity were later corroborated by the skim
307 milk agar and they were used for further research. Sivakumar *et al.*¹⁹ confirmed that the zone
308 formed around colonies was due to the formation of the casein enzyme. It was considered as a
309 positive result. The caseinolytic ability of bacteria could be used to select the initial
310 keratinolytic bacteria because most keratinolytic bacteria that derived from nature also had a
311 good caseinolytic activity. The results obtained showed that the BRAW_PB, BRAW_PT, and
312 BRAW_PI isolates were able to degrade the casein because casein is the main protein in milk.
313 Benson¹⁸ stated that the media became clear due to the caseinase exoenzymes produced by
314 bacteria.

315 Based on the method of Gupta and Ramnani⁴, the chosen casein agar media was
316 related to the most reported keratinase enzyme derived from nature. The isolates were grown
317 in an incubator at 30°C for 72 h. The statistical analysis was conducted with variance analysis
318 that showed that there were significant differences among the treatments. A further test was
319 conducted using Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT). It showed that the clear zone
320 diameter of all isolates had been significantly affected by the incubation time. All isolates had
321 the largest clear zone diameter in 72 h. It can be seen in Table 3.

322 Brandelli *et al.*²⁰ stated that the hydrolysis ability of casein depended on the species
323 and environment of the bacterial isolation place. Furthermore, in order to ensure the ability of
324 bacteria in hydrolyzing protein, a protease activity test was conducted. The screening was

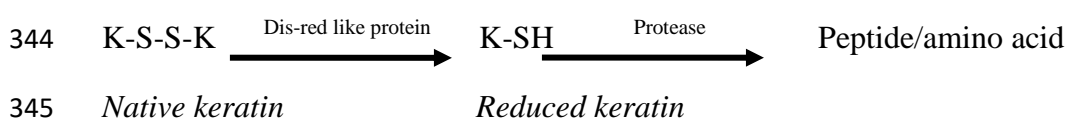
325 conducted on 3 isolates using qualitative (the formation of the clear zone) and quantitative
326 (enzymes activity) methods²¹.

327 Protease is also called peptidase or proteinase. It is a hydrolase-class enzyme that will
328 break down proteins into simpler molecules such as short oligopeptides or amino acids, with
329 hydrolysis reaction on the peptide bond. Proteolytic bacteria are the bacteria that are able to
330 produce extracellular protease enzyme. The enzyme breaks protein that is produced in the cell
331 and releases it out of the cell.

332 Some researcher found keratinase activity in some bacterial enzymes such as *Bacillus*
333 *subtilis* that has keratinase activity of 1.8 U/mL²²; *Aspergillus sp.* 1.7 U/mL, *Cladosporium*
334 *sp.* 1.9 U/mL, and *Periconia sp* 1.5 U/mL²³, as well as *Streptomyces gulbargensis* that has
335 keratinase activity of 1.5 U/mL¹⁴. Nevertheless, the keratinase activity of those three strains is
336 lower than the one produced by *Bacillus megaterium* F7-1 by 58 U/mL²⁴, *Chryseobacterium*
337 *sp.* by 40 U/mL²⁵, and *Flavobacterium sp.* by 7 U/mL²⁶.

338 Some keratinolytic microorganisms have been reported, including several species of
339 fungi such as *Microsporium*²⁷, *Trichophyton*²⁸, *Streptomyces*^{29,30} and *Actinomycetes*^{31,32}.
340 Recently, keratinase activity was also reported for coccus that was rod-shaped Gram-positive.

341 Yamamura *et. al.*³³ reported a joint action between the similar protein disulfide
342 reductase and proteases produced by *Stenotrophomonas sp.* to degrade deer-hair keratin. The
343 mechanisms of keratin degradation occurred as follows:



346 There were two types of morphological forms of microbes in the form of short bacilli,
347 while four types of microbes are long-shaped bacilli. SEM was useful to clarify the simple
348 coloring using safranin dye, and Gram and Zn staining indicated that all of the isolates
349 belonged to Bacilli class.

350 The results of amplification of the encoding 16S rRNA gene of bacterial isolate were
351 then determined for its DNA base sequences. The process of determining the base sequence of
352 DNA was conducted by 1st BASE, Malaysia. The results of the determination was then read
353 with DNA baser. Then, the DNA's base sequence obtained was used to search for the
354 comparison of DNA sequence in various similar microorganisms or those that have a close
355 genetic relationship to the NCBI (National Center for Biotechnology Information) GenBank
356 through the BLAST (Basic Local Alignment Search Tool) method
357 (<http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi>). The results of the matching using BLAST method
358 was then selected to find the one that had the closest genetic relationship and sequenced for
359 the phylogenetic tree using the Molecular Evolutionary Genetics Analysis 6 (MEGA6)
360 program. The sequence of 16S rRNA gene has been determined for many strains. Genbank is
361 the largest data bank for nucleotide sequences, saving over 20 million nucleotide sequences
362 and almost more than 90.000 of them are the 16S rRNA gene. It shows that many previously
363 saved nucleotide sequences are compared with the sequence of a newly known strain. In
364 addition, the universal 16S rRNA gene in bacteria can be used to analyze the phylogenetic
365 relationship between the bacteria from the genus level of many phyla to the level of strains
366 that are species and subspecies.

367 The genetic relationship of bacteria was known from the base sequence analysis of
368 16S rRNA gene nitrogen. The base sequence of isolates' nitrogen obtained from the
369 sequencing of the 1st BASE was analyzed with DNA Baser program to get the nitrogen's
370 sequence that can be compared with the nitrogen's base sequence of reference strain from
371 Genbank National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) with Basic Local Alignment
372 Search Tool (BLAST). The base sequences of the isolates' nitrogen and the base sequences of
373 the reference strain nitrogen or comparators were used to analyze the genetic relationship in
374 the form of a phylogenetic tree. The phylogenetic tree on this analysis was performed with

375 Molecular Evolutionary Genetics Analysis 6 (MEGA6) program and neighbor-joining
376 method. The formed phylogenetic tree was evaluated with the bootstrap method (1000
377 replications) to determine the level of robustness and accuracy of the analysis. The bootstrap
378 value was indicated by the number contained in the branches of the phylogenetic tree.
379 According to Hall³⁴, the higher value bootstraps, the more reliability or trustworthiness. The
380 results of phylogenetic tree analysis are shown in Figure 2.

381 Based on the formed phylogenetic tree, all isolates had a very close genetic relationship
382 with different species of Bacillaceae family. BRAW_PT was close to *Bacillus thuringiensis*
383 with 99% similarity, BRAW_PB was close to *Bacillus aerius* with 99% similarity, and
384 BRAW_PI was close to *Bacillus firmus* with 99% similarity.

385 CONCLUSIONS

386 The results of the screening showed that 3 of 5 bacterial strains presented keratinolytic
387 activity. They are *Bacillus thuringiensis* BRAW_PT, *Bacillus aerius* BRAW_PB and *Bacillus*
388 *firmus* BRAW_PI. The proteolytic enzyme test showed that BRAW_PI bacterial strain had the
389 highest protease and keratinolytic specific activity, which was 37.52±0.96 U/mg and
390 6.781±0.479 U/mg consecutively.

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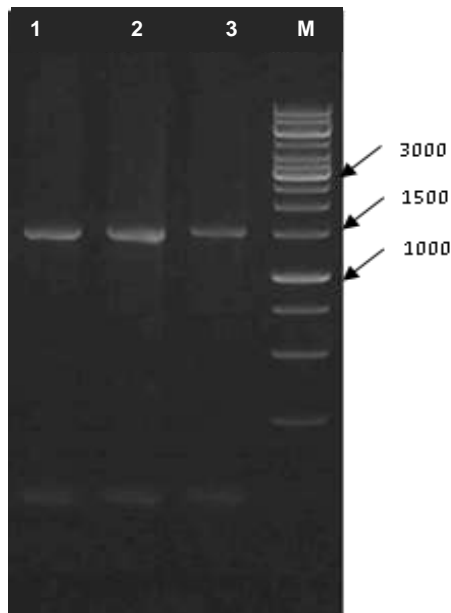
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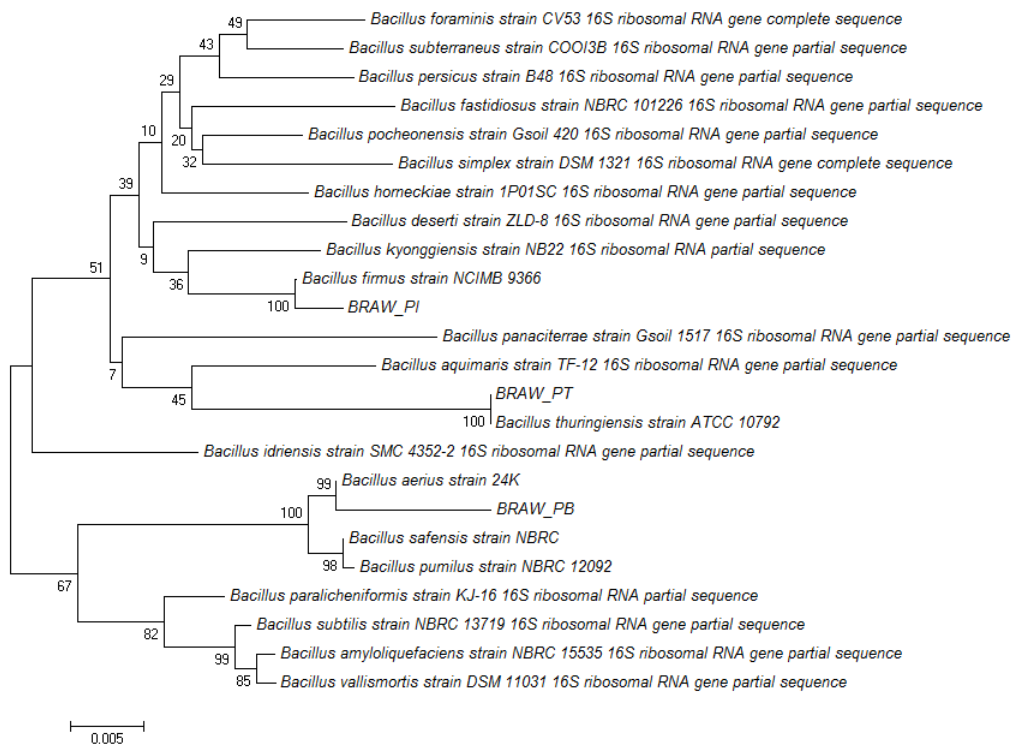
487 **FIGURE LEGEND**

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Figure 1. Agarose gel electrophoresis of Amplified products. 1 : BRAW_PI; 2 : BRAW_PB; BRAW_PT; M : Broad range marker



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Figure 2. The Phylogenetic Tree of 3 Isolates

TABLES

Table 1. Observation of keratinase bacterial isolates

| Isolate Code | Colony Color | Colony Shape |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Milk (Ps) | Round, convex, glossy |
| 2 | White (Pb) | Round, convex, wavy |

| | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|
| 3 | Sharp-White (Pt) | Round, convex, jaggy |
| 4 | Viscous-White (Pk) | Round, convex, |
| 5 | Pink (Pi) | Round, convex, jaggy |

498

499

Table 2. Morphology of keratinolytic isolates

| Morphology | Bacteria strains | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | BRAW_PT | BRAW_PB | BRAW_PI |
| Catalase | Positive | Positive | Positive |
| Oksidase | Positive | Positive | Positive |
| Upright media | Rhizoid | Beaded | Beaded |
| Slant media | Echinulate | Echinulate | Echinulate |
| Elevation | Convex rugose | Convex | Convex papilate |
| Deep Struktur | Opaque | Opaque | Finely granular |
| Colony Form | Curied | Circular | Circular |
| Motility | Positive | Negative | Negative |
| Spora Staining | Positive | Positive | Positive |
| Gram Staining | Positive | Positive | Positive |
| Acid Staining (Zn) | Acid negatif | Acid negatif | Acid negatif |
| Carbohidrate fermentation | | | |
| Glucose | Positive | Positive | Positive |
| Fructose | Positive | Positive | Positive |
| Sucrose | Positive | Positive | Positive |
| Lactose | Positive | Positive | Positive |

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Table 3. Diameters of clear zone (mm)

| Bacterial Strain | Incubation Time | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | 24 h | 48 h | 72 h |
| BRAW_PT | 0.242 ^a ±0.01 | 2.029 ^b ±0.01 | 3.063 ^c ±0.06 |
| BRAW_PB | 0.000 ^a ±0.00 | 1.018 ^b ±0.01 | 1.339 ^c ±0.03 |
| BRAW_PI | 0.058 ^a ±0.07 | 1.992 ^b ±0.01 | 2.404 ^c ±0.04 |

502

^{a,b,c} Different superscripts in the same column indicate significant differences (P<0.05)

503

Table 4. Proteinase enzyme activity (U/mg)

| Strain | Enzyme activity (U/mg) |
|---------|--------------------------|
| BRAW_PT | 33.44 ^a ±0.56 |
| BRAW_PB | 32.49 ^a ±1.18 |
| BRAW_PI | 37.52 ^b ±0.96 |

504

^{a, b} Different superscripts in the same column indicate significant differences (P<0.05)

505

506

Table 5. Keratinase enzyme activity (U/mg)

| Strain | Enzyme activity (U/mg) |
|---------|---------------------------|
| BRAW_PT | 4.867 ^a ±0.326 |
| BRAW_PB | 4.349 ^a ±0.634 |
| BRAW_PI | 6.781 ^b ±0.479 |

507

^{a, b} Different superscripts in the same column indicate significant differences (P<0.05)



PT. BANK NEGARA INDONESIA (Persero), Tbk
CABANG : UGM YOGYA

Teller ID : 26257
Date : 16/05/2017
Time : 13:25:40

Sender's Reference:
:20:S10UGM00081817
Bank Operation Code:
:23B:CRED
Value Date/Currency/Interbank Settled Amount:
:32A:170516USD250,
Ordering Customer:
:50K:/0345272268
RLM SATRIO ARI WIBOWO
JL BALIREJO I NO.2, YOGYAKARTA
INDONESIA
Ordering Institution:
:52A:BNINIDJAXXX
Account With Institution:
:57A:HABBAEADXXX
Beneficiary Customer:
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SCIENCE ALERT
112 AL-NOOR BUILDING,
NEAR AL-BASAM CENTER DEIRA DUBAI
Remittance Information:
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(83248-PJN-ANSI)
Details Of Charges:
:71A:OUR
Sender to Receiver Information:
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//P.O.BOX 888 DUBAI, U.A.E

16 MAY 2017

