Activated Bentonite: Low Cost Adsorbent to Reduce Phosphor in Waste Palm Oil

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Abstract

The Palm Oil Factory produces wastewater containing high enough Phosphor (P). High levels of Phosphor can cause pollution load for the environment, so it needs to be lowered. The decrease of this content can be done by adsorption process using bentonite as adsorbent. The purpose of this research is to determine the absorption of activated bentonite to the absorption of Phosphor contained in waste water. Phosphor measurements were performed using the UV-vis Spectrophotometric Instrument. Bentonite was activated using HCl 1.6 M. Characterization of bentonite using X-ray diffraction (XRD) and Scanning Electron Microscopy with Energy Divertive Spectroscopy (SEM-EDS). The results showed that bentonite was able to adsorb Phosphor contained in the waste water of Palm Oil Factory, with adsorption capacity> 90%. Activated Bentonite has greater power capability than natural bentonite.

Keywords: waste water of palm oil factory, phosphor, bentonite, activation, adsorption

1. Introduction

Industrial waste is problem in the world including solid, liquid and gas (Winarno et al., 2019). Wastewater is a part of liquid industrial waste and gives some negative impact for human end environment (Wibowo & Sadikin, 2019). Curt Palm Oil industry is a part of industrial activities that produce wastewater. Wastewater has a low pH, high heavy metal contents, organic matter, temperature and else such as Fe, Pb. Mg, Al, Mn, P and else (Naswir & Lestari, 2014). Wastewater content will give some negative impact such as disease skin, poisoning, cancer and dead (Wibowo et al., 2019). Pam oil factory has been producing liquid waste, the liquid waste of palm oil processing plants contains high organic materials such as Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P), and Potassium (K). Organic materials are nutrients so that liquid waste is likely to be used as a source of nutrients for plants. However, if the N, P, and K content of the palm oil mill's waste water exceeds the threshold it can pollute the environment and disrupt the aquatic plant and animal ecosystems (Chavalparit et al., 2006). Phosphorus (as phosphate, PO₄³⁻) is an integral component of important compounds of plant cells, including the sugar-phosphate intermediates of respiration and photosynthesis, and the phospholipids that make up plant membranes. It is also a component of nucleotides used in plant energy metabolism (such as ATP) and in DNA and RNA(Taiz & Zeiger, 2002). Thus, the phosphor is a limiting factor in the composition of the aquatic phytoplankton as a manufacturer.

Recent study informs about raw material to reduce parameters in wastewater include waste palm oil (Naswir, 2016). Bentonite is a raw material could reduce parameters of wastewater, bentonite is a potential low-cost adsorbent to reduce phosphorous in waste palm oil (Naswir et al., 2014). Indonesia has many bentonites deposited spread throughout Indonesia (Yuliyanti et al., 2011). Bentonite can reduce phosphorous in waste palm oil using adsorption system. Adsorption can be used to reduce the P content of palm oil mill waste (Naswir, Arita, & Sani, 2011). Adsorption is the absorption of a substance (molecule or ion) on the surface of the adsorbent. Zeolite as an adsorbent gets more attention for applications in environmental protection and sustainability. Bentonite has superior properties to adsorb because the size of colloidal particles is very small and has a high ion surface capacity. Several studies on the use of bentonite have been applied to the absorption of inorganic elements such as Cd²⁺,Pb²⁺,Cu²⁺, Mn²⁺, NO₃-, Ni, and Fe. The use of bentonite applied to the absorption of organic compounds has also been carried out (Naswir et al., 2013). In this research, bentonite is suggested as an alternative material, because the potential of clay reserves in Indonesia is very

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large and spread almost in all areas one of them is Jambi Province. However, its utilization has not been optimal yet.

Thus, this paper will describe clearly of utilization of bentonite to reduce phosphorous in waste palm oil, this research will give some positive impact to industrial activities to reduce environmental management cost.

2. Research Methodology

2.1 Tools and Materials Research

This research use Scanning Electron Microscopy with Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy (SEM-EDS), X-Ray Diffraction (XRD), UV-Vis spectrophotometry, and atomic absorption spectrophotometer (AAS) for characterization. The materials used in this study are Sample wastewater in aerobic and anaerobic ponds, bentonite, HCl, PP indicator, H₂SO₄, ethanol, K (SbO) C₄H₄O₆.½H₂O, (NH₄) 6Mo₇O₂₄.4H₂O, C₆H₈O₆, KH₂PO₄, and distilled water.

2.2 Sample Preparation

Natural bentonite has collect from Batanghari, Indonesia (Fig. 1). Crusher and distilled water has used to prepare the natural bentonite then bentonite dried in 200°C for sixty minutes. Bentonite crushed using crusher and sieve on 100 mesh.

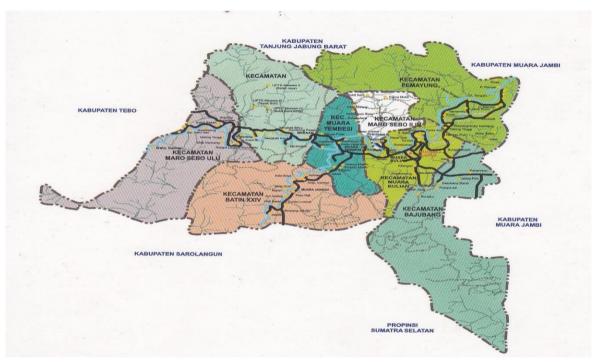


Figure 1. Administration map of Batanghari, Indonesia

2.3 Activation of Bentonite

50 gram bentonite was soaked in 200 ml of 1.6MHCl, bentonite stirred for a hour using 200 rpm speed in magnetic stirrer. Bentonite filtered and washed with distilled water. The obtained residue was heated in 200 °C for 60 minute. Activated bentonite is stored in a desiccator and ready for use for further processing

2.4 Characterization and Analysis of P on Wastewater Palm Oil Factory

The bentonite sample was characterized by XRD and SEM-EDS. The determination of Phosphate content refers to the workings of the Indonesian National Standard (SNI 06-6989.31-2005). Preparation of a standard phosphate solution was performed by dilution of the mother phosphate solution 100ppm to 0.2ppm; 0.4ppm; 0.8ppm and 1.0ppm. Then measured with a UV-Vis spectrophotometer with a wavelength of 880 nm

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Activation of Bentonite

Bentonite activation is chemically treated using HCl. This serves to convert the cations present in the pores of bentonite with H⁺ ions and to cause the delamination of the release process of Al³⁺, Fe³⁺, Mg²⁺from bentonite. This is due to increase Si/Al ratio. Increasing Si/Al ratio increases acid site of bentonite. This acid site serves as active side of bentonite. As acid site increases, it also increases the activity of bentonite. The addition of HCl can also cleanse the

pores, remove the impurity compounds and rearrange the location of the ion being exchanged. Several study give some information about activator for bentonite such as $ZnCl_2$ to reduce Cd(II) from wastewater using oven-dried $120^{\circ}C$ for 24 hours (Kula, Ug, Ali, & Karaog, 2008) this study will suggest alternative low cost adsorbent without dried for a long time. This research only need an hours of oven-dried in $200^{\circ}C$ and successful made a activated bentonite. When the activation bentonite happened cation exchange of mineral salts (Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+}) occurs in the bentonite interlayer layer with H^+ ions from the acid, followed by dissolution of Al^{3+} and other metal ions such as Fe^{3+} from lattice bentonite layer. The Al release process of bentonite is presented in the following equation:

$$(Al_4)(Si_8)O20(OH)4+3H^+ \longrightarrow (Al_3)(Si_8)O20(OH)_2 + Al^{3+} + 2 H_2O$$

 $(Al_4)(Si_8)O20(OH)4+6H^+ \longrightarrow (Al_2)(Si_8)O20(OH)2+ 2 Al^{3+} + 4H_2O$

Characterization

XRD used to find peak of natural bentonite and activated bentonite using HCl. XRD pattern has compare using JCPDF card, phase kaolinite on natural bentonite has identified 14-0164 card, RIR 0.1.00, weight 29.016.7 and Mu/tho 0026.0 it's different with activated bentonite only on weight, activated bentonite more lighter 0.9 than natural bentonite. Activated bentonite have crystal structure higher than natural bentonite, it's an indicated that activated bentonite better as an adsorbent than natural bentonite (Fig. 2). The result of bentonite characteristic by XRD shows that bentonite of River Rengas Jambi consists of 3 types of minerals, namely kaolinite, quartz, and montmorillonite this minerals indicated bentonite have different mineral every single place, XRD analysis for bentonite minerals were found to be quartz, orthodase, albite, and illite (Bendou & Amrani, 2014). The primary particles of montmorillonite have a sheet-like structure, as also shown in Fig. 3, with the major and minor axes ranging from 100 nm to 50 nm. The sheet thickness is approximately 1 nm. Secondary particles of montmorillonite are considered to be a lamination of 10–20 primary particles. Schematic microstructural model of montmorillonite (Fig. 3) (Kobayashi et al., 2017).

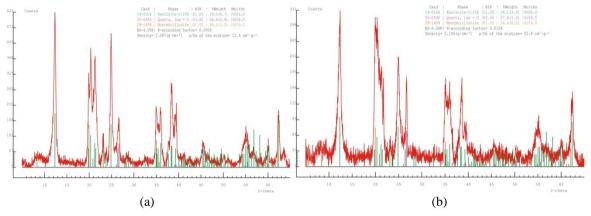


Figure 2. Diffractogram of natural bentonite (a) and activated bentonite HCl (b)

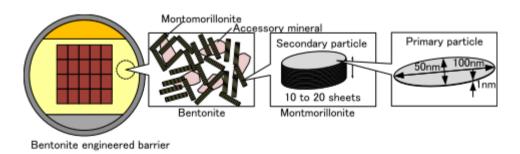


Figure 3. Montmorillonite microstructure

Bentonite from the Sungai Rengas area is a mixture of several minerals such as kaolinite, quartz, and montmorillonite. Montmorillonite is a mineral, containing $Al_2O3.4Si.H_2O$. Other minerals in bentonite are Mg and Ca. The bentonite lattice structure consists of a single plate located between $Al_2O_3SiO_2$. Therefore, montmorillonite may expand, and have high water and adsorption cations.

Natural and activated bentonite from Sungai Rengas has characterization using SEM-EDS to find information about pores. Dry bentonite have pores size between 8 to 10 nm (Holmboe et al, 2012), bentonites are raw material that have

good pores as an adsorbent like biochar(S & P, 2019). Natural bentonite have some minerals such as C, O, Na, Mg, Al, Si, Cl, K, Ca, Ti, Mn, Fe, Cu with different percentage and their component after pyrolysis bind to oxygen (Table 1). Activated bentonite have stronger peak than natural bentonite, usually activated bentonite have biggest pores than natural bentonite, but in this research did not happened significant different for pores sizes, this phenomena inform that bentonite is a good adsorbent although without activation. Recent study inform that bentonite can reduce aqueous phosphate (Pawar et al., 2016), absolutely bentonite can reduce phosphor too.

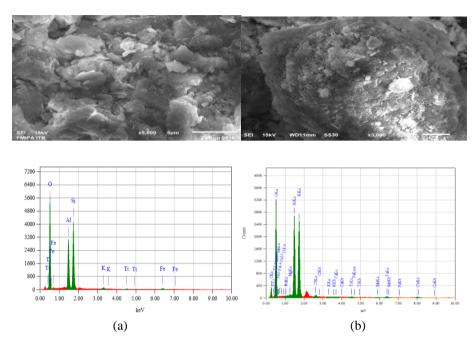


Figure 4. Characterization of Natural Bentonite SEM-EDS (a) and Activated Bentonite (b)

Table 1. Composition of Bentonite

	Sample of Bentonit (%)			Sample of Bentonite (%)		
Element	Natural	Activated Bentonite	Component	Natural	Activated Bentonite	
	Bentonite			Bentonite		
C	-	14.24	C	-	14,24	
O	49.22	41.00	MgO	-	0,19	
Na	0.01	-	Al_2O_3	43.27	33,61	
Mg	-	0.11	SiO_2	52.20	44,11	
Al	22.90	17.79	Cl	-	0,75	
Si	24.40	20,62	K_2O	0.10	0,04	
Cl	-	0,75	CaO	0.04	0,01	
K	0,09	0,04	TiO_2	0,26	0,66	
Ca	0.03	0.00	MnO	-	0,32	
Ti	0,16	0,4	FeO	4.11	2,22	
Mn	-	0,25	CuO	-	3,85	
Fe	3.19	1,73				
Cu	-	3,08				

Determination of P content in Waste Water of Palm Oil Factory

The standard calibration curve is made from a standard Phosphor solution with concentration of 0.2mg P/L; 0.4mg P/L; 0.8mg P/L and 1.0mg P/L. Then measured its absorbance by UV-vis spectrophotometry at a wavelength of 880 nm (Table 2). Standard solution curve is made with the x-axis of concentration and the absorbance axis y, then R2 = 0.9975 (Fig. 4) it has been in accordance with Lambert-Beer's law A=a.b.c, where the absorbance value (A) is directly proportional to the concentration value (c) (Mosorov, 2017).

Table 2. Standard of Phosphor

Concentration (ppm)	Absorbance
0.20	0.085
0.40	0.180
0.60	0.256
0.80	0.327
1.00	0.417

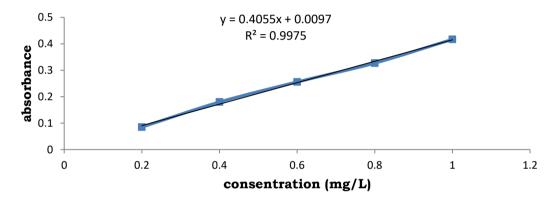


Figure 5. Calibration Curve

Table 3. Results of Phosphorous Analysis of Palm Oil Mill Effluent

Samples	Absorbance	Cons (mg/L)	FP	Result (mg P/L)
Waste water in anaerobic ponds	0,218	0,51368	50,0	25,684
Waste water in aerobic ponds	0,165	0,38298	25,0	9,575
Blanco	-0,016	0,063	1,0	-0,063

Based on the results of the analysis it is known that palm oil mill wastewater contains high phosphorus organic matter (Table 3). The standard phosphate level in wastewater for the low category is <0.01mg P/L which causes the growth of algae to be blocked. Conversely, if phosphate levels in water are high, plant growth and algae will increase so that it can reduce the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water. The high content of phosphorus in water will have a negative impact on the sustainability of aquatic ecosystem.

The difference in the amount of P content in waste water is caused by differences in waste treatment processes. Anaerobic pond functions to convert fat into methane gas. The anaerobic pond also functions to hold waste water from the processing of palm oil mills for 60 days, the fat in this pond is converted into organic acids such as acetic acid, propionic acid, further formic acid water by anaerobic bacteria that produces methane gas. Whereas aerobic pond is the last pond in the process of treating wastewater and is used to provide the opportunity for liquid from the settling pond to absorb more oxygen from the air. This pond can hold waste liquid for 15 days. In this pond the waste liquid is enriched with oxygen content with an aerator, this oxygen is needed for the oxidation process (aerobic process) carried out by aerobic bacteria. Several study informs that aerobic pond can reduce pH, BOD, COD, TSS, total nitrogen, oil and grease and nutrient solution (Vijayaraghavan et al., 2007)

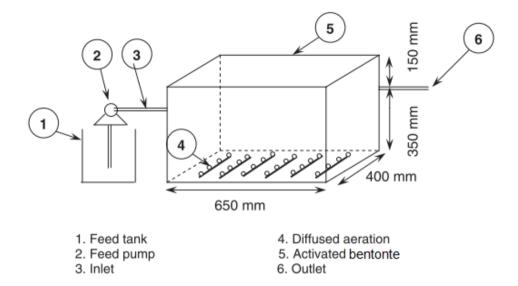


Figure 6. Aerobic and Anaerobic pond Design

The Influence of Bentonite Mass on P Absorption on Wastewater of Palm Oil Mill

This adsorbent mass variation is intended to see the effect of adding bentonite weight to adsorption and finding the weight of bentonite required to achieve an equilibrium condition. Activated bentonite is low cost adsorbent that have better of absorption ability than natural bentonite. It caused by activated bentonite have biggest pores size after added HCl as an activator. HCl was selected caused effective acid to activation of adsorbent (Zhao et al., 2015). Comparison of natural and activated bentonite for phosphor sorption informs that activated bentonite better than natural bentonite every single treatment. Best formula for phosphor sorption is 0.1grbentonite with 14.79mg/L sorption (Table 4). This research give an information that local raw material (bentonite) we do not need many bentonite to reduce phosphor in waster palm oil.

Table 4. Results of P analysis after adsorption with bentonite mass variation

Dantanita (an)	Absorbance of phosphor (mg/L)		
Bentonite (gr)	Natural Bentonite	Activated Bentonite	
0.1	12.72	14.79	
0.5	10.78	13.419	
1	6.62	4.279	

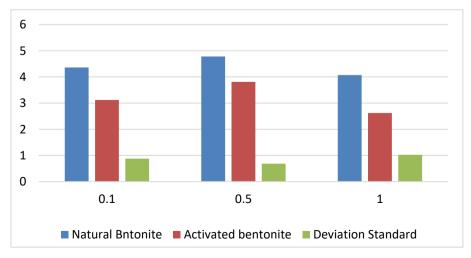


Figure 7. Phosphor Sorption by Bentonite

According to Figure 5, a good absorption of P content occurs at a mass of 1 grams for natural bentonite with bentonite absorption of the resulting P content of 72.25%, whereas for activated HClbentonite with bentonite absorption on the resulting P content is 83.38%. Adsorption generally occurs on the whole surface but the magnitude is determined by the surface area of the adsorbent that is in direct contact with the adsorbate. The amount of adsorption is proportional to the specific surface area. The larger the surface area, the larger the adsorption occurs. This shows that the amount of adsorbent mass greatly influences the adsorption. Amount of bentonite used on adsorption affects many at least the amount of phosphor adsorbed. The adsorbate weight adsorbed is increasingly proportional to the increase in the amount of weight of bentonite used.

Deviation standard in this research are 0.057276 for 0.1grbentonite, 0.072549 for 0.5grbentonite and 0.078701 for 1grbentonite. The interpretation of the standard deviation can be explained if the standard deviation value of a sample of data is equal to 0 (zero) so that all values in the data are the same. The greater the standard deviation value of a data, the greater the distance of each data point with the average value.

Time Contact of Bentonite and Waste Palm Oil Mill

Contact time is one of the decisive factors in the adsorption process because contact time is required to achieve equilibrium between the adsorbed solute and the remaining solution. The contact time is also the time used by the adsorbent and the adsorbate to interact directly. If the liquid phase containing the adsorbent is stationary, the adsorbate diffusion through the adsorbent surface will be slow. The contact time needed to reach adsorption equilibrium is another important parameter for adsorbents (Li et al., 2011). Therefore, shaking is required to accelerate the adsorption process.

Absorption of P content occurs at a 90 minute contact time with the absorption of natural bentonite and activated bentonite to the resulting P content by 84.15% and 89.82% respectively. In both natural and activated bentonite, at minute 30 the amount of P adsorbed slightly due to the interaction time between P ions with the active site on the adsorbent relatively But in the 60th minute the amount of P absorbed actually decreased, this is because in this condition P ion has not entered all the pores into bentonite because it is possible there are still obstructed to enter. Thus, it is possible that P-ions already bonded to the active site of bentonite exist apart from the pores of bentonite during the adsorption process because the bonds that occur in the P ions with the active site on bentonite are the bonds of Van der Walls (Rodrigues et al., 2019). While in the 90th minute, the number of P-ions adsorbed at most compared to the other time. The adsorption efficiency showed that the adsorption equilibrium P using natural bentonite prior to activation and activated HCl-bentonite was achieved in the 90th minute because in general P ion adsorption was slow before the 90th minute. From the above test results, the maximum mass of natural bentonite adsorbent and activated bentonite is 1 gram and maximum contact time for natural bentonite and activated bentonite is as 90 minutes. Bentonite is capable of lowering P levels in palm oil mill waste.

Activated Bentonite using HCl has a higher adsorption absorption capacity than natural bentonite. The use of HCl as an activator affects absorption because the mineral acid can dissolve the SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 components that fill the pores of the adsorbent. This results in the opening of closed pores so as to increase the surface area of the adsorbent (Kobayashi et al, 2017) Activation of bentonite using acids also produced bentonite with larger active sites and greater surface similarities, resulting in bentonite with higher adsorption capacity than before activation. At the decrease of P content using natural bentonite and activated bentonite, the adsorption efficiency was obtained at 84% and 90%, respectively. This suggests that the phosphate ion adsorption process using bentonite can be carried out, although the surface of the negligible arc is negatively charged. The surface of this negatively charged bentonite will inevitably inhibit the adsorption of phosphate ions because it will reject the refuse. The presence of iron oxide (Fe₂O₃), alumina oxide (Al₂O₃) and SiO₂ which is an active site in bentonite framework can help the phosphate ion adsorption process. Fe and Al ions on the surface of bentonite will react with water molecules in the phosphate solution. Hydrated charge will form a positive charge by capturing H⁺ ions or releasing OH ions, after the hydration event occurs, on the surface of bentonite becomes positively charged by the presence of H⁺ and Al³⁺. The formation of a positive charge on bentonite is caused by the inclusion of H + ions in the octahedral layer into Al(OH)₃ and the tetrahedral layer into SiOH forming a hydrogen bond so as to bind the negatively charged phosphate.

Table 5. Result of P analysis with variation of contact time

	Absorbance Phosphor (mg/L)			
Contact time (minutes)	Natural Activated Bentonite Bentonite		Deviation Standard	
30	4.36	3.12	0.876812	
60	4.78	3.81	0.685894	
90	4.07	2.62	1.025305	

Waste palm oil have similarity with wastewater in other industrial activities with parameters COD, BOD, TSS, organic matter and else (Darajeh et al., 2016). Recent study inform that waste palm oil can reduce use Co-processing of oil palm waste and waste oil via microwave co-torrefaction (Liew et al., 2019). Besides bentonite, biochar is a potential material to reduce heavy metals in waste palm oil, recent study inform biochar can reduce Cu and Cd from waste palm oil after pyrolysis between 400-600°C(Fig. 8) another research give an information about comparison of raw materials as a natural sorbents chitosan, bentonite and activated carbon to reduce residual oil and suspended solid (Ahmad et al., 2005). High acid content such as HNO₃and H₂SO₄ as an activator of bentonite can reduce free fatty acid in waste oil palm (Jeenpadiphat & Tungasmita, 2014), thus, this activated bentonite in this research is powerful to reduce another parameters of waste material and helpful to reduce environmental damage by industrial activities.

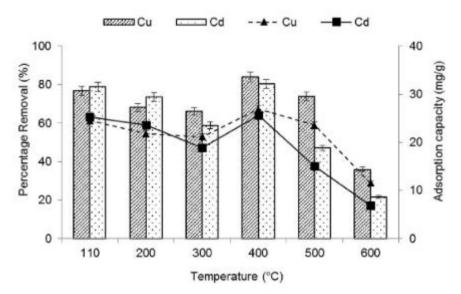


Figure 8. The influence of pyrolysis temperature on the percentage removal and adsorption capacity of Cd and Cu by raw material (biochar) pyrolyzed at different temperatures

4. Conclusion

Bentonites are potential raw material for reduce phosphor in waste palm oil. Natural bentonite and activated bentonite are low cost adsorbent to reduce phosphor, 0.1grbentonite can reduce 12.72mg/l phosphor and activated bentonite can reduce 14.79mg/l, 0.5gr natural bentonite can reduce 10.78mg/l phosphor and activated bentonite can reduce 13.419mg/l phosphor, 1gr natural bentonite can reduce 6.62 phosphor and activated bentonite can reduce 4.279mg/l it caused by bentonite has reached the highest absorption point so that the absorption ability of bentonite drops. Optimum time contact for natural bentonite and activated is 60 minute. This research will helpful to solve environmental problem especially for waste palm oil in industry because this research use abundant material it will applicable for everyone.

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