

**KINETIC MODEL FOR GROWTH AND INFLUENCE OF  
pH ON THE GROWTH OF *HALOCHLORELLA*  
*RUBESCENS* IN A FABRICATED  
PHOTOBIOREACTOR**

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**JUNE 2020**



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2. Saya juga ingin mengesahkan bahawa saya berpuas hati dengan pembetulan/pindaan yang dilaksanakan oleh calon.

Sekian, terima kasih.

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By

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A dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the

degree of Bachelor of Technology (B. Tech) in the field of

Bioprocess Technology

School of Industrial Technology

Universiti Sains Malaysia

June 2020

## **DECLARATION BY AUTHOR**

I am hereby declaring that this dissertation is my original work and contains no published materials, except any acknowledged materials that have been cited and listed under the references. I also declare that the content of this thesis is the result of work that has been done solely by myself and has not been submitted for the award of any other degree of diploma in any university or other tertiary institution.



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NUR IZATUL ANIS BINTI MUHAMMAD JAIS

JUNE 2020

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alhamdulillah, praise be to Allah, upon His blessing and mercy so that I could successfully complete my final year project thus submitted this thesis within allocated time.

I would like to acknowledge Universiti Sains Malaysia that supported this project through Bridging-Incentive Grant (6316214) provided thus allowing me to complete this project. I also would like to express my great gratitude to my final year project supervisor, Dr. Noor Aziah Binti Serri, and my co-supervisor Dr. Mohd Asyraf Bin Kassim for their invaluable guidance, giving comments and suggestions to me throughout the completion of this project. I am to extend my gratitude to postgraduate student, Lavanya A/P Anbalagan, for her outstanding assistance in this project so that I can overcome the difficulties faced during the project accomplishment.

My humble gratitude to the School of Industrial Technology, USM for allowing me to use the facilities and all equipment provided. I thank profusely to Bioprocess Technology laboratory assistants, Mr. Azmaizan Yaakub and Mrs. Najmah Hamid who provide all apparatus and chemicals, and also guiding and assisting me to deal with all machineries and equipment.

I would also like to thank my parents and family members and my entire classmates for showing their support during completion of my degree study years.

Nur Izatul Anis Binti Muhammad Jais

JUNE 2020

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Acknowledgements	iii
Table of Contents	iv
List of Tables	vii
List of figures	viii
List of Symbols and Abbreviation	ix
Abstrak	xi
Abstract	xii
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Research background	1
1.2 Problem statement	4
1.3 Objectives	6
CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW	7
2.1 Microalgae	7
2.1.1 Microalgae and their potential in lipid production	7
2.1.2 Growth cultivation	8
2.1.3 <i>Halochlorella rubescens</i>	9
2.2 Factors affecting high growth and lipid production	11
2.2.1 pH values	11
2.3 UV Light Wavelength in influencing the growth of microalgae	13

2.4 Overview of Previous Reactor Design for <i>Chlorella sp.</i> Biodiesel Production	15
2.5 Growth Kinetic Model	17
CHAPTER 3: MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY	19
3.1 Photobioreactor Design	19
3.2 MLA Medium preparation	20
3.2.1 Stock solution	21
3.2.2 MLA Medium x 40 concentrated nutrient preparation method	21
3.2.3 1 L MLA medium preparation	21
3.3 Standard Curve	22
3.4 Microalgae cultivation	22
3.4.1 Microalgae cultivation and cell activation profile	22
3.4.2 <i>Halochlorella rubescens.</i> cultivation on different pH medium	23
3.5 Kinetic Modelling	24
CHAPTER 4: RESULT AND DISCUSSION	26
4.1 Development of photobioreactor	26
4.2 Standard curve	27
4.3 Cell activation profile of <i>Halochlorella rubescens</i> in normal cultivation mode.	29
4.4 <i>Halochlorella rubescens</i> cultivation in different pH medium	34
4.5 Kinetic Modelling	37

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	40
5.1 Conclusion	40
5.2 Recommendation	41
REFERENCES	42
APPENDICES	49
APPENDIX A	49
APPENDIX B	51
APPENDIX C	52
APPENDIX D	56
APPENDIX E	60
APPENDIX F	64



## LIST OF TABLES

Table Caption		Page
Table 2.1	Classification of <i>Halochlorella rubescens</i>	10
Table 2.2	Summary of past studies involving pH alteration for <i>Chlorella sp.</i> cultivation.	12
Table 2.4	Summary of past studies involving type of bioreactor used for <i>Chlorella sp.</i> cultivation.	16
Table 3.2	List of chemical for MLA medium preparation	20
Table 4.3 (a)	Biomass concentration of <i>Halochlorella rubescens</i> in different cultivation volume	31
Table 4.3 (b)	Specific growth rate of <i>Halochlorella rubescens</i>	33
Table 4.3 (c)	Biomass productivity of <i>Halochlorella rubescens</i>	33
Table 4.4 (a)	Biomass concentration of <i>Halochlorella rubescens</i> in different pH cultivation	35
Table 4.4 (b)	Specific growth rate of <i>Halochlorella rubescens</i>	36
Table 4.4 (c)	Biomass productivity of <i>Halochlorella rubescens</i>	37
Table 4.5 (a)	Kinetic parameters of <i>Halochlorella rubescens</i> growth models	38
Table 4.5 (b)	RMSE of Logistic and Gompertz model	39
Table A.1	Composition of MLA medium	49
Table A.2	Preparation of MLA medium X 40 concentrated nutrient	50
Table A.3	Preparation of 1 L MLA medium	50
Table B.1	Preparation of <i>Halochlorella rubescens</i> standard curve	51

## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>Figure Caption</b>		<b>Page</b>
Figure 3.1	Square type photobioreactor	19
Figure 4.1	Cultivation of <i>Halochlorella rubescens</i> in fabricated reactor	26
Figure 4.2	Standard Curve of <i>Halochlorella rubescens</i>	28
Figure 4.3	Growth the patterns of <i>Halochlorella rubescens</i> in different cultivation volumes.	29
Figure 4.4	Growth the patterns of <i>Halochlorella rubescens</i> in different pH medium	36

## LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

### SYMBOLS

°	Degree
%	Percentage
±	Plus, minus

### ABBREVIATIONS

C	Celsius
cm	Centimeter
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon dioxide
dH <sub>2</sub> O	Distilled water
DW	Dry weight
g/L	Gram per Liter
HCL	Hydrochloric acid
L	Liter
L/ha	Liter per hectar
LED	Light-emitting diodes
m	Meter
mg/L	Milligram per liter
mL	Milliliter
MLA	Modified algae
NaOH	Sodium Hydroxide

nm	Nanometer
PBR	Photobioreactor
TAGs	Triacylglycerides
vvm	volume of liquid per minute

## ABSTRAK

Selama bertahun, *Chlorella sp.* telah terbukti sebagai salah satu calon dalam menghasilkan biomas yang banyak. Dalam projek ini, sebuah reaktor baru telah dibuat dan keupayaan *Halochlorella rubescens*, spesies mikroalga daripada genus *Chlorella sp.* untuk menghasilkan jisim sel yang tinggi akan dinilai. Profil sel pengaktifan oleh mikroalga dalam tiga jenis isi padu (500 mL, 1 L dan 5 L) dalam mod pertumbuhan normal dan kesan pH terhadap tumbesaran kinetik algae dalam 15-L photobioreaktor akan dikaji. Kepekatan sel dan produktiviti biomas tertinggi, 2.493 g/L dan 0.183 g DW L<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> dapat dilihat pada medium 500 mL. Pencairan jaringan sel dan umur inokulum dilihat memberi kesan terhadap pertumbuhan mikroalga. Kepekatan biomas dan produktiviti biomas tertinggi, 1.689 g/L dan 0.1043 g DW L<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> direkodkan apabila mikroalga dibesarkan di dalam medium pH 10.5 dan alkaliniti medium yang tinggi dilihat memberi kesan terhadap kepekatan sel yang dihasilkan oleh mikroalga. Dua model pertumbuhan, Logistik dan Gompertz diguna dalam projek ini bagi mendapatkan model tumbuhan untuk mikroalga dalam reaktor yang baru dibuat. R<sup>2</sup> yang diperoleh untuk pH 8.5, 10.5 dan 13.5 daripada model Logistik dan Gompertz adalah 0.9634, 0.9482, 0.7225 dan 0.9626, 0.9474, 0.7249. Ini menunjukkan bahawa mikroalga paling sesuai dengan model Logistik dan pertumbuhan kinetik *Halochlorella rubescens* boleh ditentukan menggunakan model ini.

## ABSTRACT

For years, *Chlorella sp.* have been proven to be one of the candidates in producing abundant amounts of algal biomass. In this study, the fabrication of a new reactor was done and performance of *Halochlorella rubescens*, microalgae under genus *Chlorella sp.* in producing high cell mass was studied. Microalgae cell activation profile in three different cultivation volumes (500 mL, 1 L and 5 L) at normal cultivation mode and effect of pH towards the algae growth kinetic in a fabricated 15-L photobioreactor was investigated. 500 mL culture recorded highest biomass concentration and biomass productivity of 2.493 g/L and 0.183 g DW L<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>. Dilution of cell lines and inoculum age are found to have notable effects towards microalgae growth. Highest biomass concentration and biomass productivity, 1.689 g/L and 0.1043 g DW L<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> was recorded when the microalgae cultivated in pH 10.5 culture and high alkalinity medium showed remarkable effects towards the microalgae productivity. Two growth models, Logistic and Gompertz tested in this study to determine the growth model for microalgae in fabricated reactor. R<sup>2</sup> values obtained for pH 8.5, 10.5 and 13.5 from both Logistic and Gompertz are 0.9634, 0.9482, 0.7225 and 0.9626, 0.9474, 0.7249 respectively. This shows that this microalgae best-fitted with Logistic model and growth kinetics of *Halochlorella rubescens* can be determined by using this model.