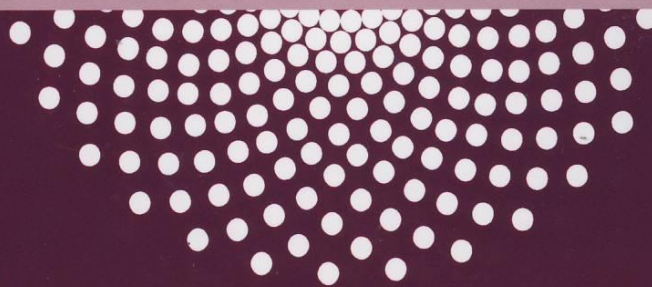


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2nd Humboldt Kolleg in Conjunction with International Conference on Natural Sciences 2014, HK-ICONS 2014

Editors:

**Roy Hendroko Setyobudi, Hugo Scheer,
Leenawaty Limantara, Yuzo Shioi,
Leszek Fiedor, Tatas H.P. Brotosudarmo
and Monika N.U. Prihastyanti**

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Preface

- L. Limantara.
- The Condition of *Uncaria* C
- A. Rauf, Rahmawaty, A.
- Hepatoprotective Effects of
- A. Dwijayanti, A. Frethe
- Coral Diseases in Panjang I
- A. Sabdono, P.H. Sawor
- The Routes of Administrati
- A.D. Wijayanti, G.D. Sa
- Apoptosis in Mice Liver C
- A.A. Maramis, M. Ami
- An α -Glucosidase Inhibitor
- A.P.G. Macabeo, P.Y.M
- Isolation and Characterizat
- A.P. Subroto, C. Utomo
- Microwave Assisted Extra
- A.C. Kumoro, I. Hartat
- Hydrothermal Carbonation
- A.T. Mursito, A. Yuliy
- Biosolid Management Op
- A. Ghimire, R. Sen, A.
- Identifying Sumatran Peat
- A. Wibowo, H. Sloterd
- Pathotyping of Local Isol
- A. Haryanto, M. Purw
- Process Improvement of I
- Avicenna, M. Mel, S.I
- Preliminary Evaluation o
- C.J. Hui, M.N.U. Prib
- Inhibition of the Non-Me
- C. Lienau, S. Konzuel
- Design of Expression Ca
- C. Utomo, A.P. Subro
- Micropropagation of Em
- C.L.M. Marbun, N. T
- Numerical Simulation an
- Wave Energy Conversio
- D.T. Ba, N.D. Anh, P
- Thermal Stability of α -P
- D. Markovic, S. Böhm
- Expression Analysis of
- D.A. Listiawan, R. T
- The Level of Glutamic A
- Rr. E. Susetyarini . . .
- Genotypic Characteriza
- E.A. Corcolon, A.C.
- Oxygen Ion-Conductivi
- Biodiesel-Fuel Cells
- F. Rahmawati, W. Fa



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Procedia Chemistry 14 (2015) iii–v

Procedia
Chemistry

Contents

Preface	1
L. Limantara	1
The Condition of <i>Uncaria Gambir</i> Roxb. as One of Important Medicinal Plants in North Sumatra Indonesia	3
A. Rauf, Rahmawaty, A.Z. Siregar	3
Hepatoprotective Effects of <i>Acalypha Indica</i> and <i>Centella Asiatica</i> in Rat's Liver Against Hypoxia	11
A. Dwijayanti, A. Frerhery, N.S. Hardiany, E.H. Purwaningsih	11
Coral Diseases in Panjang Island, Java Sea: Diversity of Anti-Pathogenic Bacterial Coral Symbionts	15
A. Sabdon, P.H. Sawonua, A.G.D. Kartika, J.M. Amelia, O.K. Radjasa	15
The Routes of Administration of Amikacin as Consideration in Reptile Therapy	22
A.D. Wijayanti, G.D. Satria, A.E.T.H. Wahyuni	22
Apoptosis in Mice Liver Cells Caused by Formalin-containing Food: Normalization of HSP70 Overexpression by Chlorophyllin	27
A.A. Maramis, M. Amin, Sumarno, A.D. Corebima	27
An α -Glucosidase Inhibitor from <i>Drepananthus Philippinensis</i>	36
A.P.G. Macabeo, P.Y.M. Rubio, G.J.D. Alejandro, M. Knorn	36
Isolation and Characterization of Oil Palm Wrinkled 1 (WR11) Gene	40
A.P. Subroto, C. Utomo, C. Darmawan, Z.A. Tanjung, T. Liwang	40
Microwave Assisted Extraction of Dioscorin from Gadung (<i>Dioscorea Hispida</i> Dennst) Tuber Flour	47
A.C. Kumoro, I. Hartati	47
Hydrothermal Carbonation of K-Rich Ash, Value Added Energy Engineering and CO ₂ Mineral Sequestration	56
A.T. Mursito, A. Yuliyanti, Jakah	56
Biosolid Management Options in Cassava Starch Industries of Thailand: Present Practice and Future Possibilities	66
A. Ghimire, R. Sen, A.P. Annachatre	66
Identifying Sumatran Peat Swamp Fish Larvae through DNA Barcoding, Evidence of Complete Life History Pattern	76
A. Wibowo, H. Sloterdijk, S.P. Ulrich	76
Pathotyping of Local Isolates Newcastle Disease Virus from Field Specimens by RT-PCR and Restriction Endonuclease Analysis	85
A. Haryanto, M. Purwaningrum, S. Verawati, S.H. Irianingsih, N. Wijayanti	85
Process Improvement of Biogas Production from Anaerobic Co-digestion of Cow Dung and Corn Husk	91
Avicenna, M. Mel, S.I. Ihsan, R.H. Setyobudi	91
Preliminary Evaluation of the Pigments Content from <i>Rhodobacter Sphaeroides</i> at Stages during Photosynthetic Growth	101
C.J. Hui, M.N.U. Prihastyanti, T.H.P. Brotosudarmo	101
Inhibition of the Non-Mevalonate Isoprenoid Pathway by Reverse Hydroxamate Analogues of Fosmidomycin	108
C. Lienau, S. Konzuch, T. Gräwert, B. Illarionov, A. Bacher, M. Fischer, N. Tanaka, T. Kurz	108
Design of Expression Cassettes for Inverted Repeat and Intron-Spliced Inverted Repeat of PATE Gene Silencing	117
C. Utomo, A.P. Subroto, C. Darwaman, T. Liwang	117
Micropropagation of Embryogenic Callus of Oil Palm (<i>Elaeis Guineensis</i> Jacq.) Using Temporary Immersion System	122
C.L.M. Marbun, N. Toruan-Mathius, Reflini, C. Utomo, T. Liwang	122
Numerical Simulation and Experimental Analysis for a Linear Trigonal Double-Face Permanent Magnet Generator Used in Direct Driven Wave Energy Conversion	130
D.T. Ba, N.D. Anh, P.V. Ngoc	130
Thermal Stability of α -Phycocyanin	138
D. Markovic, S. Böhm, K.-H. Zhao, H. Scheer	138
Expression Analysis of Transcription Factors Involved in Chloroplast Differentiation	146
D.A. Listiawan, R. Tanoue, K. Kobayashi, T. Masuda	146
The Level of Glutamic Acid in the Semen of Male White Rat (<i>Ratus Norvegicus</i>) after Being Treated with Tannin of <i>Pluchea Indica</i>	152
Rr. E. Susetyarini	152
Genotypic Characterization of Turmeric (<i>Curcuma Longa</i> L.) Accessions from Mindanao, Philippines Using RAPD Markers	157
E.A. Corolon, A.C. Laurena, M.L. Dionisio-Sese	157
Oxygen Ion-Conductivity and Chemical Stability of Ceria Based-Electrolyte in Composite with Sodium Carbonate as Electrolyte for Direct Biodiesel-Fuel Cells	164
F. Rahmawati, W. Fajriati, E. Herald, D.G. Syarif	164

Function of Tetrapyrroles, Regulation of Tetrapyrrole Metabolism and Methods for Analyses of Tetrapyrroles	
H. Schlicke, A. Richter, M. Rothbart, P. Brzezowski, B. Hedtke, B. Grimm	17
Biliproteins and their Applications in Bioimaging	
H. Scheer, X. Yang, K.-H. Zhao	17
Mathematical Model of the Hydrotropic Microwave Assisted Extraction of Anti-Malarial Agent from <i>Andrographis Paniculata</i>	
I. Hartati, L. Kurniasari, Y. Anas	18
Composition of Photosynthetic Pigments in a Red Alga <i>Kappaphycus Alvarezii</i> Cultivated in Different Depths	
Indriatmoko, Heriyanto, L. Limantara, T.H.P. Brotsudarmo	19
Separation of Photosynthetic Pigments by High-performance Liquid Chromatography: Comparison of Column Performance, Mobile Phase, and Temperature	
Indriatmoko, Y. Shioi, T.H.P. Brotsudarmo, L. Limantara	20
Potentially Antihyperglycemic from Biomass and Phycocyanin of <i>Spirulina Fusiformis</i> Voronikhin by in Vivo Test	
I. Setyaningsih, M. Bintang, N. Madina	21
Flower Bracts of Temulawak (<i>Curcuma Xanthorrhiza</i>) for Skin Care: Anti-Acne and Whitening Agents	
I. Batubara, I. Julita, L.K. Darusman, A.M. Muddathir, T. Mitsunaga	21
Analysis on the Chlorophyll Content of Commercial Green Leafy Vegetables	
L. Limantara, M. Dettling, R. Indrawati, Indriatmoko, T.H.P. Brotsudarmo	22
Identification, Isolation and Antioxidant Activity of Pheophytin from Green Tea (<i>Camellia Sinensis</i> (L.) Kuntze)	
L. Kusmita, I. Puspitaningrum, L. Limantara	23
In Vitro Selection of <i>Jatropha Curcas</i> Linn. Hybrids Using Polyethylene Glycol to Obtain Drought Tolerance Character	
Maftuchah, A. Zainudin	23
Application of Simple Multispectral Image Sensor and Artificial Intelligence for Predicting of Drought Tolerant Variety of Soybean	
M.A.S. Adhiwibawa, Y.E. Setiawan, Y. Setiawan, K.R. Prilianti, T.H.P. Brotsudarmo	24
Whole Cell Hydrolysis of Sardine (<i>Sardinella Lemuru</i>) Oil Waste Using <i>Mucor Circinelloides</i> NRRL 1405 Immobilized in Poly-Urethane Foam	
M.G.M. Purwanto, M.V. Maretha, M. Wahyudi, M.T. Goelton	25
Sensory Characteristics of Seasoning Powders from Overripe Tempeh, a Solid State Fermented Soybean	
M.D.P.T. Gunawan-Puteri, T.R. Hassanein, E.K. Prabawati, C.H. Wijaya, A.N. Mutukumira	26
Indigenous Herbal Recipes for Treatment of Liver Cirrhosis	
M.P.B. Wijayagunawardane, C.U.B. Wijerathne, C.B. Herath	27
Financial Prospects in the Application of Decanter System for the Treatment of Sludge Wastewater in Water Treatment Plant System	
Mohajit	27
Detection of Gamma-Irradiated Mutant of Rodent Tuber (<i>Typhonium Flagelliforme</i> Lodd.) in Vitro Culture by RAPD Molecular Marker	
N.F. Sianipar, Ariandana, W. Maarisit	28
Performance of Tetraphenylsulfonato Disilane in Catalytic Transesterification of Crude Palm Oil and Esterification of Fatty Acids with Secondary Alcohols	
N. Bangun, W. Manullang, L. Panggabean, S.B. Sembiring, R. Simangunsong, P. Bali, F.R. Panjaitan	29
The Potency of Guava <i>Psidium Guajava</i> (L.) Leaves as a Functional Immunostimulatory Ingredient	
N. Laily, R.W. Kusumaningtyas, I. Sukarti, M.R.D.K. Rini	30
Formulating Two Steps Loan Scheme to Support Emission Reduction Projects in Indonesia	
N. Syaifudin, H. Amir, S. Wianwihat	30
The Performance of <i>Jatropha Curcas</i> Linn. Capsule Husk as Feedstocks Biogas in One Phase Anaerobic Digestion	
P.G. Adinurani, S.R. Hendroko, S.K. Wahono, A. Nindita, M. Mairizwan, A. Sasmito, Y.A. Nugroho, T. Liwang	31
Bioremediation of Aged Petroleum Oil Contaminated Soil: From Laboratory Scale to Full Scale Application	
Q. Helmy, R. Laksmono, E. Kardena	32
Integrated Geographic Information System and Global Positioning System for Mapping of Forest Plants in Supporting Natural Resources Protection	
Rahmawati, E.K. Sari, A. Syofyan, A. Rauf	33
Peptide-derived from Seahorse Exerts a Protective Effect Against Cholinergic Neuronal Death in <i>in vitro</i> Model of Alzheimer's Disease	
R. Pangestuti, S.-K. Kim	34
Encapsulation of Brown Seaweed Pigment by Freeze Drying: Characterization and its Stability during Storage	
R. Indrawati, H. Sukowijoyo, Indriatmoko, R.D.E. Wijayanti, L. Limantara	35
Genetic Diversity of <i>Celosia</i> Variants in East Java Based on Polyphenol Oxidase-PPO Genes	
R. Mastuti, E.L. Arumingtyas, A.A. Fatinah	36
Potential of Ciplukan (<i>Physalis Angulata</i> L.) as Source of Functional Ingredient	
R.W. Kusumaningtyas, N. Laily, P. Limandha	36
Preliminary Study the Potency of Macroalgae in Yogyakarta: Extraction and Analysis of Algal Pigments from Common Gunungkidul Seaweeds	
R. Haryatfrehni, S.C. Dewi, A. Meilianda, S. Rahmawati, I.Z.R. Sari	37
Removal of Lead and Copper from Contaminated Water Using EAPR System and Uptake by Water Lettuce (<i>Pistia Stratiotes</i> L.)	
R.S. Putra, F. Cahyana, D. Novarita	38
Biological Purification System: Integrated Biogas from Small Anaerobic Digestion and Natural Microalgae	
Salafudin, R.H. Setyobudi, S.K. Wahono, A. Nindita, P.G. Adinurani, Y.A. Nugroho, A. Sasmito, T. Liwang	38
Serial Endothelial Cell Count of Donor Corneal Buttons in Optisol-GS	
S.A.B. Sibayan, Ma. C.P. Garcia-Arenal, K.D. Corpus, J.R.G. Manlongat, M.B.B. Ibañez IV, Ma. D.B. Padilla, J.U. Dy Liacco	39
Vitamin A Fortification Effort	
S.A. Tanumihardjo	17
Second Generation Bioethanol	
S.S. Harsono, Salahuddin	17
Adaptation of the Photosynthesis	
T.H.P. Brotsudarmo, L. L	18
The Chlorophyll <i>b</i> Reductase	
T. Jia, H. Ito, A. Tanaka	19
Heavy Metals in Water of Str	
T.M. Palapa, A.A. Marami	20
Effects of Pigment-Protein F	
Nervous Necrosis (VNN) Inf	21
U. Yanuhar	21
A Survey of Photosynthetic F	
W. Miyata, T. Suzuki, B.E	21
Effects of Cyclohexane/Acete	
W. Rahmalia, J.-F. Fabre,	22
Anti-Cancer Effect of Kaffir	
W.A. Sri Tunjung, J. Cina	23
<i>Agrobacterium Tumefaciens</i>	
Early Flowering	23
Y.A. Purwestri, R.D.K. Sa	24
The Photosensitizer Stabiliti	
Y.A. Handoko, F.S. Rond	25
Status of Drug Discovery Re	
Y.H. Tapilatu	26
Sweet Potato Production for	
Y. Widodo, S. Wahyuning	27
Peroxidase Enzyme Activit	
(<i>Xanthomonas Axonopodis</i> f	27
Y. Yanti	28
Partial Oxidation of Methan	
Y.K. Krisnandi, B.A.P. Pt	29
	30
	30
	31
	32
	33
	34
	35
	36
	36
	37
	38
	38
	39

	Vitamin A Fortification Efforts Require Accurate Monitoring of Population Vitamin A Status to Prevent Excessive Intakes	398
171	S.A. Tanumihardjo	
	Second Generation Bioethanol from Arabica Coffee Waste Processing at Smallholder Plantation in Ijen Plateau Region of East Java	408
176	S.S. Harsono, Salahuddin, M. Fauzi, G.S. Purwono, D. Soemarno, Kissinger	
	Adaptation of the Photosynthetic Unit of Purple Bacteria to Changes of Light Illumination Intensities	414
186	T.H.P. Brotsudarmo, L. Limantara, Heriyanto, M.N.U. Prihastyanti	
	The Chlorophyll <i>b</i> Reductase NOL Participates in Regulating the Antenna Size of Photosystem II in <i>Arabidopsis Thaliana</i>	422
193	T. Jia, H. Ito, A. Tanaka	
	Heavy Metals in Water of Stream Near an Amalgamation Tailing Ponds in Talawaan – Tatelu Gold Mining, North Sulawesi, Indonesia	428
202	T.M. Palapa, A.A. Maramis	
	Effects of Pigment-Protein Fraction from <i>Nannocloropsis Oculata</i> on TNF α and IL-6 which Act as an Anti-inflammatory Against Viral Nervous Necrosis (VNN) Infection	437
211	U. Yanuhar	
	A Survey of Photosynthetic Pigments from Surface to Oligotrophic Deep Seawater in Suruga Bay, Japan	444
216	W. Miyata, T. Suzuki, B.E. Casareto, Y. Suzuki, Y. Shioi	
	Effects of Cyclohexane/Acetone Ratio on Bixin Extraction Yield by Accelerated Solvent Extraction Method	455
225	W. Rahmalia, J.-F. Fabre, Z. Mouloungui	
	Anti-Cancer Effect of Kaffir Lime (<i>Citrus Hystrix</i> DC) Leaf Extract in Cervical Cancer and Neuroblastoma Cell Lines	465
232	W.A. Sri Tunjung, J. Cinatl Jr., M. Michaelis, C.M. Smales	
	<i>Agrobacterium Tumefaciens</i> Mediated Transformation of <i>rolC::Hd3a-GFP</i> in Black Rice (<i>Oryza Sativa</i> L. cv. Cempo Ireng) to Promote Early Flowering	469
239	Y.A. Purwestri, R.D.K. Sari, L.N. Anggraeni, A.B. Sasongko	
	The Photosensitizer Stabilities of Tookad [®] on Aggregation, Acidification, and Day-light Irradiation	474
246	Y.A. Handoko, F.S. Rondonuwu, L. Limantara	
256	Status of Drug Discovery Research Based on Marine Organisms from Eastern Indonesia	484
	Y.H. Tapilatu	
263	Sweet Potato Production for Bio-Ethanol and Food Related Industry in Indonesia: Challenges for Sustainability	493
	Y. Widodo, S. Wahyuningsih, A. Ueda	
270	Peroxidase Enzyme Activity of Rhizobacteria-introduced Shallots Bulbs to Induce Resistance of Shallot towards Bacterial Leaf Blight (<i>Xanthomonas Axonopodis</i> pv <i>Allii</i>)	501
277	Y. Yanti	
	Partial Oxidation of Methane to Methanol over Heterogeneous Catalyst Co/ZSM-5	508
285	Y.K. Krisnandi, B.A.P. Putra, M. Bahtiar, Zahara, I. Abdullah, R.F. Howe	
295		
301		
308		
316		
326		
334		
343		
353		
361		
367		
373		
381		
387		
394	J.U. Dy Liacco	



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Preliminary Evaluation of the Pigments Content from *Rhodobacter sphaeroides* at Stages during Photosynthetic Growth

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Abstract

Under photosynthetic growth, purple non-sulfur photosynthetic bacterium *Rhodobacter sphaeroides* can use a diverse array of substrates for the source of carbon donor. Substrates such as acetate and succinate are most commonly used to study energetic and metabolic networks, especially in the production and consumption of NADPH during the citric acid cycle (TCA cycle) and ethylmalonyl-CoA pathway, respectively. Although the utilization of both substrate, the bacterium will grow at different growth rate and this also influence the biosynthesis of photosynthetic pigments as important components for overall photosynthesis. For this study, *Rhodobacter sphaeroides* strain 2.4.1, GA and G1C have been grown in acetate and succinate. Here, preliminary results on the evaluation the pigment ratio at different stages of the growth is reported, especially on the growth in succinate substrate.

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Keywords: Bacteriochlorophylls; carotenoids; pigment ratio; *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*.

Nomenclature

LH	light-harvesting complexes	EM-CoA	ethylmalonyl-Coenzyme A
RC-LH	core complexes	Cars	carotenoids
Bchl	bacteriochlorophylls	NADPH	nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate

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1. Introduction

R. sphaeroides is a purple photosynthetic bacterium, which can grow under several condition, such as aerobic and anaerobic respiration, fermentation, and also anoxygenic photosynthesis¹. Several group of carbon sources have been determined to be the most utilized carbon in the growth of *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*. D-glucose is one of the carbon sources used by *R. sphaeroides* to support the growth due to the ability to produce NADPH through assistance from glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase enzyme based on glycolysis pathway. Other example of carbon source is acetate which requires anabolic process to convert acetate into ethylmalonyl-CoA in Em-CoA pathway. This process also involves the consumption of NADPH. Thus, it takes time to increase optical density of the cells. The third group of carbon source is succinate which is able to enter TCA cycle and make the cells have a rapid growth compared to cells grown in acetate¹. On the other hand, *R. sphaeroides* is able to produce high amount of fatty acid photopigments and other components of the photosynthetic apparatus².

Under anaerobic condition, cytoplasmic membrane of *R. sphaeroides* undergoes changes where invagination process occurred and developing intracytoplasmic membrane system, which is also known as chromatophore. The intracytoplasmic membrane is physically continuous with cytoplasmic membrane but both of them performing the different functions and structures. In these resulting specialized domains, containing the pigments and proteins that are essential for light reaction of photosynthesis. Basically, chromatophore is light-reflecting organelles that can be found in the membrane of photosynthetic microorganisms, which can absorb light energy by using light-absorbing antenna complexes. For some organisms, there are two types of antenna complexes in the chromatophore, which are known as light harvesting complex 1 (LH1) and 2 (LH2)³. In the last 25 years, the antenna system from this group of bacteria has been studied extensively and perhaps the best-analyzed antenna complex is LH2.

R. sphaeroides contains two antenna complexes which absorb at different wavelengths. The LH1 complex is one antenna complex, which exists as an integral membrane pigment-protein complex. They form a ring that physically surrounding the reaction center, presenting RC-LH1 complex. From the intact bacterial cell of *R. sphaeroides*, exhibits an intense band at ~875 nm. A single subunit of LH1 is consisting of a pair of α and β protein subunits. It also contains two bacteriochlorophyll (bchl) molecules which have an absorbance value at around 820 nm. However, there is a shifting of absorbance band to ~875 nm which representing the aggregation of subunits forming the intact LH1, these are known as B875 pigments.

LH2 integral membrane antenna complex in purple photosynthetic bacteria is similar but clearly distinct to LH1. Bacteriochlorophyll pigments in LH2 exhibit spectrally different compared to those from LH1. There are two well separated absorption bands which centered at around 800 nm and 850 nm, referring to B800 and B850 pigments. For B800 pigments, the bacteriochlorophyll exist in monomeric form and forming a ring that parallel to the plane of the membrane that the complex embedded in, while for the B850 pigments, each subunit consists of two bacteriochlorophylls, in the form of arrangement of coupled dimer.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Isolation of bacterial membrane

Three different strains of *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*, namely *R. sphaeroides* 2.4.1, Ga, and G1C were incubated at room temperature, 2 500 lux (1 lux = 1 $\text{lm} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$) under anaerobic condition in four rectangular bottles respectively which containing succinate medium⁴ with sodium succinate ($\text{C}_4\text{H}_4\text{Na}_2\text{O}_4$) or sodium acetate (CH_3COONa) as carbon source. The bacterial cultures which have achieved initial log phase and late log phase were harvested respectively by centrifugation at 6 000 rpm (60 rpm = 1 hertz) for 10 min at 4 °C after 3 d to 4 d and 5 d to 7 d after inoculation. The harvested bacterial cells were resuspended well with 20 mM of Tris HCl (pH 8.0) buffer, and disrupted by using a sonicator for 10 min. Then, the bacterial membrane which is in the pellet form of each strain of *R. sphaeroides* were collected by carrying out centrifugation at 11 500 rpm for 15 min at 4 °C.

2.2. Pigment extraction

For pigment extraction experiment. Solvent extraction. Three mL of solvent extraction process was carried out.

2.3. Determination

The electronic spectra were measured using a Spectrophotometer. The samples were diluted with 4.5 mL of solvent and were subjected to measurement.

Pigment ratio was determined by carried out by using the stationary phase method. The solution (0.25 M) was diluted with 60 : 20 v / v / v pyridine solution. The solution was added with milli-Q (Millipore) until the pH was adjusted to 7.0. The solution of 0.25 M. All pigments were extracted with methanol and acetone. The equipment dwell time was 10 min.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Growth and optical density

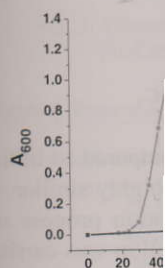


Fig.1.

In order to compare the growth of the three strains, the optical density was measured. The results showed that all three strains supported photosynthesis. The growth of all three strains was comparable to the control strain before log phase.

2.2. Pigment extraction

For pigment extraction, 0.1 g of bacterial membranes was taken. Rapid extraction was carried out in this experiment. Solvent used to extract pigment is acetone-methanol which was prepared in 7 : 3 (v / v) proportions. Three mL of solvent was added to bacterial membrane sample and vortex for 2 min in a conical tube. Extraction process was carried out at room temperature under green light condition.

2.3. Determination of pigment ratio

The electronic absorbance spectra of the pigment component were recorded, at room temperature, by using a Spectrophotometer UV-Vis-NIR (UV1700–Shimadzu). Sample was prepared in 1 : 10 ratio (0.5 ml of sample diluted with 4.5 ml of solvent). The crude pigments extracted from both initial and late log phases of *R. sphaeroides* were subjected to HPLC analysis.

Pigment ratio was determined using HPLC equipped with photodiode array detector. Analytical separations were carried out by using a Waters Symmetry C₈ COLUMN (150 mm × 4.6 mm, 3.5 μm particle size, 100 Å pore size) as the stationary phase. While for the mobile phases, eluent A was a mixture of methanol:acetonitrile: aqueous pyridine solution (0.25 M pyridine) (50 : 25 : 25 v / v / v) while eluent B was mixture of methanol:acetonitrile:acetone (20 : 60 : 20 v / v / v). Organic solvent that was employed to prepare mobile phases were HPLC-grade. The aqueous pyridine solution (0.25 M) was prepared by 10 mL of acetic acid and 20 mL of pyridine were added to 900 mL of milli-Q (Millipore) water in a 1 L flask and mixed by using a magnetic stirrer. Acetic acid was then added dropwise until the pH was 5.0. The mixture was diluted to 100 mL with distilled water to achieve final pyridine concentration of 0.25 M. All procedures were carried out in a fume hood. The pyridine solution was filtered after mixing with methanol and acetonitrile (eluent A). Different gradient profiles were adjusted for minimizing differences of equipment dwell volume. The flow rate was fixed at 1 mL · min^{-1.5}.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Growth analysis

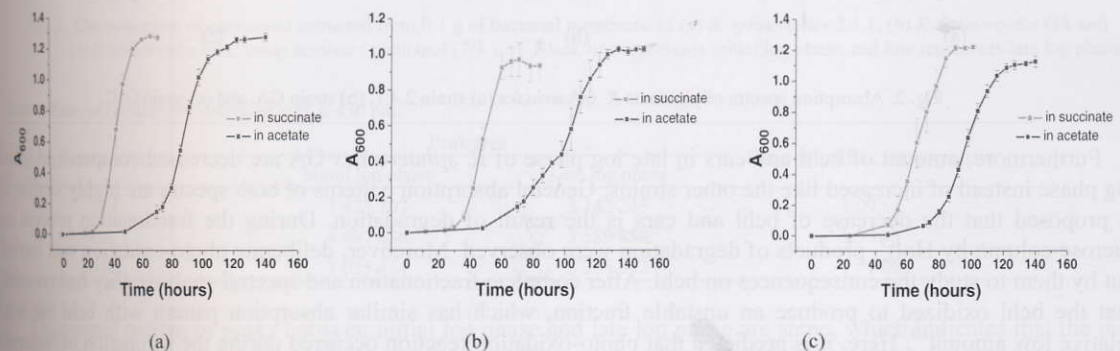


Fig.1. Growth curves of *R. sphaeroides* strain (a) 2.4.1., (b) GA, (c) G1C with succinate and acetate as carbon sources

In order to extract pigment from bacteria of different growth phases, growth analysis was carried out to generate comparable growth curves for both carbon sources. Acetate and succinate are carbon sources that capable of supporting photosynthetic growth of *R. sphaeroides* along with some differences on metabolic activity. Growth of all three strains of *R. sphaeroides* when using acetate as carbon source, were significantly impaired (Figure 1) compared to those which were cultured with succinate as carbon source. A long lag phase was exhibited by every strain before log phase started. It is because growth of *R. sphaeroides* on acetate occurred via the ethylmalonyl-CoA

(EM-CoA) pathway. In this metabolic pathway, longer time is needed for acetate to be converted into succinyl-CoA and condensed with glyoxylate, which is the EM-CoA pathway product^{6,7}, resulting in formation of malate before entering tricarboxylic cycle (TCA cycle). It should be noted, however, there is shorter lag phase before growth commenced. Succinate is able to directly enter the TCA cycle without passing through EM-CoA cycle.

3.2. Absorption spectra

By referring to growth curves from Figure 1 as comparable data, crude pigment was extracted from bacterial culture with succinate as carbon source at both initial log and late log phases by using solvent acetone:methanol (7 : 3 v / v). Figure 2 shows the electronic absorption spectra of extracted crude pigments from three strains of *R. sphaeroides* respectively. Their Q_y absorptions appear at same wavelength 770 nm, which represents the bchl while their carotenoids (cars) absorb at different wavelength ranging from 400 nm to 500 nm.

Amount of bchl and cars are found to be higher in late log phase. Figure 2 shows an evident that the quantity of bchl and cars produced increases as cell density is increased from initial log phase to late log phase⁸. However, it should be noted that the increasing of bchl is not significant because of shading effect occurred during the bacterial growth. The shading effect is the result due to the increasing cell densities, thus reduce the effectiveness of the light intensity. It is predicted that the ability of bacteria to develop chromatophore is reduced when the effectiveness of light intensity is also reduced and repressed both of the amount of intracytoplasmic membrane synthesized and pigment produced¹.

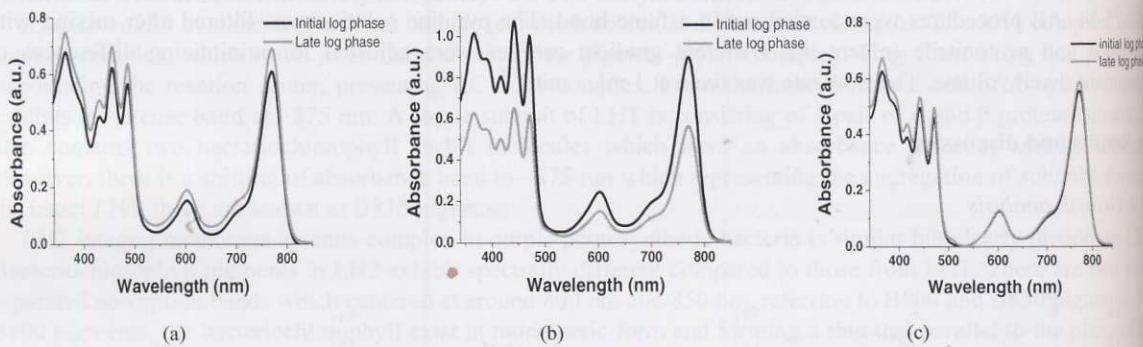


Fig. 2. Absorption spectra of pigments *R. sphaeroides* (a) strain 2.4.1, (b) strain GA, and (c) strain GIC

Furthermore, amount of bchl and cars in late log phase of *R. sphaeroides* GA are decreased compared to initial log phase instead of increased like the other strains. General absorption patterns of both spectra are highly similar. It is proposed that the decrease of bchl and cars is the result of degradation. During the fractionation process on sucrose column by Holt⁹, products of degradation were observed. Moreover, deliberate photo-oxidation was carried out by them to study the consequences on bchl. After complete fractionation and spectral analysis, they had revealed that the bchl oxidized to produce an unstable fraction, which has similar absorption pattern with bchl but in a relative low amount¹⁰. Here, it is predicted that photo-oxidation reaction occurred during the incubation of bacterial cultures and resulting the decrease in amount of bchl. Over exposure to light during incubation of bacterial cultures will speed up the degradation process of pigments. It is predicted that the pigment from *R. sphaeroides* GA is less stable compared to the other two strains.

3.3. Determination of pigment ratio

To determine pigment ratio present in initial log and late log phase, crude pigments were extracted from individual cells harvested at different growth phases as described. Pigments isolated from the individual strains were analyzed by HPLC (Figure 3).

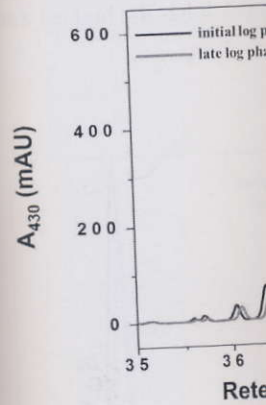


Fig. 3. Chromatogram of carotenoids from *R. sphaeroides* (a) strain 2.4.1, (b) strain GA, and (c) strain GIC

Table 1. Ratio of carotenoids, de

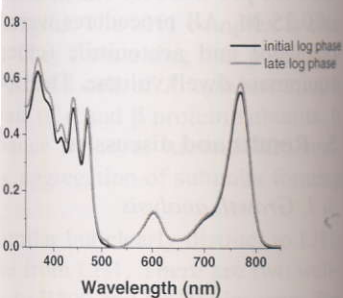
<i>R. sphaeroides</i> strains	
2.4.1	
GA	
GIC	

The general pattern of composition of carotenoids (min, 38.62 min). Peak of *R. sphaeroides* 2.4.1 and late log phase, although slight shift in pigment peaks. Small peaks were observed. According to the HPLC results, the late log phase, except in *R.*

to be converted into succinyl-CoA in formation of malate before shorter lag phase before growth through EM-CoA cycle.

ment was extracted from bacterial using solvent acetone:methanol. The pigments from three strains of 70 nm, which represents the bchl to 500 nm.

shows an evident that the quantity of carotenoids decreased from initial log phase to late log phase⁸. However, it was observed that the effect occurred during the bacterial growth phase, which reduced the effectiveness of the light energy when the effectiveness of photosynthetic membrane synthesized and



(c)

GA, and (c) strain G1C

are decreased compared to initial log phase. Both spectra are highly similar. During the fractionation process on HPLC, separate photo-oxidation was carried out. Spectral analysis, they had revealed the absorption pattern with bchl but in a different pattern during the incubation of bacterial culture. The amount of carotenoids during incubation of bacterial culture from *R. sphaeroides* GA is less

The pigments were extracted from the individual strains were

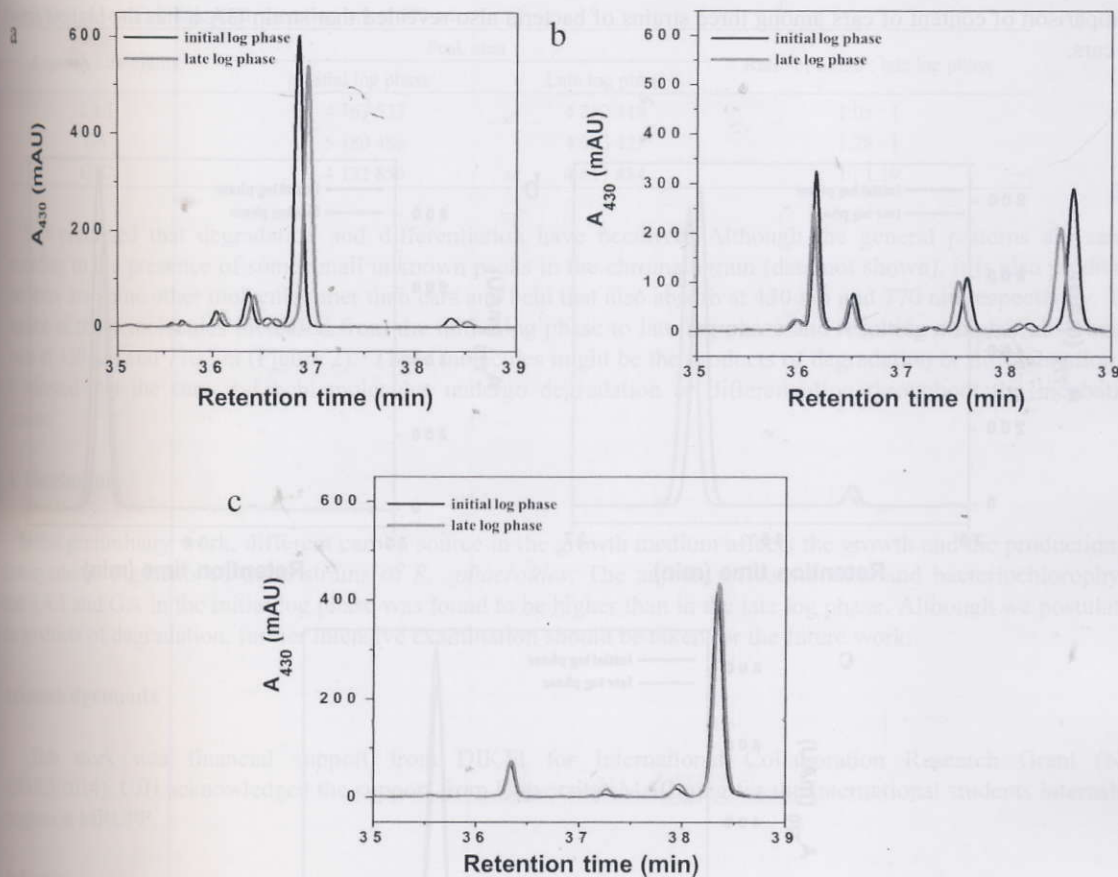


Fig. 3. Chromatogram of carotenoid extracted from 0.1 g of bacterial membrane of (a) *R. sphaeroides* 2.4.1, (b) *R. sphaeroides* GA and (c) *R. sphaeroides* G1C using acetone : methanol (7:3 v/v). Black line represents initial log phase, red line represents late log phase

Table 1. Ratio of carotenoids, detection was at 430 nm.

<i>R. sphaeroides</i> strains	Peak area		Ratio of initial : late log phase
	Initial log phase	Late log phase	
2.4.1	3 423 707	3 142 245	1.09 : 1
GA	4 697 636	3 589 859	1.39 : 1
G1C	3 025 434	3 265 852	1 : 1.08

The general pattern of peaks between initial log phase and late log phase are same, which indicates that the main composition of carotenoid has no changes. *R. sphaeroides* GA has three dominant peaks of cars (36.15 min, 37.6 min, 38.62 min). Peak appeared at 36.36 min, 36.51 min and 36.33 min represent bchl. In the other hand, *R. sphaeroides* 2.4.1 and G1C have one dominant peaks which appeared at 36.58 min and 38.34 min in initial log phase, although slight shift was obtained. However, absorption spectra of each peaks were used for identification of pigment peaks. Small peaks were not included due to unclear absorption spectra and extremely low intensity. According to the HPLC analysis data, amount of cars slightly decreased in all strains of *R. sphaeroides* during late log phase, except in *R. sphaeroides* G1C (Table 1). In addition, among all three strains of *R. sphaeroides*, the

comparison of content of bchl among three strains of bacteria also revealed that strain GA it has the highest amount of bchl.

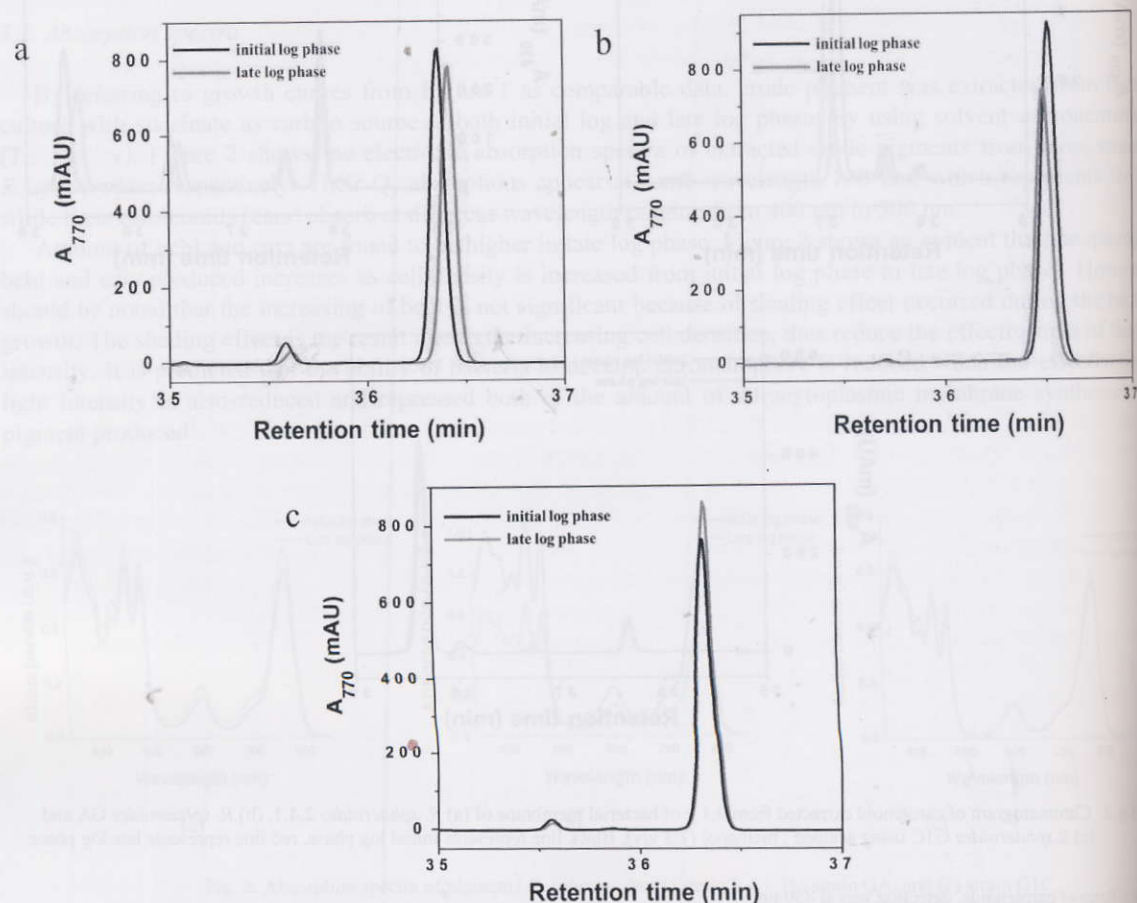


Fig. 4. Chromatogram of bacteriochlorophylls extracted from 0.1 g of bacterial membrane of (a) *R. sphaeroides* 2.4.1, (b) *R. sphaeroides* GA and (c) *R. sphaeroides* G1C using acetone : methanol (7:3 v/v). Black line represents initial log phase, red line represents late log phase

Bchl peaks of *R. sphaeroides* 2.4.1, *R. sphaeroides* GA and *R. sphaeroides* G1C appear at 36.36 min, 36.51 min and 36.33 min, respectively. The ratio of bchl of all strains also have the same general patterns as of carotenoids in both growth phases. There is slight increase of bchl in *R. sphaeroides* G1C along with an increase in cell density in late log phase. *R. sphaeroides* G1C has the highest amount of bchl at late log phase compared to other strains, while at initial log phase *R. sphaeroides* GA has the highest amount. However, there is a decrease of bchl content in *R. sphaeroides* GA and 2.4.1 and which is most likely due to photo-oxidation⁸, however, further study is required to determine the exact degradation ratio of pigment.

Table 2. Ratio of bacteriochlorophylls

Strain	Initial log phase	Late log phase
2.4.1	1.0	1.0
GA	1.0	1.0
G1C	1.0	1.0

It is predicted that according to the present study that there are some differences in the amount of those pigments in the late log phase value at 430 nm and 450 nm. It is believed that the process of pigment synthesis is a continuous process.

4. Conclusion

In this preliminary study, the synthesis of bacteriochlorophylls in photosynthetic pigments from 2.4.1 and GA strains was compared. The products of degradation of bacteriochlorophylls were also studied.

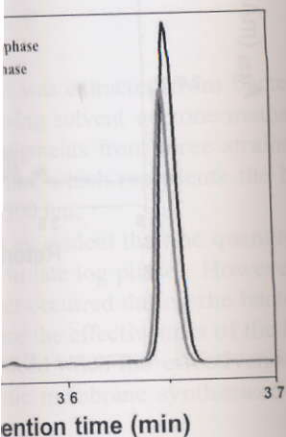
Acknowledgement

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Table 2. Ratio of bacteriochlorophyll, detection was at 770 nm.

<i>R. sphaeroides</i> strains	Peak area		Ratio of initial : late log phase
	Initial log phase	Late log phase	
2.4.1	4 467 533	4 252 118	1.05 : 1
GA	5 180 486	4 053 425	1.28 : 1
GIC	4 122 859	4 611 884	1 : 1.19

It is predicted that degradation and differentiation have occurred. Although the general patterns are same, according to the presence of some small unknown peaks in the chromatogram (data not shown), it is also predicted that there are some other molecule other than cars and bchl that also absorb at 430 nm and 770 nm respectively. The amount of those molecules increased from the initial log phase to late log phase and resulting a higher absorbance value at 430 nm and 770 nm (Figure 2). These molecules might be the products of degradation or differentiation. It is believed that the cars and bchl molecules undergo degradation or differentiation throughout the incubation process.

4. Conclusion

In this preliminary work, different carbon source in the growth medium affects the growth and the production of photosynthetic pigments of three strains of *R. sphaeroides*. The amount of carotenoids and bacteriochlorophylls from 2.4.1 and GA in the initial log phase was found to be higher than in the late log phase. Although we postulated the products of degradation, further intensive examination should be taken for the future work.

Acknowledgements

This work was financial support from DIKTI for International Collaboration Research Grant (No. 0263/E5/2014). CJH acknowledged the support from Universitas Ma Chung for the international students internship program at MRCPP.

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Preliminary Evaluation of the Pigments Content from *Rhodobacter sphaeroides* at Stages during Photosynthetic Growth

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Tatas Hardo Panintingjati Brotosudarmo^{b*}

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Abstract

Under photosynthetic growth, purple non-sulfur photosynthetic bacterium *Rhodobacter sphaeroides* can use a diverse array of substrates for the source of carbon donor. Substrates such as acetate and succinate are most commonly used to study energetic and metabolic networks, especially in the production and consummation of NADPH during the citric acid cycle (TCA cycle) and ethylmalonyl-CoA pathway, respectively. Although the utilization of both substrate, the bacterium will grow at different growth rate and this also influence the biosynthesis of photosynthetic pigments as important components for overall photosynthesis. For this study, *Rhodobacter sphaeroides* strain 2.4.1, GA and G1C have been grown in acetate and succinate. Here, preliminary results on the evaluation the pigment ratio at different stages of the growth is reported, especially on the growth in succinate substrate.

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Keywords: Bacteriochlorophylls; carotenoids; pigment ratio; *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*.

Nomenclature

LH	light-harvesting complexes	EM-CoA	ethylmalonyl-Coenzyme A
RC-LH	core complexes	Cars	carotenoids
Bchl	bacteriochlorophylls	NADPH	nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate

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1. Introduction

R. sphaeroides is a purple photosynthetic bacterium, which can grow under several condition, such as aerobic and anaerobic respiration, fermentation, and also anoxygenic photosynthesis¹. Several group of carbon sources have been determined to be the most utilized carbon in the growth of *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*. D–glucose is one of the carbon sources used by *R. sphaeroides* to support the growth due to the ability to produce NADPH through assistance from glucose–6–phosphate dehydrogenase enzyme based on glycolysis pathway. Other example of carbon source is acetate which requires anabolic process to convert acetate into ethylmalonyl–CoA in Em–CoA pathway. This process also involves the consumption of NADPH. Thus, it takes time to increase optical density of the cells. The third group of carbon source is succinate which is able to enter TCA cycle and make the cells have a rapid growth as compared to cells grown in acetate¹. On the other hand, *R. sphaeroides* is able to produce high amount of fatty acids, photopigments and other components of the photosynthetic apparatus².

Under anaerobic condition, cytoplasmic membrane of *R. sphaeroides* undergoes changes where invagination process occurred and developing intracytoplasmic membrane system, which is also known as chromatophore. The intracytoplasmic membrane is physically continuous with cytoplasmic membrane but both of them performing the different functions and structures. In these resulting specialized domains, containing the pigments and proteins that are essential for light reaction of photosynthesis. Basically, chromatophore is light–reflecting organelles that can be found in the membrane of photosynthetic microorganisms, which can absorb light energy by using light–absorbing antenna complexes. For some organisms, there are two types of antenna complexes in the chromatophore, which are known as light harvesting complex 1 (LH1) and 2 (LH2)³. In the last 25 years, the antenna system from this group of bacteria has been studied extensively and perhaps the best-analyzed antenna complex is LH2.

R. sphaeroides contains two antenna complexes which absorb at different wavelengths. The LH1 complex is core antenna complex, which exists as an integral membrane pigment-protein complex. They form a ring that physically surrounding the reaction center, presenting RC–LH1 complex. From the intact bacterial cell of *R. sphaeroides*, it exhibits an intense band at ~875 nm. A single subunit of LH1 is consisting of a pair of α and β protein subunits. It also contains two bacteriochlorophyll (bchl) molecules which have an absorbance value at around 820 nm⁴. However, there is a shifting of absorbance band to ~875 nm which representing the aggregation of subunits forming the intact LH1, these are known as B875 pigments

LH2 integral membrane antenna complex in purple photosynthetic bacteria is similar but clearly distinct to LH1. Bacteriochlorophyll pigments in LH2 exhibit spectrally different compared to those from LH1. There are two well-separated absorption bands which centered at around 800 nm and 850 nm, referring to B800 and B850 pigments. For B800 pigments, the bacteriochlorophyll exist in monomeric form and forming a ring that parallel to the plane of the membrane that the complex embedded in, while for the B850 pigments, each subunit consists of two bacteriochlorophylls, in the form of arrangement of coupled dimer.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Isolation of bacterial membrane

Three different strains of *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*, namely *R. sphaeroides* 2.4.1, Ga, and G1C were incubated at room temperature, 2 500 lux ($1 \text{ lux} = 1 \text{ lm} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$) under anaerobic condition in four rectangular bottles respectively which containing succinate medium⁴ with sodium succinate ($\text{C}_4\text{H}_4\text{Na}_2\text{O}_4$) or sodium acetate (CH_3COONa) as carbon source. The bacterial cultures which have achieved initial log phase and late log phase were harvested respectively by centrifugation at 6 000 rpm (60 rpm = 1 hertz) for 10 min at 4 °C after 3 d to 4 d and 5 d to 7 d after inoculation. The harvested bacterial cells were resuspended well with 20 mM of Tris HCl (pH 8.0) buffer, and disrupted by using a sonicator for 10 min. Then, the bacterial membrane which is in the pellet form of each strain of *R. sphaeroides* was collected by carrying out centrifugation at 11 500 rpm for 15 min at 4 °C.

2.2. Pigment extraction

For pigment extraction, 0.1 g of bacterial membranes was taken. Rapid extraction was carried out in this experiment. Solvent used to extract pigment is acetone-methanol which was prepared in 7 : 3 (v / v) proportions. Three mL of solvent was added to bacterial membrane sample and vortex for 2 min in a conical tube. Extraction process was carried out at room temperature under green light condition.

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The electronic absorbance spectra of the pigment component were recorded, at room temperature, by using a Spectrophotometer UV-Vis-NIR (UV1700–Shimadzu). Sample was prepared in 1 : 10 ratio (0.5 ml of sample diluted with 4.5 ml of solvent). The crude pigments extracted from both initial and late log phases of *R. sphaeroides* were subjected to HPLC analysis.

Pigment ratio was determined using HPLC equipped with photodiode array detector. Analytical separations were carried out by using a Waters Symmetry C₈ COLUMN (150 mm × 4.6 mm, 3.5 μm particle size, 100 Å pore size) as the stationary phase. While for the mobile phases, eluent A was a mixture of methanol:acetonitrile: aqueous pyridine solution (0.25 M pyridine) (50 : 25 : 25 v / v / v) while eluent B was mixture of methanol:acetonitrile:acetone (20 : 60 : 20 v / v / v). Organic solvent that was employed to prepare mobile phases were HPLC-grade. The aqueous pyridine solution (0.25 M) was prepared by 10 mL of acetic acid and 20 mL of pyridine were added to 900 mL of milli-Q (Millipore) water in a 1 L flask and mixed by using a magnetic stirrer. Acetic acid was then added dropwise until the pH was 5.0. The mixture was diluted to 100 mL with distilled water to achieve final pyridine concentration of 0.25 M. All procedures were carried out in a fume hood. The pyridine solution was filtered after mixing with methanol and acetonitrile (eluent A). Different gradient profiles were adjusted for minimizing differences of equipment dwell volume. The flow rate was fixed at 1 mL · min⁻¹.

3. Results and discussion

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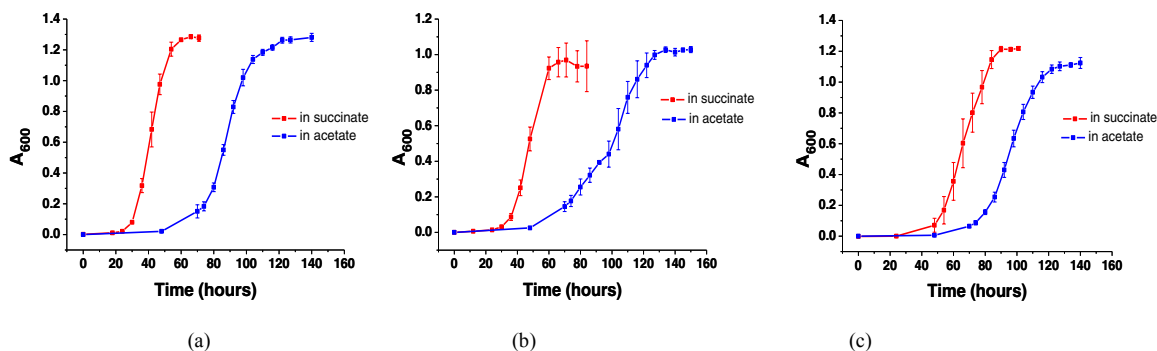


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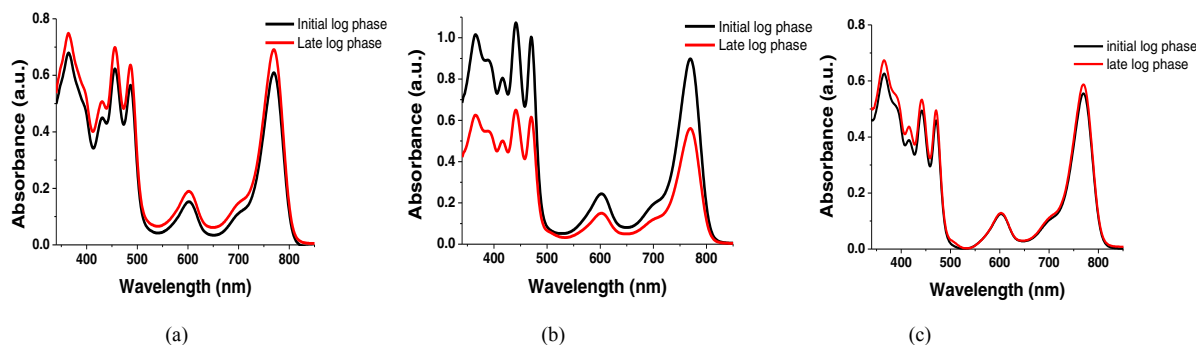


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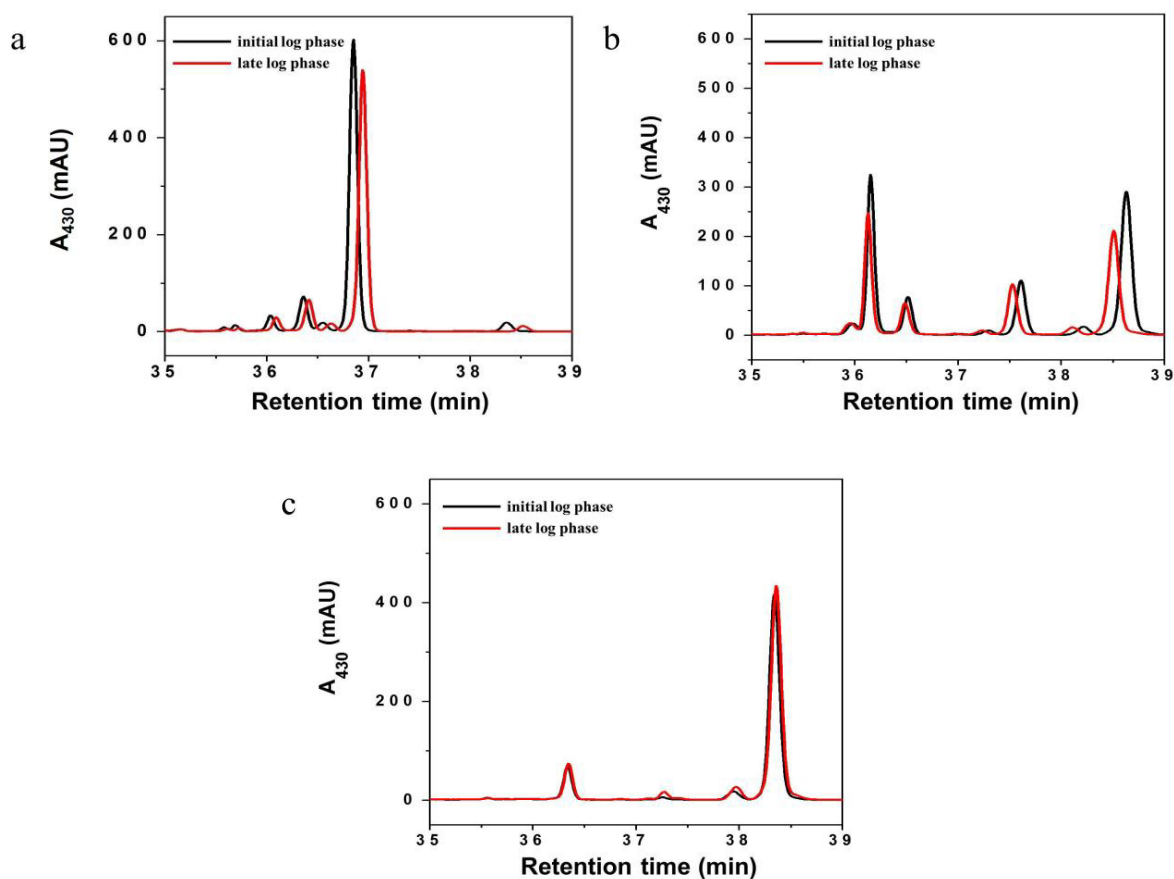


Fig. 3. Chromatogram of carotenoid extracted from 0.1 g of bacterial membrane of (a) *R. sphaeroides* 2.4.1, (b) *R. sphaeroides* GA and (c) *R. sphaeroides* G1C using acetone : methanol (7:3 v/v). Black line represents initial log phase, red line represents late log phase

Table 1. Ratio of carotenoids, detection was at 430 nm.

<i>R. sphaeroides</i> strains	Peak area		Ratio of initial : late log phase
	Initial log phase	Late log phase	
2.4.1	3 423 707	3 142 245	1.09 : 1
GA	4 697 636	3 589 859	1.39 : 1
G1C	3 025 434	3 265 852	1 : 1.08

The general pattern of peaks between initial log phase and late log phase are same, which indicates that the main composition of carotenoid has no changes. *R. sphaeroides* GA has three dominant peaks of cars (36.15 min, 37.6 min, 38.62 min). Peak appeared at 36.36 min, 36.51 min and 36.33 min represent bchl. In the other hand, *R. sphaeroides* 2.4.1 and G1C have one dominant peaks which appeared at 36.58 min and 38.34 min in initial log phase, although slight shift was obtained. However, absorption spectra of each peaks were used for identification of pigment peaks. Small peaks were not included due to unclear absorption spectra and extremely low intensity. According to the HPLC analysis data, amount of cars slightly decreased in all strains of *R. sphaeroides* during late log phase, except in *R. sphaeroides* G1C (Table 1). In addition, among all three strains of *R. sphaeroides*, the

comparison of content of cars among three strains of bacteria also revealed that strain GA it has the highest amount of cars.

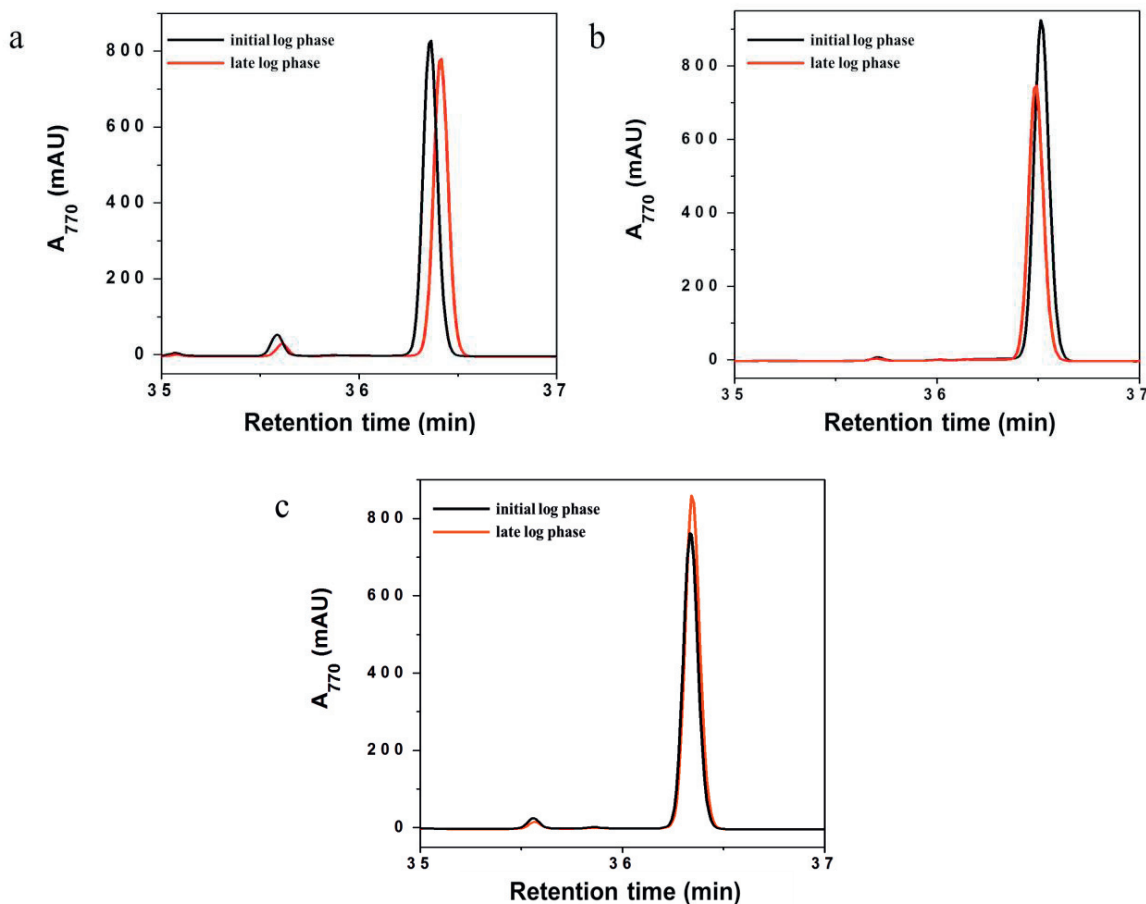


Fig. 4. Chromatogram of bacteriochlorophylls extracted from 0.1 g of bacterial membrane of (a) *R. sphaeroides* 2.4.1, (b) *R. sphaeroides* GA and (c) *R. sphaeroides* G1C using acetone : methanol (7:3 v/v). Black line represents initial log phase, red line represents late log phase

Bchl peaks of *R. sphaeroides* 2.4.1, *R. sphaeroides* GA and *R. sphaeroides* G1C appear at 36.36 min, 36.51 min and 36.33 min, respectively. The ratio of bchl of all strains also have the same general patterns as of carotenoids for both growth phases. There is slight increase of bchl in *R. sphaeroides* G1C along with an increase in cell density in late log phase. *R. sphaeroides* G1C has the highest amount of bchl at late log phase compared to other strains, while at initial log phase *R. sphaeroides* GA has the highest amount. However, there is a decrease of bchl content in *R. sphaeroides* GA and 2.4.1 and which is most likely due to photo-oxidation⁸, however, further study is required to determine the exact degradation ratio of pigment.

Table 2. Ratio of bacteriochlorophyll, detection was at 770 nm.

<i>R. sphaeroides</i> strains	Peak area		Ratio of initial : late log phase
	Initial log phase	Late log phase	
2.4.1	4 467 533	4 252 118	1.05 : 1
GA	5 180 486	4 053 425	1.28 : 1
GIC	4 122 859	4 611 884	1 : 1.19

It is predicted that degradation and differentiation have occurred. Although the general patterns are same, according to the presence of some small unknown peaks in the chromatogram (data not shown), it is also predicted that there are some other molecule other than cars and bchl that also absorb at 430 nm and 770 nm respectively. The amount of those molecules increased from the initial log phase to late log phase and resulting a higher absorbance value at 430 nm and 770 nm (Figure 2). These molecules might be the products of degradation or differentiation. It is believed that the cars and bchl molecules undergo degradation or differentiation throughout the incubation process.

4. Conclusion

In this preliminary work, different carbon source in the growth medium affects the growth and the production of photosynthetic pigments of three strains of *R. sphaeroides*. The amount of carotenoids and bacteriochlorophylls from 2.4.1 and GA in the initial log phase was found to be higher than in the late log phase. Although we postulated the products of degradation, further intensive examination should be taken for the future work.

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