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Optimization of Enrichment and Isolation Media of Thermophilic Hydrocarbonoclastic Bacteria Isolated from Oil Reservoir of West Java for Microbial Enhanced Oil Recovery (MEOR) Application

(Pengoptimuman Media Isolasi dan Pengkayaan Bakteria Hidrokarbonoklastik Termofili yang Dipencilkan daripada Takungan Minyak Jawa Barat untuk Aplikasi Perolehan Kembali Minyak Galakan Mikrob (MEOR))

DEA INDRIANI ASTUTI, ISTY ADHITYA PURWASENA*, GREGORIUS GILANG SATRIO, KELVIN RACHMAD ANDIKA, GHaida ZAINIYA MILLATI, TERA WAHYU DWINGRUM & EVITA MERIANI

ABSTRACT

Microbial enhanced oil recovery (MEOR) is a tertiary oil recovery process which aims to increase the crude oil recovery uptake to 55% from its original oil in place. In its application, indigenous microorganisms are commonly used as the main biological agents, but the isolation processes become more complicated due to environment's extreme condition. This study aims to determine the optimum formulation for the enrichment and isolation medium, in order to obtain a highly diverse of indigenous hydrocarbonoclastic bacteria. The isolation process was carried out in two stages; the isolation of mild oil fraction degrading bacteria, and isolation of the heavy oil fraction degrading bacteria which confirmed by the SARA (saturated, aromatic, resinic, and asphaltic) fraction chromatography analysis. Four enrichment and five isolation media were formulated based on the distinction in the macro-and micronutrient composition. Overall, a total of 92 isolates were successfully isolated. The highest bacterial diversities were achieved in the enrichment medium B (crude oil used as carbon source which supplemented with sodium lactate) and isolation medium I (nutrient agar with twice agar concentration), each with 37 and 33% of obtained isolates, respectively. The newly formulated medium can be further utilized to isolate various types of indigenous bacteria from the oil well which were able to degrade SARA fraction from crude oil. The result showed that ABG2-7 as the isolate with the highest activity on SARA degradation. The amount of 15% inoculum of ABG2-7 isolate was able to degrade heavy crude oil, thus might serve as potential bacteria for MEOR application.

Keywords: Bacterial diversities; enrichment media; isolation media; MEOR

ABSTRAK

Perolehan kembali minyak galakan mikrob (MEOR) merupakan proses perolehan kembali minyak tertier yang bertujuan untuk meningkatkan perolehan kembali minyak mentah sehingga 55%. Mikroorganisma asli umumnya digunakan sebagai agen biologi tetapi proses pengasingan mikroorganisma tidak mudah untuk dilakukan kerana keadaan persekitaran yang ekstrim. Penyelidikan ini bertujuan untuk menentukan pengoptimuman media pengasingan dan pengkayaan bakteria bagi mendapatkan bakteria hidrokarbonoklastik yang asli. Proses pengasingan dilakukan dalam 2 tahap iaitu pengasingan bakteria yang mendegradasi pecahan minyak secara berat atau ringan dan disahkan dengan melakukan analisis kromatografi SARA (ketepuan, aromatik, resin dan asfaltena). Sebanyak 4 media pengkayaan dan 5 media pengasingan diformulasikan berdasarkan komposisi pembezaan pada mikro dan makro nutrien. Hasilnya, sebanyak 92 sampel pencilan berjaya diasingkan. Sampel pencilan tertinggi adalah pada sampel media B (minyak mentah yang mempunyai natrium laktat digunakan sebagai sumber karbon) dan media I (agar bernutrien dengan kepekatan 2 kali ganda) masing-masing dengan 37 dan 33% pencilan. Melalui medium ini juga, terdapat pelbagai jenis bakteria asli daripada takungan minyak boleh diasingkan kerana bakteria ini mampu mendegradasikan SARA daripada minyak mentah. Hasil menunjukkan sampel pencilan ABG2-7 memiliki kemampuan yang terbaik dalam mendegradasi SARA. Jumlah inokulum paling optimum daripada pencilan ABG2-7 yang digunakan untuk mendegradasi pecahan berat minyak mentah adalah sebanyak 15%, sekaligus berpotensi sebagai bakteria yang boleh digunakan untuk aplikasi MEOR.

Kata kunci: Kepelbagaian bakteria; media perkayaan; media pengasingan; MEOR

INTRODUCTION

The oil reservoir is commonly characterized as an extreme environment with high temperature, pressure and salinity, and anoxic. However, research in the last few decades has shown that oil reservoir contained some active and diverse microbial communities which determine the quality and quantity of crude oil recovery. Much attention towards the microbiological aspects related to the oil reservoir comes not only from academia but also from the oil industry because of their scientific significance and industrial application. Major attention has been paid to isolate bacteria for MEOR. MEOR is one of the tertiary oil recovery technologies exploiting the use of reservoir bacteria or specially selected natural bacteria to produce specific metabolic in order to enhance oil recovery (Ke et al. 2018). Indigenous petroleum microorganisms are commonly used as the main biological agents for MEOR application (Ariadji et al. 2017), however, the extreme environmental condition of the reservoir causes the microbial abundance relatively small and the isolation process becomes more complicated (Kamagata 2015). Although large number of microorganisms have been isolated from oil reservoirs, isolation of hydrocarbon degrading bacteria still remained a substantial challenge (Davidova & Sulfito 2005).

At the beginning, the main focus of oil reservoir studies was mainly related to culture-based approach, as reported by Olliver and Cayol (2005), Purwasena et al. (2014) and Röling et al. (2003). Approximately, 0.1 - 15% of the total microbial communities are culturable (Amman et al. 1995). Since the number of culturable microorganism in laboratory is very limited, this approach cannot be employed to clearly describe the *in-situ* microbial communities which are available in the oil reservoir. Recent progress in microbiology resulted in the application of molecular biology in culture-independent techniques that has been shown to be more effective to characterize the microbial community assemblages from the environmental samples (Kemp & Aller 2004). However, these molecular techniques are still developing, thus, physiological characteristics of the microorganism are remained to be explored. The role of uncultured microorganism in the oil reservoir which is detected by the available techniques cannot be fully understood until these microorganisms are available for detailed physiological and molecular analysis.

The lack of success in isolating novel bacteria from natural environments is mainly due to the physiology of not-yet-cultured bacteria. Therefore, it is important to meet the requirements for growing the targeted bacteria in enrichment culture experiments for the successful isolation. Nonetheless, it seems necessary to develop

novel approaches and modifications of conventional isolation techniques to isolate novel targeted bacteria.

Synthetic mineral media and artificially controlled conditions have been commonly used for isolating bacteria from natural environment such as oil reservoirs. Madigan and Martinko (2006) suggested that the enrichment culture conditions should be duplicated closely to the condition of the original habitat of targeted bacteria. To isolate the targeted bacteria from the reservoir brine, growth conditions such as temperature, pressure, pH, organic and/or inorganic components, and atmospheric condition should be identical with those in oil reservoir (Halim et al. 2009; Röling et al. 2003). Indigenous hydrocarbonoclastic bacteria which is able to degrade heavier fraction of crude oil are preferable for MEOR application. These types of bacteria can decrease the crude oil viscosity by degrading heavier fraction of crude oil so that increase the composition of light fraction. Under this circumstance, the oil mobility will be increase which causing the improvement of overall oil recovery process (Purwasena et al. 2009). Therefore, the bacterial isolation is important to be carried out based on the composition of hydrocarbon components. One method of oil characterization is the separation of crude oil components into saturated, aromatic, resin, and asphalt (SARA fractionation) (Aske et al. 2001).

This research is aimed to find enrichment and isolation medium to obtain a high diversity of the isolated of indigenous hydrocarbonoclastic bacteria from oil wells. The isolation process was carried out in two-stage where the first-stage was intended to isolate the mild oil fraction degrading bacteria while the second-stage was to isolate the heavy fraction degrading bacteria, which confirmed by SARA fraction chromatography analysis.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

OIL SAMPLE COLLECTION AND CHARACTERIZATION

Oil sample was taken from 'X' oil field wells under the name of ABG-02. Sample was collected in 500 mL air-tight Schott laboratory bottles. For anaerobic sample, bottles were flushed with nitrogen gas prior to sampling and filled to its full capacity to maintain oxygen-free environment. Physical characteristics of crude oil were taken from Pertamina database while chemical characterization was done by environmental engineering water quality laboratory of Bandung Institute of Technology following the Standards Method for Waste and Wastewater (SMWW, USA). Additional physical characteristics (oil viscosity and interfacial tensions) were done with the assistance of Physical Chemistry laboratory of Bandung Institute of Technology.

ENRICHMENT AND ISOLATION OF HYDROCARBONOCLASTIC MICROORGANISMS

Prior to isolation, sample was enriched to increase its initial microbial load (Kamagata 2015). Four types of enrichment medium (Table 1) were used, then microbial isolation were done in five types of medium (Table 2). Enrichment was done in two-stages. First stage enrichment was done by incubating culture in 50 °C at 120 rpm for 14 days. The remaining oil from the first stage enrichment was then used at the second stage. It should contain higher amount of heavy fraction of crude oil so that it used to isolate bacteria that capable to degrade heavier oil fraction. Second stage enrichment was also carried out for 14 days. Isolation was conducted at 37 °C every two days during enrichment period. Thermophilic isolates that capable to grow at 50 °C were then obtained through thermal adaptation (Mandri & Lin 2007). Solid-culture of isolated microorganism grown in 37 °C were inoculated into SMSS broth and incubated in gradually increasing temperature from 37 °C to 50 °C at 120 rpm. Stone Mineral Salt Solution (SMSS) medium consisted of, per liter, 2.5 g NH₄NO₃, 0.5 g MgSO₄·7H₂O, 0.2 g MnCl₂·4H₂O, 0.5 g CaCO₃, 1 g Na₂HPO₄·7H₂O, 0.5 g KH₂PO₄ with 0.1% (w/v) yeast extract and 2% (v/v) crude oil (sterile) as the sole carbon source.

SEPARATION OF CRUDE OIL BY SARA ASSAY

Hydrocarbonoclastic properties of microorganism were confirmed by the change in the SARA profiles (Yernazarova et al. 2016). Crude oil components from the end of incubation of each isolation stage were separated using silica gel column chromatography. The remaining oil-degraded from the first-stage and second-stage of isolation was dissolved in 10 mL of n-hexane. The insoluble fraction (asphaltic) was filtered using Whatman No. 1 filter and weighed. The soluble fraction (*maltenes*) was loaded on top of silica gel G (70-120 mesh) column (2 × 30 cm) and eluted using three different solvents based on its polarity. The saturated fraction was eluted with hexane; aromatic fraction was eluted with thinner WS 80, and resin fraction was eluted with thinner: methanol (90:10). All fraction obtained from samples was evaporated and weighed (Astuti et al. 2017).

SCREENING OF POTENTIAL OIL-DEGRADING BACTERIA USING RESAZURIN ASSAY

Bacterial isolates that survived from 50 °C incubation were further screened by resazurin assay. Luria Bertani Broth (LB broth) were used and incubated at 50 °C with 120 rpm for 48 h. 10% of activated bacteria were then adapted into SMSS medium supplemented with 5% (v/v) sterile crude oil and 0.1% (w/v) yeast extract. The cultures were incubated at 50 °C with 120 rpm for 48 h.

10% of adapted cultures were then inoculated into SMSS medium supplemented with 5% (v/v) sterile crude oil, 0.1% (w/v) yeast extract and resazurin (4 mg/L). The cultures were then incubated at 50 °C with 120 rpm for 7 days. Resazurin's color change from blue, pink to colorless was monitored for every 24 h and it was indicated as the degradation rate (Modified from Astuti et al. (2017) and Benedek et al. (2010)).

SCREENING AND SELECTION OF CRUDE-OIL-DEGRADING BACTERIA

Six bacterial isolates with the highest crude-oil degradation rate were chosen for further selection. Selection was done based on the capacity of bacteria to degrade heavy oil fraction, such as resins and asphaltenes, which was determined by performing SARA fractions determination prior to and after 7 days of incubation in crude oil-enriched SMSS medium. During the incubation, bacterial cultures were agitated in 250 mL Erlenmeyer flask at 120 rpm, 50 °C. SARA fractions of the crude oil were determined using gravimetric and liquid chromatography method.

OPTIMAL INOCULUM CONCENTRATION DETERMINATION

Two isolates that showed the best heavy oil fraction degradation property were further investigated to determine the inoculum concentration which yield the highest oil degradation capacity based on growth, SARA assay, and viscosity. The cultivation of the selected isolate was done in duplicate in 125 mL Erlenmeyer flask. Each contained 50 mL of SMSS medium enriched with 0 to 15% (w/v) yeast extract and 3% (v/v) independently autoclave-sterilized crude oil. Bacterial inoculum concentration is varied as follows: 10, 12.5 and 15% (v/v). The cultures were constantly agitated at 120 rpm in 50 °C incubator for 120 h. SARA fractions and viscosity of all inoculum concentration were determined prior to and after the cultivation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

WELL 'X' CHARACTERISTIC

The oil sample physical and chemical characteristics were shown on Table 3. According to the results, it can be inferred from the physical characteristic (API values) that oil well 'X' was categorized as a medium crude oil (Santos et al. 2014). The high-temperature indicates that it supported the growth of indigenous thermophilic microbial population (Madigan et al. 2015). The N-compounds ratio (nitrate, nitrite, ammonia) found in the oil might indicate that there was a very low oxygen level within the X well. This assumption was further confirmed by the low concentration of ferric ion compared to ferrous ion (Hedin & Watzlaf

1994). The low availability of organic compounds indicate that the indigenous microbial population was possibly predominated by hydrocarbonoclastic microorganisms (Ghribi et al. 2004). From the S-compounds, it can be observed that there was a high level of sulfates compared with sulfides. This might indicate that there was a high possibility for sulfate-reducing bacteria (SRB) to grow and proliferate (Davidova et al. 2001).

HYDROCARBONOCLASTIC MICROBIAL ISOLATES

The highest bacterial diversities were obtained in the enrichment medium B and isolation with medium I, each with 37 and 33% of total obtained isolates as shown in Figure 1. A total of 92 isolates was obtained from the two-stage isolation procedure. A total of 77 isolates were successfully obtained from the first stage of isolation and the remaining 15 isolates were obtained from the next stage. It is suspected that 15 isolates taken from the second stage are considered as hydrocarbonoclastic microorganism that capable of degrading heavier oil fraction, which indicates a potential application of these isolates for MEOR and bioremediation.

Thermal adaptation was done prior to screen the microorganism which capable to thrive under elevated temperature. This procedure was done to prevent heat-shock that would result in the failure of isolation process. A total of 46 thermophilic hydrocarbonoclastic bacterium isolates were obtained after thermal adaptation.

A total of 38 isolates was obtained from the first stage of isolation and the remaining 8 isolates were obtained from the second stage. The morphological characteristics of these isolates were shown in Table 4.

Crude oil is a complex mixture of vast arrays of hydrocarbons ranging from simple, easily bio-degraded fraction n-alkanes to recalcitrant compound, such as branched or cyclic alkanes (Spini et al. 2018). High prevalence of oil fields that contained indigenous microorganisms which capable to degrade oil fraction might be a result of selective pressure that causes microorganism equipped with specific enzymes to degrade complex hydrocarbon in order to thrive within the site (Lacy 1987). These microorganisms, however, are found in a small number substantially because of the sub-optimum nutrients availability and climatic factors that yield inefficient enzymatic activity of these organisms. Each microorganisms requires specific C:N:P ratio and other suitable environmental parameters to perform at its highest ability (Sarkar et al. 2016; Xu et al. 2018). By means of nutrient adjustments through enrichment procedure, many of these microorganisms could grow at an elevated rate thus enabling microbial isolation as shown by the result of isolation procedure. Experiment showed that addition

of 2% (v/v) sodium lactate to SMSS medium containing minerals and 0.1% of yeast (w/v) extract as nitrogen source resulted in higher varieties of microorganisms that could be successfully isolated. It was presumed that the addition of lactate, yeast extract and phosphate in anorganic form leads to appropriate C:N:P ratio which allow indigenous microorganism to grow better *ex-situ*.

SEPARATION OF SARA COMPONENTS OF CRUDE OIL BY COLUMN CHROMATOGRAPHY

The results of SARA fractionation showed the occurrence of mild fraction degradation, such as the alkanes fraction at the first stage and the degradation of heavy fractions such as aromatics at the second stage as shown in Figure 2. To ensure that hydrocarbonoclastic bacteria were successfully obtained from the sequential isolation, SARA assay was performed with crude oil from the first-stage and second-stage isolation were used as sample. Crude oil without bacteria treatment was used as control. This method classifies crude oil based on their fraction polarity through a chromatographic technique that divides oil into four main fractions, which are saturated, aromatic, resinic, and asphaltic (Santos et al. 2014). Degradation level of different hydrocarbon fractions are affected by oil characteristics and capability of microorganism to degrade different classes of fraction (Gailiūtė et al. 2014). The result showed in Figure 2 provides the information that there were some altered compositions in SARA fractions from the first-stage and second-stage isolation compared with control. It was expected that all obtained isolates possess the potential degradation toward all fractions. Saturated fraction was a major fraction in the crude oil, followed by asphaltic fraction. Compared with control, asphaltic and saturated fraction were relatively decreased. Saturated fraction is easily degraded by bacteria due to its higher polarity and solubility among all fractions. Resinic and asphaltic are considered difficult to degrade due to their high molecular weight, aromaticity, polarity, molecular weight, and heteroatom contents (Islas-Flores 2005). There are several mechanisms that involved in biodegradation of petroleum hydrocarbons, such as the attachment of microbial cells to the substrates, specific enzyme system (i.e oxygenase) and production of biosurfactants (Das & Chandran 2011).

POTENTIAL OIL DEGRADING BACTERIA USING RESAZURIN ASSAY

Resazurin assay served as a redox indicator to observe cell viability in growth media. Living cells have active metabolites and able to reduce resazurin, the non-fluorescent to the strongly-fluorescent dye resorufin. Resazurin can also be served as an indicator for bacterial

inactivity, as inactive bacteria caused no change in resazurin color. Screening results showed that there were 6 isolates which appeared to have rapid resazurin color change; ABG2-7, ABG2-26, ABG2-45, ABG2-52, ABG2-54, and ABG2-62. Those isolates were chosen as potential hydrocarbon degrading bacteria. Crude oil degradation occurred in aerobic condition where oxygenase enzyme is involved as part of biodegradation process, as this enzyme is required to introduce oxygen in the substrate to initiate biodegradation (Das & Chandran 2011).

SCREENING AND SELECTION OF CRUDE-OIL-DEGRADING BACTERIA

Based on SARA fractions of post-treated crude oil (Figure 3), most isolates showed a tendency to degrade asphaltene fraction. ABG2-54 isolate showed a slight degradation activity, whereas crude oil treated with isolate ABG2-7 and ABG2-26 demonstrated the highest asphaltene degradation activity. However, in addition to asphaltenes, other fractions such as resinic and aromatic fractions were also degraded to higher extent by ABG2-7. On the other hand, ABG2-47 isolate caused a significant reduction in aromatics fractions, while asphaltene fraction decreased up to 14.48%. Bacteria can degrade petroleum components specifically with different metabolic pathways according to the enzymes secreted by each bacterium. In aerobic conditions, hydrocarbons will be oxidized using enzyme monooxygenase or dioxygenase secreted by the bacteria (Sierra-Garcia & de Oliveira 2013). Being relatively recalcitrant and heavy (Gailiūtė et al. 2014), the degradation process of asphaltene, resins, and aromatics fraction of crude oil is considered paramount to EOR practices (Shibulal et al. 2018). Thus, ABG2-7 and ABG2-47 were chosen for further analysis. In addition, microbial consortium can promote complete degradation of hydrocarbon fractions (Aditiawati & Kamarisima 2015). Therefore, ABG2-7 and ABG2-47 isolate were showed as the potential oil-degrading bacteria consortium.

DETERMINATION OF OPTIMAL INOCULUM CONCENTRATION

The optimum inoculum concentration was determined by analyzing the performance of single ABG2-7 isolate and ABG2-7:47 consortium based on SARA assay, viscosity, and growth. SARA fractions of post-treated crude oil showed that at 15% of inoculum concentration resulted in the highest asphaltene degradation activity of ABG2-7 isolate while 10% of inoculum concentration showed a marked decrease in resinic fraction (Figure 4(A)). Mid-concentration at 12.5% yielded only a slight change in crude-oil fractions indicating sub-optimal inoculum density for oil degradation. The observed alteration of

crude oil fractions was in line with the post-treatment viscosity measurements (Figure 4(B)).

Compared with bacterial consortium of ABG2-7:47, there was not much significant difference between SARA fractions of post-treated crude oil and viscosity from individual isolate performed by ABG2-7. This result was in concomitant with the result of ABG2-7:47 consortium growth curve (Figure 4(C)) from different inoculum percentage (10, 12.5, & 15%) which has growth rate lower than individual ABG2-7 isolate (10%) of around $10^{7.0}$ - $10^{7.5}$ cfu/mL. Furthermore, generation time and specific growth between ABG2-7:47 consortium and ABG2-7 individual isolate indicated a similarity of about 3 h and 0.2 - 0.3 per hour, respectively (Table 5). We assumed that both isolates consumed the same source of carbon in order to grow. Thus, there might be a competition in utilizing nutrition source that limits the bioavailability for the biodegradation of crude oil (Riss et al. 2016).

In comparison to control, ABG2-7 with 15% (v/v) inoculum showed the highest reduction of viscosity (4.19 cP) and lowest percentage of asphaltene fraction to 17.52%. However, the result showed by the growth curve describes that ABG2-7 (10%) has the highest density of cells of 10^8 cfu/mL up until 120 h incubation period. Growth curve, specific growth and generation time data indicated that ABG2-7 isolate possesses a high number of cell that grown under crude oil as sole source of carbon that prolonged up to 120 h incubation.

Based on SARA test, ABG2-7 (10%) isolate successfully degraded aromatics fraction to 5.22% whereas ABG2-7 (15%) degraded asphaltene to 17.52%. According to Gailiūtė et al. (2014), asphaltene has more complex structure and degraded more slowly compared with aromatics fraction which considered as more biodegradable component. Therefore, ABG2-7 (15%) has lower growth rate than ABG2-7 (10%) since it might be difficult to utilize complex substrate which occurred in low bioavailability. In addition, it is possibly thought that the highest viscosity reduction by ABG2-7 (15%) was due to asphaltene higher contribution in crude oil viscosity.

According to Gailiūtė et al. (2014), microbial systems which are capable to biologically transform heavier oil fractions, e.g. asphaltene and resin, are best used in old oil reservoirs to increase the oil recovery rate by reducing oil viscosity. Despite possible upshot of fast nutrient depletion in higher inoculum density (Maliji et al. 2013), the inoculum percentage was considered as an important factor as it demonstrated significant influence in degrading heavier crude oil fractions. Therefore, 15% (v/v) inoculum was chosen as the optimum inoculum concentration.

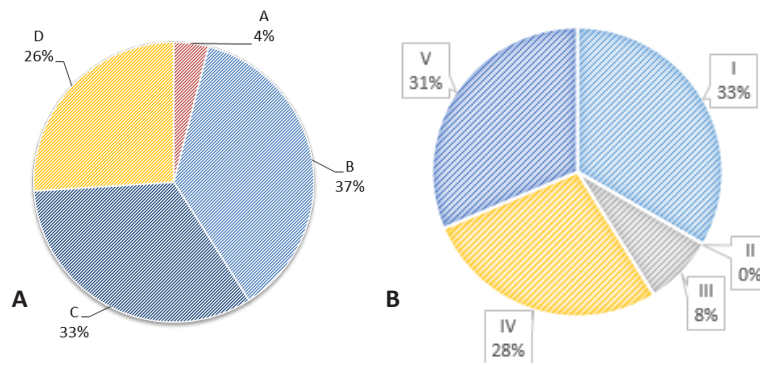


FIGURE 1. Diversities of bacterial isolates obtained based on (A) Enrichment media (B) Isolation media

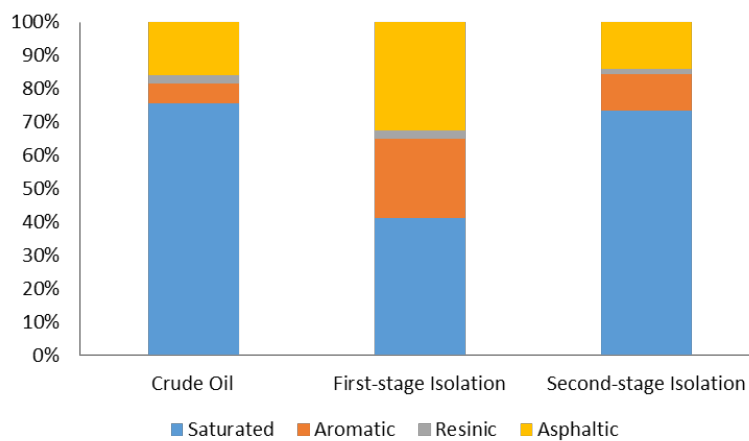


FIGURE 2. Result of SARA fractionation using the residual crude oil after first and second-stage isolation

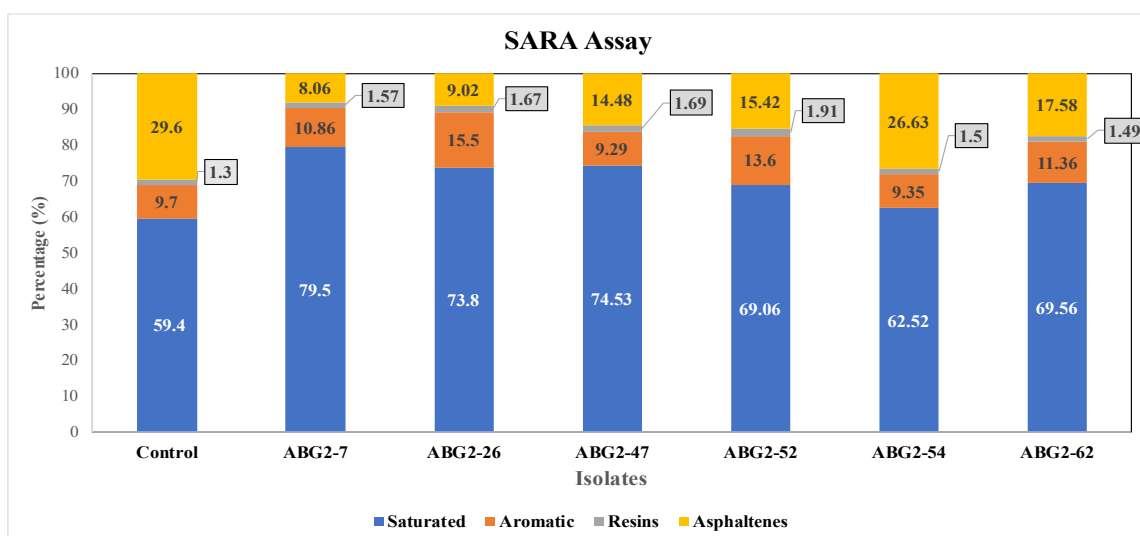
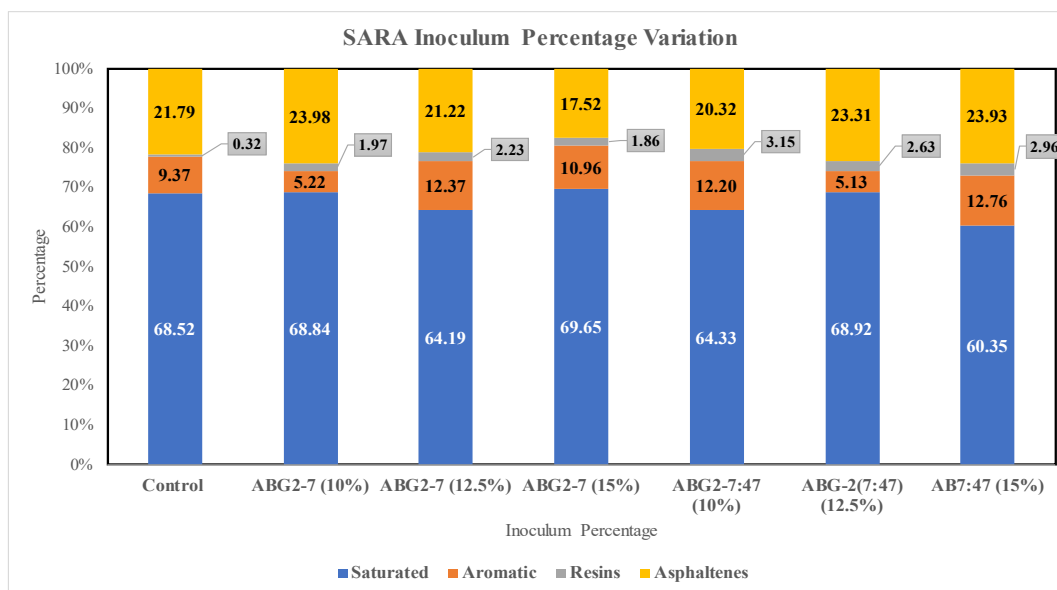
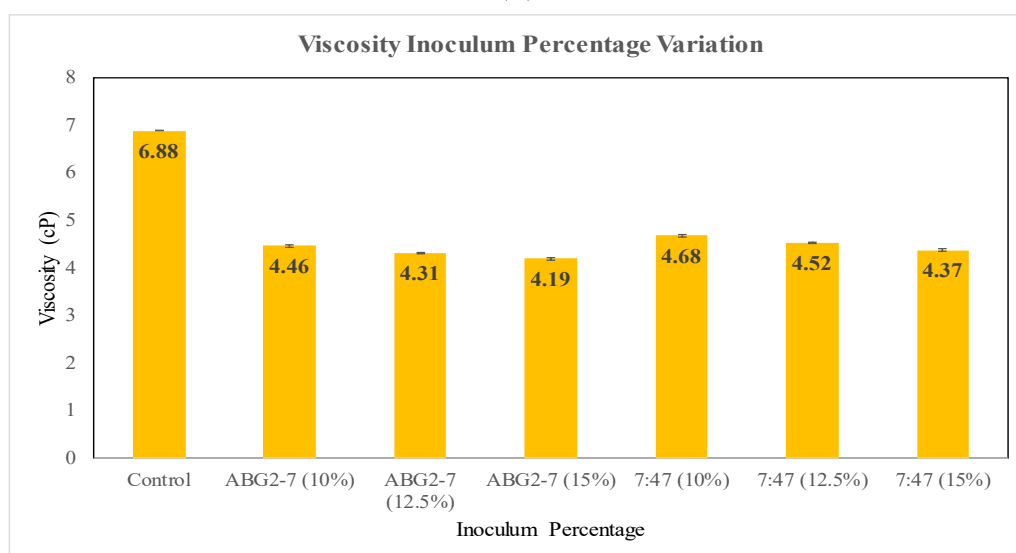


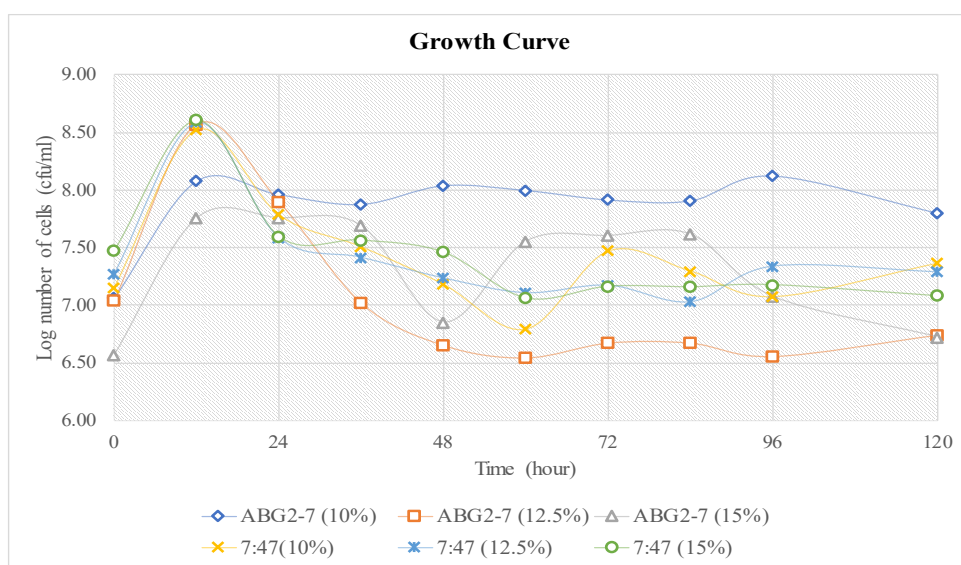
FIGURE 3. Post-treated SARA fractions of crude oil



(A)



(B)



(C)

FIGURE 4. (A) SARA fractions of post-treated crude oil, (B) viscosity, and (C) growth curve

TABLE 1. Enrichment media used in sample enrichment

Medium	Component
I	2% of unsterilized oil + Stone salt mineral medium (SMSS)
II	2% of sodium lactate + 2% unsterilized oil + SMSS
III	2% of sterilized oil + 1% yeast extract (w/v) + unsterilized brine
IV	2% of sodium lactate + 1% yeast extract (w/v) + unsterilized brine

TABLE 2. Isolation media used in enrichment culture isolation

Medium	Component
I	Nutrient-agar (2X agar)
II	2% of sodium lactate + SMSS
III	2% sodium lactate (v/v) + Autoclaved-sterilized brine
IV	2% of sodium lactate + 1% yeast extract (w/v) + filter-sterilized brine
V	Nutrient agar (1/2 X agar)

TABLE 3. Physical and chemical characteristic of abg-02 reservoir fluids

Parameter	Value
Brine/Formation water	
Conductivity	28000 μ S/cm
Salinity	15.7 ‰
Total iron (Fe)	1.04 mg/L
Ferrous iron (Fe ²⁺)	0.559 mg/L
Ferric iron (Fe ³⁺)	0.481 mg/L
Chloride (Cl ⁻)	8144 mg/L
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	1066 mg/L
Calcium (Ca)	224 mg/L
Nitrate	0.019 mg/L NO ₃ -N
Nitrite	0.033 mg/L NO ₂ -N
Ammonia	17.6 NH ₃ -N
Sulfate (SO ₄)	528 mg/L
Sulfide (H ₂ S)	< 0.001 mg/L
Organic material	0.149 mg/L
Carbonate (CO ₃)	0.0 mg/L
Bicarbonate (HCO ₃)	76.5 mg/L
Orthophosphate	3.11 mg/L
Total Phosphate	4.27 mg/L P
Nitrogen NTK	32.9 mg/L
Total Chromium (Cr)	<0.001 mg/L
Nickel	<0.001 mg/L
Crude oil	
Viscosity	1.33334 cP
Interfacial Tension	29.8 dyne/cm
API	24.337°
Reservoir temperature	80 °C

TABLE 4. Thermophilic hydrocarbonoclastic bacterial isolates obtained after the thermal adaptation

Stage of isolation	Isolates	Macroscopic Morphology					Microscopic Morphology		
		Shape	Elevation	Margin	Pigmentation	Optical Property	Appearance	Gram	Shape
I	ABG1	Irregular	Umbonate	Undulate	Cream	Translucent	Dull	-	Bacilli
	ABG2	Irregular	Raised	Curled	Cream	Translucent	Dull	+	Bacilli
	ABG3	Circular	Convex	Entire	Orange	Opaque	Dull	-	Bacilli
	ABG4	Circular	Convex	Entire	Yellow	Opaque	Shiny	-	Bacilli
	ABG5	Circular	Umbonate	Entire	Cream	Opaque	Shiny	+	Bacilli
	ABG6	Circular	Convex	Entire	White	Opaque	Dull	+	Bacilli
	ABG7	Irregular	Umbonate	Lobate	Tan	Opaque	Shiny	-	Bacilli
	ABG8	Circular	Convex	Entire	White	Opaque	Shiny	-	Bacilli
	ABG9	Circular	Convex	Entire	Cream	Opaque	Dull	-	Bacilli
	ABG10	Circular	Convex	Entire	Yellow	Opaque	Shiny	-	Bacilli
	ABG11	Circular	Convex	Entire	White	Opaque	Shiny	+	Bacilli
	ABG12	Irregular	Raised	Undulate	White	Opaque	Dull	-	Bacilli
	ABG13	Irregular	Raised	Undulate	White	Translucent	Dull	-	Bacilli
	ABG14	Irregular	Raised	Undulate	Cream	Opaque	Shiny	-	Bacilli
	ABG15	Irregular	Raised	Undulate	White	Translucent	Dull	-	Bacilli
	ABG16	Circular	Raised	Entire	Yellow	Opaque	Dull	-	Bacilli
	ABG17	Filament	Flat	Filiform	White	Translucent	Dull	-	Bacilli
	ABG18	Circular	Umbonate	Entire	Orange	Opaque	Shiny	-	Bacilli
	ABG19	Irregular	Flat	Filiform	White	Opaque	Dull	-	Bacilli
	ABG20	Irregular	Raised	Undulate	Yellow	Opaque	Shiny	-	Bacilli
	ABG21	Circular	Convex	Entire	Cream	Opaque	Shiny	-	Bacilli
	ABG22	Circular	Convex	Entire	White	Opaque	Shiny	-	Bacilli
	ABG23	Circular	Convex	Entire	White	Opaque	Shiny	-	Bacilli
	ABG24	Rhizoid	Raised	Rhizoid	Cream	Translucent	Dull	+	Bacilli
	ABG25	Circular	Raised	Entire	White	Opaque	Shiny	-	Bacilli
	ABG26	Circular	Convex	Entire	White	Opaque	Shiny	-	Cocci
	ABG27	Circular	Convex	Entire	Yellow	Opaque	Shiny	-	Cocci
	ABG28	Circular	Flat	Entire	Cream	Translucent	Shiny	-	Bacilli
	ABG29	Circular	Raised	Entire	Cream	Opaque	Shiny	-	Bacilli
	ABG30	Circular	Raised	Entire	Cream	Opaque	Shiny	+	Cocci
	ABG31	Circular	Raised	Entire	White	Opaque	Shiny	+	Cocci
	ABG32	Circular	Convex	Entire	Cream	Opaque	Shiny	+	Bacilli
	ABG33	Circular	Raised	Entire	Cream	Opaque	Shiny	+	Cocci
	ABG34	Circular	Convex	Entire	Cream	Opaque	Shiny	+	Bacilli
	ABG35	Irregular	Flat	Filament	Cream	Opaque	Dull	+	Bacilli
	ABG36	Irregular	Flat	Lobate	Cream	Opaque	Dull	-	Bacilli
	ABG37	Circular	Raised	Entire	Cream	Translucent	Shiny	+	Cocci
	ABG38	Irregular	Flat	Filament	Cream	Translucent	Dull	+	Bacilli

II	ABG39	Circular	Flat	Entire	Cream	Translucent	Dull	+	Bacilli
	ABG40	Circular	Raised	Entire	Cream	Translucent	Shiny	+	Bacilli
	ABG41	Irregular	Flat	Undulate	Cream	Opaque	Dull	+	Bacilli
	ABG42	Circular	Flat	Entire	Cream	Translucent	Shiny	-	Bacilli
	ABG43	Filament	Filament	Raised	Cream	Translucent	Shiny	-	Bacilli
	ABG44	Circular	Convex	Entire	Cream	Translucent	Shiny	-	Bacilli
	ABG45	Filament	Filament	Flat	Cream	Opaque	Shiny	-	Bacilli
	ABG46	Filament	Filament	Flat	Cream	Opaque	Dull	-	Bacilli

TABLE 5. Generation time and specific growth of ABG2-7 individual isolate and ABG2-7:47 consortium

	ABG2-7 (10%)	ABG2-7 (12.5%)	ABG2-7 (15%)	ABG2-7:47 (10%)	ABG2-7:47 (12.5%)	ABG2-7:47 (15%)
Generation time (hour)	3.18	2.99	3.08	3.05	3.08	3.16
Specific growth rate (per hour)	0.19	0.3	0.24	0.27	0.24	0.18

CONCLUSION

Variation of enrichment and isolation media facilitates the isolation of diverse hydrocarbonoclastic bacteria which were able to degrade saturated, aromatic, resinic, and asphaltic fraction of crude oil. The highest bacterial diversities were obtained from the enrichment medium B (carbon source of crude oil supplemented with sodium lactate) and isolation medium I (nutrient agar with double agar), each resulted in 37% and 33% of isolates, respectively. In addition this study shows that the sequential isolation method can be one of promising method for bacterial isolation that will be used for MEOR application. ABG2-7 isolate was able to degrade heavy crude oil, thus might serve as the high potential bacteria for MEOR.

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Department of Microbiology
School of Life Science and Technology
Bandung Institute of Technology
Jalan Ganesha 10, Bandung West Java
Indonesia

*Corresponding author; email: isty@sith.itb.ac.id

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