

FACTORIAL ANALYSIS OF BIOBUTANOL PRODUCTION FROM OIL PALM FROND JUICE

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ABSTRACT

Oil palm frond (OPF) is available during harvesting of the fresh fruit branches of palm trees and the juice can be produced by using sugarcane press machine. Lignocellulosic biomass serves the most appropriate feedstock for fermentation derived biofuels such as butanol, owing to its environmental abundance, the high quantity of sugar composition and a low price. The OPF juice contains higher glucose content, which is about 70% of the total free sugar. Therefore, OPF juice has high potential as a carbon source to produce biofuel such as bioethanol and biobutanol. In this study, several factors that potentially affecting biobutanol production from OPF juice by using *Clostridium acetobutylicum* will be investigated and analysed using a two level half factorial design which have been developed by the Design Expert Software Version 7.1. Five different parameters will be investigated in this study were as follows; temperature (30 °C to 40 °C), initial medium pH (4 to 7), different inoculum size (5% to 20%), yeast extract concentration (2 g/L to 15 g/L) and rotation rate (50 rpm to 150 rpm). Biobutanol and residual sugars concentration will be determined using gas chromatography (GC) and high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), respectively at the end of the fermentation period. The main effects and interaction effects of each parameter on biobutanol yield (g biobutanol/g sugars consumed) will be analysed using Design Expert Software. Based on the factorial analysis, it was observed that the most significant parameter was temperature, which contributes 21.66%, followed by yeast extract concentration and medium pH, which were contribute 14.77% and 6.89%, respectively. The analysis showed the R^2 value for the model was 0.9841 and the most influencing interaction was between temperature and medium pH with contribution up to 21.12%. From the validation experiments, the experimental values were reasonable close to the predicted values with only 6.3% error. In conclusion, main factors such as temperature, medium pH and yeast extract concentration were identified as active factors on biobutanol production. Among the determining factors, the main factor of temperature and the interaction of temperature and pH were determined to be the most effective in influencing the production of biobutanol from OPF juice by *C. acetobutylicum*.

Keywords: Butanol; Oil palm frond juice; Factorial analysis; *Clostridium acetobutylicum*

ABSTRAK

Pelelep kelapa sawit (OPF) tersedia semasa penuaian cawangan buah-buahan segar pokok kelapa sawit dan jus boleh dihasilkan dengan menggunakan mesin pemeras tebu. Biojisim lignoselulosa menyajikan bahan mentah yang paling sesuai untuk penapaian diperolehi biofuel seperti butanol, oleh kerana banyak alam sekitar, kuantiti yang tinggi komposisi gula dan harga yang rendah. Jus OPF mengandungi kandungan glukosa yang lebih tinggi, iaitu kira-kira 70% daripada jumlah gula percuma. Oleh itu, jus OPF mempunyai potensi yang tinggi sebagai sumber karbon untuk menghasilkan biofuel seperti bioetanol dan biobutanol. Dalam kajian ini, beberapa faktor yang berpotensi menpengaruhi pengeluaran biobutanol dari jus OPF dengan menggunakan *Clostridium acetobutylicum* akan disiasat dan dianalisis menggunakan design expert tahap dua reka separuh faktorial yang telah dibangunkan oleh Design Expert Software Version 7.1. Lima parameter yang berbeza akan disiasat dalam kajian ini adalah seperti berikut; suhu (30°C hingga 40°C), pH media awal (4 hingga 7), saiz inokulum yang berbeza (5% kepada 20%), kepekatan yis ekstrak (2 g/L hingga 15 g/L) dan kadar putaran (50 rpm hingga 150 rpm). Biobutanol dan gula sisa kepekatan akan ditentukan menggunakan Gas Chromatography (GC) dan High-Performance Liquid Chromatography Analysis (HPLC), masing-masing pada akhir tempoh penapaian. Kesan utama dan kesan interaksi setiap parameter pada hasil biobutanol (g biobutanol /g gula yang digunakan) akan dianalisis menggunakan Design Expert Software. Berdasarkan analisis faktorial, ia telah diperhatikan bahawa parameter yang paling penting adalah suhu, yang menyumbang 21.66%, diikuti oleh kepekatan ekstrak yis dan pH media, yang menyumbang 14.77% dan 6.89% masing-masing. Analisis menunjukkan nilai R^2 bagi model itu adalah 0.9841 dan interaksi yang paling mempengaruhinya adalah di antara suhu dan pH medium dengan sumbangan sehingga 21.12%. Dari eksperimen pengesahan, nilai eksperimen yang dijalankan munasabah untuk nilai-nilai yang diramalkan dengan perbezaan hanya 6.3%. Kesimpulannya, faktor-faktor utama seperti suhu, pH media awal dan kepekatan yis ekstrak telah dikenal pasti sebagai faktor aktif pengeluaran biobutanol. Antara faktor yang menentukan, faktor utama suhu dan interaksi suhu dan pH media merupakan yang paling berkesan dalam mempengaruhi pengeluaran biobutanol dari jus OPF oleh *C. acetobutylicum*.