

*Original Research*

# Decomposition Characteristics of Selected Solid Organic Wastes by Black Soldier Fly (BSF) Larvae as Affected by Temperature Regimes

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## Abstract

This study aims to assess the decomposition characteristics of selected organic solid waste using Black Soldier Fly (BSF) larvae as affected by temperature regimes. Three types of waste were those originating from a restaurant, a traditional market, and a bread factory. Three temperature regimes (low, moderate, and high) were set up as it represents the Indonesian climate. The larvae flour resulted from the organic waste decomposition was tested as a protein source for day-old chicken (DOC) broiler to test the degree of palatability, whereas the compost quality was analysed according to the national standard. The results of the experiment indicated that the best waste reduction percentage was found at low temperature with a reduction percentage of 91.2%. Wet base protein contents ranged from 8.9-17.1%, where the highest content was found from the moderate temperature regime. The highest waste reduction index was found in restaurant waste, i.e. 4.33%/day. The highest dry matter consumption rate was obtained from restaurant waste, i.e. 39.65 mg/larvae/day. The palatability index of BSF larvae flour to DOC broiler chickens generates preference number one among other feeds with average daily consumption of 8.0 grams/head/day. The compost quality resulted from the organic waste decomposition process met the Indonesian standard, except the C/N ratio.

**Keywords:** black soldier fly larvae, compost; decomposition, palatability index, protein

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Table 4. Results of protein content analysis at several temperatures variations.

No.	Temperature regime	Protein Content (%)
1	Low Temperature	8.9
2	Moderate Temperature	17.1
3	High Temperature	15.9

### Characteristics of BSF Larvae Decomposition in Several Types of Waste

BSF larvae can eat a variety of food waste in a variety of flavours. BSF larvae can be given a variety of feed, including kitchen waste, fruits, vegetables, liver, fish waste, urban waste, human waste, and animal waste. The flexibility of BSF larvae feed can be an ideal insect in producing protein. However, differences in feed can affect the development process of BSF larvae. So, the right formulation is needed in feeding the BSF larvae to maximise production and efficiency. Some microbes that are used as a pre-treatment process can improve the digestive ability of BSF larvae, the process of larval development, and increase the mass of the pre-pupa stage [9].

Determination of water content of waste at the beginning of the study was done through the Gravimetric Method through heating at 105°C for 24 hours. The recommended optimum moisture content is 60-90% [1]. The results of measurements of water content are presented in Fig. 4.

Table 5. Compost quality from different temperature regime.

Parameter	Unit	Standard <sup>a</sup>	Temperature regime		
			Low	Moderate	High
Temperature	°C	GW temp. <sup>b</sup>	27.8	28.2	28.0
Colour	-	black	Black	black	black
Nitrogen (N)	%	>0.4	3.4	3.4	4.0
Carbon (C)	%	9.8-32	23	25	31
Phosphor (P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> )	%	>0.1	0.71	0.53	0.6
C/N Ratio	-	10-20	7 <sup>c</sup>	7 <sup>c</sup>	8 <sup>c</sup>
Potassium (K <sub>2</sub> O)	%	>0.22	5.67	4.63	3.82
Cobalt (Co)	ppm	<34	3.5	2.5	1.9
Zinc (Zn)	ppm	<500	146	122	123
Calcium (Ca)	%	<25.5	3.6	3.0	2.9
Magnesium (Mg)	%	<0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4
Iron (Fe)	%	<2.0	0.6	0.4	0.3
Manganese (Mn)	%	<0.1	0.03	0.02	0.03

<sup>a</sup> SNI 19-7030-2004 on Compost Specifications from Domestic Organic Waste; <sup>b</sup> GW= groundwater

<sup>c</sup> Uncomply with standard

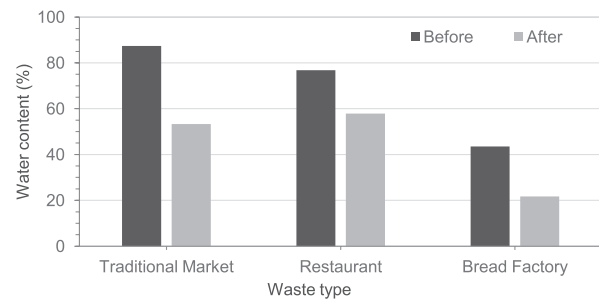


Fig. 4. The water content of the organic wastes.

Organic wastewater content given to BSF larvae is still in the optimal range of 60-90%. The type of waste used is based on the results of a survey with several BSF larva business players. The three types of waste used are restaurant waste, market waste, and bread factory waste. The given waste is given the same treatment, which is ground with a grinding machine so that the waste conditions are homogeneous.

The fungus in the optimum growth of garbage at pH 5.6, but still can survive at pH 2.0-9.0 [22]. The results of pH measurements on organic solid waste used are presented in Fig. 5. Based on Fig. 5, the pH range of organic waste in the initial conditions given to BSF larvae ranged from 3.83-3.59. The pH range of organic waste in the final conditions given to BSF larvae increased from before, which ran from 5.98-5.32. It indicates that the decomposition process is going well. BSF larvae have a broad enough pH tolerance range so that BSF larvae can live in extreme







- found in the kind of restaurant waste 33.3 mg/larvae/day.
3. Giving BSF larvae flour in DOC broiler has a preference sequence number 1 among other feeds with a percentage of consumption of 25.5% of the total feed. The preferred level of DOC broiler against BSF flour has an excellent response so that BSF larvae have great potential to be converted into the feed.
  4. Compost resulted from solid organic waste meets all parameters as stipulated in national standard, except the C/N ratio parameter.

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### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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