



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**USE OF SELECTED PERIPHYTON SPECIES TO IMPROVE WATER
QUALITY AND SHRIMP POSTLARVAL PRODUCTION**

HELENA KHATOON

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**USE OF SELECTED PERIPHYTON SPECIES TO IMPROVE WATER
QUALITY AND SHRIMP POSTLARVAL PRODUCTION**

By

HELENA KHATOON

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra
Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of
Philosophy**

October 2006



DEDICATION

To the memory of my late grandfather

&

To my parents and siblings who always inspire and encourage me to achieve
my goal



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in
fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**USE OF SELECTED PERIPHYTON SPECIES TO IMPROVE THE WATER
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October 2006

Chairman: Professor Fatimah Md. Yusoff, PhD

Faculty : Science

In marine shrimp larval rearing practices, a large amount of water has to be exchanged frequently in order to maintain good water quality. This procedure contributes to the eutrophication of aquatic environment due to flushing of nutrient-enriched waters from aquaculture facilities. Furthermore, the process of frequent water exchange will eventually result in lack of good water supply which can also increase the risk of diseases in the hatchery. To overcome eutrophication and the risk of diseases, an alternative eco-friendly method was investigated to decrease harmful compounds especially ammonia and nitrite by using periphyton grown on substrates.

Different periphyton species (*Oscillatoria*, *Navicula* sp., *Cymbella* sp. and *Amphora* sp.) from marine shrimp culture ponds were isolated, purified and mass cultured in the laboratory and grown in Conway medium. The effects of salinity (0, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 ppt) on the growth of these genera under



laboratory condition was determined. The highest ($p < 0.05$) growth was achieved at 25-35 ppt salinity.

Nutritional composition of different periphyton genera were analysed to determine their importance as shrimp feed. All periphyton genera contained high protein (*Oscillatoria* 42%, *Cymbella* 43%, *Navicula* 49% and *Amphora* 44% of dry wt.), lipid (*Oscillatoria* 20%, *Cymbella* 26%, *Navicula* 26% and *Amphora* 23% of dry wt.) and carbohydrates (*Oscillatoria* 24%, *Cymbella* 20%, *Navicula* 11% and *Amphora* 18% of dry wt.). The periphyton genera also contained of docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) (*Navicula* 2%, *Cymbella* 2%, and *Amphora* 3%, *Oscillatoria* 1% of total lipid) and ecosapentaenoic acid (EPA) (*Amphora* 15%, *Cymbella* 3%, *Navicula* 8% and *Oscillatoria* 1% of total lipid).

Periphyton colonization using different substrates (bamboo, polyvinylchloride pipe, plastic sheet, fibrous scrubber and ceramic tile) in intensive shrimp culture ponds were studied for a period of 60 days. Nineteen periphyton genera dominated by the Chlorophyceae colonized the substrates during the first 15 days. Periphyton colonization on bamboo showed the highest biomass ($p < 0.05$) amongst all the substrates used. Biomass of periphyton in terms of chlorophyll-a varied from 179 to 1137 $\mu\text{g m}^{-2}$ with mean values of 1137 ± 0.6 , 929 ± 0.6 , 684 ± 1.2 , 179 ± 0.6 and $658 \pm 0.6 \mu\text{g m}^{-2}$ on bamboo, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe, plastic sheet, fibrous scrubber and ceramic tile respectively on first 15 days.

Effectiveness of different periphyton genera in reducing total ammonia nitrogen (TAN), nitrite nitrogen ($\text{NO}_2\text{-N}$) and soluble reactive phosphorous (SRP) in hatchery tanks without shrimp postlarvae were studied for a period of 16 days. It was found that *Oscillatoria* significantly reduced ($p < 0.05$) TAN (90%), SRP (83%) and $\text{NO}_2\text{-N}$ (91%) whereas diatom species decreased 60%, 74% and 78% of the same parameters respectively. In addition, *Oscillatoria* yielded the highest ($p < 0.05$) biomass compared to other periphyton species. Results of this study showed that all the periphyton genera were able to significantly reduce TAN, SRP and $\text{NO}_2\text{-N}$ concentrations in larval rearing tanks.

The use of periphyton coated substrate (periphyton grown on polyvinylchloride pipes) for improving water quality and survival of shrimp postlarvae in hatchery without water exchange was studied for a period of 16 days. Periphyton species significantly reduced ($p < 0.05$) TAN in shrimp culture tanks as compared to the control (without periphyton coated substrate). Amongst the treatments, tanks with *Oscillatoria* had the lowest mean TAN ($0.09 \pm 0.00 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$) compared to tanks with diatoms ($3.77 \pm 0.17 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$) and the control ($5.17 \pm 0.08 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$). Similarly, $\text{NO}_2\text{-N}$ ($0.04 \pm 0.00 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$) and SRP ($0.22 \pm 0.00 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$) concentrations were significantly ($p < 0.05$) lower in the shrimp culture tanks with periphyton species than the control ($4.13 \pm 0.24 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$). Shrimp cultured with periphyton coated substrate showed significantly higher survival (51% - 60%) than those without periphyton (37%). In addition, the shrimp postlarvae produced in this system showed high resistance to reverse salinity stress test (37% - 43%) compared

to the control (26%). This study illustrated that beneficial Periphyton species could improve water quality, provide live feed and serve as refugium for the shrimp postlarvae.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah PhD

PENGGUNAAN SPESIES PERIFITON TERPILIH UNTUK MEMPERBAIKI KUALITI AIR DAN PENGELUARAN PASCALARVA UDANG

Oleh

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Dalam aktiviti penternakan larva udang, kuantiti air yang banyak terpaksa diganti dengan kerap untuk mengekalkan kualiti air yang bersih. Proses ini menyumbang kepada eutrofikasi persekitaran akuatik disebabkan pelepasan air yang kaya dengan nutrien dari fasiliti akuakultur. Tambahan pula, proses pertukaran air yang kerap akan menyebabkan kekurangan sumber kualiti air yang bersih yang boleh meningkatkan risiko serangan penyakit di dalam kolam penternakan. Untuk mengatasi masalah eutrofikasi dan risiko serangan penyakit, cara alternatif yang mesra alam sekitar dengan penggunaan perifiton yang dibiak pada substrat telah dikaji dalam mengurangkan komponen yang berbahaya seperti ammonia dan nitrit.

Spesies perifiton yang berbeza (*Oscillatoria*, *Navicula* sp., *Cymbella* sp. dan *Amphora* sp.) dari kolam penternakan udang telah diasingkan, ditulinkan dan dikultur secara besaran di dalam makmal dengan menggunakan medium



Conway. Kesan saliniti (0, 15, 20, 25, 30 dan 35 ppt) terhadap pembiakan genera ini dalam makmal telah dikaji. Pembiakan paling tinggi ($p < 0.05$) telah didapati pada saliniti 25-35 ppt.

Komposisi nutrien spesies perifiton yang berlainan telah dianalisis untuk menentukan kepentingannya sebagai makanan udang. Semua spesies perifiton mengandungi protein yang tinggi (*Oscillatoria* 41%, *Cymbella* 43%, *Navicula* 49% dan *Amphora* 44% berat kering), dengan lipid (*Oscillatoria* 20%, *Cymbella* 26%, *Navicula* 26% dan *Amphora* 23% berat kering) dan karbohidrat (*Oscillatoria* 24%, *Cymbella* 20%, *Navicula* 11% dan *Amphora* 18% berat kering). Spesies perifiton juga mengandungi asid docosahexaenoic (DHA) (*Oscillatoria* 1%, *Cymbella* 2%, *Navicula* 2%, dan *Amphora* 3% jumlah lipid) dan asid eicosapentaenoic (EPA) (*Oscillatoria* 1%, *Cymbella* 3%, *Navicula* 8%, dan *Amphora* 15% jumlah lipid).

Kolonisasi perifiton menggunakan substrat berbeza (buluh, paip polivinilklorida (PVC), lembaran plastik, penggosok selulosa dan kepingan seramik) dalam kolam kultur udang intensif telah dikaji dalam tempoh masa 60 hari. Sembilan belas genus perifiton yang didominasi oleh Chlorophyceae telah mengkolonisasi substrat-substrat tersebut pada 15 hari pertama. Kolonisasi perifiton pada buluh menunjukkan biojisim yang paling tinggi ($p < 0.05$) di antara kesemua substrat yang telah digunakan. Biojisim perifiton dari segi kandungan klorofil-a menunjukkan variasi dari 179 ke 1137 $\mu\text{g m}^{-2}$ dengan nilai min purata 1137 ± 0.6 , 929 ± 0.6 , 684 ± 1.2 , 179 ± 0.6 dan 658

$\pm 0.6 \mu\text{g m}^{-2}$ pada buluh, paip polivinilklorida (PVC), lembaran plastic, penggosok selulosa dan kepingan seramik masing-masing.

Keberkesanan spesies perifiton yang berbeza di dalam mengurangkan jumlah amonia nitrogen (TAN), nitrit nitrogen ($\text{NO}_2\text{-N}$) dan keterlarutan fosforus reaktif terlarut (SRP) dalam kolam penternakan tanpa larva udang telah dikaji selama 16 hari. *Oscillatoria* telah didapati ($p < 0.05$) mengurangkan TAN (90%), SRP (83%) dan $\text{NO}_2\text{-N}$ (91%) manakala spesies diatom telah mengurangkan sebanyak 60%, 74% dan 78% masing-masing bagi parameter yang sama. Tambahan pula, *Oscillatoria* menghasilkan biojisim yang tertinggi ($p < 0.05$) berbanding spesies perifiton yang lain. Hasil kajian mendapati kesemua spesies perifiton dengan dapat mengurangkan kepekatan TAN, SRP dan $\text{NO}_2\text{-N}$ dengan signifikan di dalam tangki penternakan larva udang.

Penggunaan substrat yang dibiakkan dengan perifiton untuk memperbaiki kualiti air dan kemandirian pascalarva tanpa pertukaran air telah dikaji dalam tempoh 17 hari dengan menggunakan perifiton yang biak pada paip PVC. Perifiton telah mengurangkan TAN ($p < 0.05$) di dalam air dari tangki kultur udang berbanding kawalan (tanpa perifiton). Di antara hasil kajian, tangki yang mengandungi *Oscillatoria* mempunyai nilai min yang terendah ($0.09 \pm 0.00 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$) berbanding tangki yang mengandungi diatom ($3.77 \pm 0.17 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$) dan kawalan ($5.17 \pm 0.08 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$). Selain itu, kepekatan $\text{NO}_2\text{-N}$ ($0.04 \pm 0.00 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$) dan SRP ($0.22 \pm 0.00 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$) di dalam tangki kultur udang yang mengandungi perifiton adalah lebih rendah dengan signifikan ($p < 0.05$) dari

tangki kawalan ($4.13 \pm 0.24\text{mgL}^{-1}$). Udang yang telah dikultur dengan substrat yang telah dibiakkan dengan perifiton telah menunjukkan kemandirian yang tinggi (51%-60%) ($p < 0.05$) berbanding rawatan kajian tanpa perifiton (37%). Tambahan pula, penghasilan larva udang dalam sistem ini menunjukkan daya ketahanan rintangan yang tinggi terhadap ujian tekanan saliniti terbalik (37%-43%) berbanding dengan kawalan (26%). Kajian ini menunjukkan spesies perifiton yang berfaedah boleh meningkatkan mutu air, menyediakan makanan hidup yang berfungsi sebagai tempat persembunyian pascalarva .

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I certify that an Examination committee met on 16th October, 2006 to conduct the final examination of Helena Khatoon on her Doctor of Philosophy thesis entitled “Use of Selected Periphyton Species to improve the Water Quality and Shrimp Postlarval Production” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of Examination Committee are as follows:

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

HELENA KHATOON

Date: 18/1/ 07



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
DEDICATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	vii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xi
APPROVAL	xiii
DECLARATION	xvi
LIST OF TABLES	xviii
LIST OF FIGURES	xx
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xxii
CHAPTERS	
I INTRODUCTION	1
Background of the study	1
Statement of the problem	5
Objectives	7
II LITERATURE REVIEW	8
Periphyton and community production	8
Species composition and density of periphyton	9
Roles of Periphyton in aquatic ecosystems	10
Microbial biofilm in aquaculture	14
Toxicity of ammonia and nitrite to shrimp	16
Factors affecting the rate of colonization of periphyton	19
Nutritional Quality of microalgae	26
Protein and amino acids	27
Lipid and fatty acids	29
Carbohydrates	31
III GENERAL METHODOLOGY	33
Location of the study	33
Periphyton sample collection	33
Isolation, purification and identification	34
Periphyton mass culture	38
Measurement of periphyton biomass	38
Water Quality Analysis	39
Determination of total ammonia nitrogen	40
Determination of nitrite	41
Determination of soluble reactive phosphorous	42
IV ISOLATION, AND PURIFICATION OF PERIPHYTON SPECIES COLLECTED FROM MARINE SHRIMP PONDS	43
Introduction	43



	Materials and methods	45
	Results	51
	Discussion	58
V	NUTRITIONAL VALUE OF SELECTED PERIPHYTON SPECIES	61
	Introduction	61
	Materials and methods	63
	Results	71
	Discussion	76
VI	EFFECT OF SUBSTRATE ON THE GROWTH AND COLONIZATION OF PERIPHYTON SPECIES	80
	Introduction	80
	Materials and methods	81
	Results	83
	Discussion	88
VII	EFFECT OF SALINITY LEVEL ON THE GROWTH OF FOUR PERIPHYTON SPECIES USING POLYVINYL CHLORIDE PIPES AS SUBSTRATE	93
	Introduction	93
	Materials and methods	94
	Results	97
	Discussion	102
VIII	EFFECTIVENESS OF DIFFERENT PERIPHYTON SPECIES IN REDUCING TOTAL AMMONIA NITROGEN, NITRITE AND SOLUBLE REACTIVE PHOSPHOROUS	104
	Introduction	104
	Materials and methods	106
	Results	108
	Discussion	115
IX	USE OF PERIPHYTON COATED SUBSTRATE IN IMPROVING SURVIVALM OF <i>P. MONODON</i> POSTLARVAE	117
	Introduction	117
	Materials and methods	118
	Results	124
	Discussion	132
X	GENERAL DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	137
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	143
	BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR	175
	LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	176



LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	Lethal toxicity level of ammonia and nitrite to shrimp <i>Peneaus monodon</i> .	17
2	Safe concentrations of ammonia-N (NH ₃ -N) and nitrite-N for <i>P. monodon</i> .	18
3	Composition of Conway medium.	35
4	Ranges of physico-chemical parameters in three different shrimp farms during periphyton sample collection (January to June 2003).	51
5	Percentages (%) of different periphyton genera from different sampling stations.	52
6	Means ± standard error of proximate composition (% dry weight) of four marine periphyton species cultured in Conway medium.	72
7	Means ± standard error of fatty acids (% of total lipid) of four marine periphyton species cultured in Conway medium.	73
8	Total amino acids of four marine periphyton species cultured in Conway medium.	75
9	Water quality parameters in marine shrimp culture ponds with the progress of culture period.	84
10	Means ± standard error of periphyton biomass (chlorophyll-a) on different substrates during the experimental period.	85
11	Relative abundance (%) of different periphyton genera found on different substrate.	86
12	Means ± standard error of polychaete density (number of organisms cm ⁻²) in different substrates during the 60 days study period.	87
13	Ranges of pH and dissolved oxygen during experimental period.	98
14	Means ± standard error of physico-chemical parameters of all treatments during experimental period.	108
15	Means ± standard error of percent reduction of different nutrients by <i>Oscillatoria</i> .	112



16	Means \pm standard error of percent reduction of different nutrients by <i>Navicula</i> sp.	113
17	Means \pm standard error of percent reduction of different nutrients by <i>Cymbella</i> sp.	113
18	Means \pm standard error of percent reduction of different nutrients by <i>Amphora</i> sp.	114
19	Summary of experimental design for the use of periphyton coated substrate to improve water quality and survival of tiger shrimp (<i>Penaeus monodon</i>) postlarvae.	119
20	Standardised feeding for one million postlarvae reared in the hatchery tank.	121
21	Water quality parameters in control and treated tanks during the hatchery experiment.	125
22	Means \pm standard error of proximate composition (% dry weight) of <i>P. monodon</i> postlarvae cultured with different periphyton coated substrates and commercial feed.	129
23	Means \pm standard error of different fatty acids (% of total fatty acids) of <i>P. monodon</i> postlarvae cultured with different periphyton coated substrates and commercial feed.	130
24	Means \pm standard error of different amino acids (% total amino acids) of <i>P. monodon</i> postlarvae cultured with different periphyton coated substrates and commercial feed.	131

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	Periphyton communities showing Cyanobacteria (a) and a dinoflagellate (b) attached to a substrate.	2
2	Preliminary conceptual model of a periphyton-based aquaculture system.	12
3	Map showing the location of the experimental farm.	34
4	Chlorophyll-a ($\mu\text{g m}^{-2}$) of periphyton composition in different substrates at different shrimp farms.	51
5	Scanning electron microscopic image of <i>Amphora</i> species (a) clumping (2000x) (b) enlarged view (4000x).	54
6	Scanning electron microscope image (4000x) of <i>Cymbella</i> species.	55
7	Scanning electron microscope image (4000x) of <i>Navicula</i> species.	56
8	Scanning electron microscopic image of <i>Oscillatoria</i> .	57
9	Sequential colonization of polychaete on plastic substrate day (a) day 15 and (b) day 30.	87
10	Colonization of biofouling organism on substrate.	88
11	Specific growth rate ($\% \text{ day}^{-1}$) of the periphyton genera grown on polyvinyl chloride substrate at different salinities.	99
12	Net biomass (mg m^{-3}) of the periphyton genera grown on polyvinyl chloride substrate at different salinities.	100
13	Changes over the experimental period in the biomass (Chlorophyll-a) of the periphyton genera grown on polyvinyle chloride substrate at different salinities.	101
14	Reduction of (a) total ammonia nitrogen (TAN) (b) soluble reactive phosphorous (SRP) and (c) nitrite ($\text{NO}_2\text{-N}$) concentration by different periphyton genera.	110
15	Total reduction (%) of total ammonia nitrogen (TAN) in water by different periphyton genera.	111

16	Total reduction (%) of soluble reactive phosphorous (SRP) in water by different periphyton genera.	111
17	Total reduction (%) of nitrite (NO ₂ -N) in water by different periphyton genera.	112
18	Growth (% biomass increase) of different periphyton genera.	114
19	(a) Polyvinyl chloride pipes without periphyton coat (b) coated with diatoms (c) coated with Cyanobacterium.	120
20	Total ammonia nitrogen (TAN) concentration (mg L ⁻¹) in tanks with <i>Oscillatoria</i> and diatom coated substrate compared to the control.	125
21	Soluble reactive phosphorous (SRP) concentration (mg L ⁻¹) in tanks with <i>Oscillatoria</i> and diatom coated substrate compared to the control.	126
22	Nitrite (NO ₂ -N) concentration (mg L ⁻¹) in tanks with <i>Oscillatoria</i> and diatom coated substrate compared to the control.	126
23	Shrimp postlarvae survival (%) in rearing tanks (with and without [control] periphyton coated substrate) after a culture period of 16 days.	127
24	Specific growth rate (%day ⁻¹) of shrimp postlarvae in larval rearing tanks (with and without [control] periphyton coated substrate) after a culture period of 16 days.	127
25	Shrimp postlarvae survival (%) after salinity stress test.	128

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AFDM	ash free dry matter
ANOVA	analysis of variance
DDH ₂ O	double distilled water
DHA	docosahexaenoic acid
DM	dry matter
DO	dissolved oxygen
E	east
EPA	eicosapentaenoic acid
KH ₂ PO ₄	anhydrous potassium dihydrogen phosphate
LC ₅₀	lethal concentration 50
MT	metric tonne
MUFA	monounsaturated fatty acid
N	north
NaNO ₂	anhydrous sodium nitrite
NH ₃ ⁺	ammonia
NH ₃ -N	ammonia-nitrogen
NH ₄ ⁺	ammonium
(NH ₄) ₂ SO ₄	anhydrous ammonium sulphate
NO ₂ ⁻	nitrite
PL	postlarvae
PUFA	polyunsaturated fatty acid
PVC	polyvinyle chloride
rpm	rotation per minute



SAS	statistical analysis system
SFA	saturated fatty acid
SGR	specific growth rate
SRP	soluble reactive phosphorous
TAN	total ammonia nitrogen

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Periphyton refers to microfloral community attached to surfaces of substrates submerged in water (Wetzel, 1983). Periphytic organisms are often closely intertwined with other attached organisms such as fungi, bacteria, protozoans and other attached invertebrates (Figure 1). Nowadays, the word periphyton is often used synonymously as biofilm or 'aufwuchs' to describe the total assemblage of attached organisms on submerged substrates, including non-attached organisms and detritus (Azim *et al.*, 2005). However, in specific applications such as wastewater treatment, the term 'biofilm' is used mainly with reference to attached bacteria and protozoans, that help to speed up the mineralization process and improve the water quality. In this context, periphyton community comprises of not only the microflora, but also bacteria, fungi, protozoans, benthic microinvertebrates, detritus and a range of other larger aquatic invertebrates and their larvae (Azim *et al.*, 2005). Periphyton is thus a complex mixture of autotrophic and heterotrophic organisms and cannot simply be regarded as an attached equivalent of phytoplankton, although it certainly performs similar functions in ponds, such as oxygen production and the uptake of inorganic nutrients (van Dam *et al.*, 2002). In addition, periphytons are able to trap and process suspended organic materials in the water. Between autotrophic and heterotrophic components of