

LANDFILL METHANE OXIDATION USING BIOCOVER
UNDER LABORATORY CONDITIONS

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ABSTRACT

Generation of waste continues to increase in response to rapid population growth. An estimated 10 million tonnes of total waste was produced in 2008 in Malaysia which was sent to 260 landfills. Malaysian landfills produce 1.3-7.5 L/kg/year of methane gas. Landfill gas consists mainly of methane (55%). CH₄ is recognized as the primary global warming contributor with CH₄ being 25 times more infrared absorptive capacity than CO₂. Using “Biocover” at landfills is one option for methane oxidation. Objective of this study is to analyze the physical and chemical characteristic of the Biocover material (garden waste compost and black soil) in order to propose suitable landfill covers for methane oxidation under tropical conditions. Batch incubation experiments using Wheaton bottles showed that garden waste compost was the best Biocover material because it took only 4 days for complete methane oxidation compared to black soil, which took 7 days. Meanwhile Wheaton bottle experiments using 3 different parameters (temperature, moisture content and pH) also demonstrated that compost was still the best material for Biocover. In addition to that, the optimum conditions for both Biocover materials used in this study was at 35°C, with 60% moisture content and pH 6. Biocover Performance Index (BPI) obtained for compost ($2.08 \times 10^{-3} \mu\text{gg}^{-1}\text{h}^{-1}$) was higher than that for black soil ($1.19 \times 10^{-3} \mu\text{gg}^{-1}\text{h}^{-1}$). Meanwhile the R_p (potential oxidation rate) value for compost (17.036 mL/d) was almost double the value for black soil (10.806 mL/d). This clearly indicates that garden waste compost was the most effective and suitable Biocover material for methane oxidation under tropical conditions.

ABSTRAK

Penjanaan sisa terus meningkat disebabkan pertumbuhan penduduk yang pesat. Dianggarkan 10 juta tan sisa jumlah telah dihasilkan pada tahun 2008 di Malaysia yang telah dihantar ke 260 tapak pelupusan. Tapak pelupusan Malaysia menghasilkan 1.3-7.5 L/kg/tahun gas metana. Gas tapak pelupusan terdiri terutamanya metana (55%). CH₄ diiktiraf sebagai penyumbang utama pemanasan global dengan CH₄ 25 kali lebih banyak kapasiti menyerap inframerah daripada CO₂. Penggunaan "Biocover" di tapak pelupusan adalah salah satu pilihan untuk pengoksidaan metana. Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk menganalisis ciri-ciri fizikal dan kimia bahan Biocover (kompos sisa taman dan tanah hitam) untuk mencadangkan bahan Biocover yang sesuai untuk pengoksidaan metana di bawah keadaan iklim tropika. Eksperimen yang menggunakan botol Wheaton menunjukkan bahawa kompos sisa taman ialah Biocover terbaik kerana ia mengambil masa hanya 4 hari untuk pengoksidaan metana yang lengkap berbanding dengan tanah hitam, yang mengambil masa 7 hari. Sementara itu, uji kaji botol Wheaton menggunakan 3 parameter yang berbeza (suhu, kandungan kelembapan dan pH) juga menunjukkan bahawa kompos adalah masih bahan terbaik untuk Biocover. Di samping itu, syarat-syarat yang optimum bagi kedua-dua bahan Biocover yang digunakan dalam kajian ini adalah pada 35°C, dengan 60% kandungan kelembapan dan pH 6. Biocover Performance Index (BPI) yang diperolehi untuk kompos ($2.08 \times 10^{-3} \mu\text{gg}^{-1}\text{h}^{-1}$) adalah lebih tinggi daripada untuk tanah hitam ($1.19 \times 10^{-3} \mu\text{gg}^{-1}\text{h}^{-1}$) Sementara itu, Rp (potensi pengoksidaan kadar) nilai untuk kompos (17,036 mL/d) hampir dua kali ganda nilai bagi tanah hitam (10,806 mL/d). Ini jelas menunjukkan bahawa kompos sisa taman ialah Biocover yang paling berkesan dan sesuai untuk pengoksidaan metana di bawah keadaan iklim tropika.

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CONTENTS

Abstract	ii
Abstrak	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Contents	v
List of Figures	ix
List of Tables	xi
List of Plates	xi
List of Symbols and Abbreviations	xii

CHAPTER 1.0: INTRODUCTION

1.1	Waste	1
1.2	Landfill Gases	2
1.3	Methane Oxidation	4
1.4	Biocover	6
1.5	Problem Statement	7
1.6	Objective of Study	7

CHAPTER 2.0: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	Introduction	8	
2.2	Waste	8	
2.3	Solid waste generation and characteristics		
	2.3.1	Malaysia	9
	2.3.2	Global	11
2.4	Solid Waste Management Practice	14	
	2.4.1	Malaysia	14

2.4.1.1	National Strategic Plan for Solid Waste	
	Minimization 2005	17
2.4.1.2	National Policy on Solid Waste	17
	Management 2006	
2.4.1.3	Solid Waste & Public Cleansing Management	18
	Act 2007 and Solid Waste & Public Cleansing	
	Corporation Act 2007	
2.4.2	Global	18
2.5	Landfill as disposal method	20
2.6	Landfill outputs	21
2.7	Landfill gas emissions	22
	2.7.1 LFG Production	25
	2.7.2 LFG Composition	27
	2.7.3 LFG generation process	28
2.8	Landfill CH ₄ mass balance and controlling processes and factors	30
2.9	LFG usage	
	2.9.1 Landfill gas for Vehicle Fuel	31
	2.9.2 Electrical Power Generation	31
	2.9.3 Boilers and other direct combustion applications	32
2.10	Environmental impacts of landfill	
	2.10.1 Greenhouse effects/ Global Warming	32
	2.10.2 Ozone depletion	34
	2.10.3 Toxic VOCs in air	34
	2.10.4 Odour	34
	2.10.5 Explosion and Fire Hazards	34

2.10.6	Vegetation Damage	35
2.11	Methanotrophs Activity	35
2.12	Methanotrophs bacteria	37
2.13	Factors affecting methanotrophs bacteria	39
2.13.1	Temperature	39
2.13.2	Moisture content	41
2.13.3	pH and alkalinity	43
2.13.4	Oxygen supply	45
2.14	Landfill Cover	45
2.15	Compost as landfill cover	49
2.16	Methane oxidation	53
2.17	Kinetics of Landfill gases	56
2.18	Biocover Performance Index	60
2.19	Literature Review Conclusion	61
 CHAPTER 3.0: MATERIAL AND METHODS		
3.1	Experimental Materials	
3.1.1	Garden Waste Compost	62
3.1.2	Black Soil	63
3.2	Experimental Methods	
3.2.1	Experimental design	63
3.2.2	Experimental Set up	64
3.2.3	Gas Chromatography Analysis	65
3.2.4	Effects of Temperature, pH and Moisture Content	67
	Experimental Set Up	

3.3	Biocover Performance	
3.3.1	Biocover Performance Index (BPI)	70
3.3.2	Kinetics of the Methane Oxidation Process	70
CHAPTER 4.0: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION		
4.1	Properties of study Material	72
4.2	Batch Experiments	74
4.3	Wheaton bottle experiments using compost and black soil	
4.3.1	Parameter: Temperature	80
4.3.2	Parameter: Moisture Content	83
4.3.3	Parameter: pH	87
4.4	Compost Vs Black soil	90
4.5	Biocover Performance Index (BPI)	94
4.6	Kinetic Modelling	95
4.7	General Discussion	99
CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION		102
Reference		104

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1	Waste composition for Malaysia	11
Figure 2.2	MSW arisings in selected OECD countries and in China, in million tonnes per year, and MSW arisings in selected OECD countries and in China, as kg/yr/ capita.	12
Figure 2.3	Percentage of different types of MSW for different countries	13
Figure 2.4	(a) MSW generated in selected countries, and (b) contrasting waste management practice in selected countries	19
Figure 2.5	Global anthropogenic methane	24
Figure 2.6	Landfill gas composition during the five phases	27
Figure 2.7	Landfill methane mass balance	29
Figure 2.8	Major stages of waste degradation in landfills	30
Figure 2.9	The different scale of landfill affects	33
Figure 2.10	The pathway for the oxidation of methane and assimilation of formaldehyde by Methanotrophs.	38
Figure 2.11	Schematic diagram of MSW landfill containment system	47
Figure 3.1	Schematic workflow diagram for experimental set up	65
Figure 3.2	Schematic workflow diagram for temperature experimental set up	68
Figure 3.3	Schematic workflow diagram for pH experimental set up	69
Figure 4.1	Headspace Gas Composition for the Biocover material studied using Wheaton bottles.	75
Figure 4.2	Percentage of CH ₄ oxidation for Biocover materials	78
Figure 4.3	Period taken for complete CH ₄ oxidation for different temperatures using compost	81

Figure 4.4	Period taken for complete CH ₄ oxidation for different temperatures using black soil	81
Figure 4.5	Period taken for complete CH ₄ oxidation for different moisture content % using compost	84
Figure 4.6	Period taken for complete CH ₄ oxidation for different moisture content % using black soil	84
Figure 4.7	Period taken for complete CH ₄ oxidation for different pH value using compost	88
Figure 4.8	Period taken for complete CH ₄ oxidation for different pH value using black soil	88
Figure 4.9	Comparison between Compost and Black soil for different parameters used	91
Figure 4.10	Optimum Parameter for Compost and Black soil	93
Figure 4.11	CH ₄ oxidation value for compost	96
Figure 4.12	CH ₄ oxidation value for black soil	97

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1	Percentage of different types of MSW for different countries	13
Table 2.2	Number of closed disposal facilities and facilities proposed for closure in Malaysia 2008.	16
Table 2.3	Summary of maximal methane oxidation rates for landfill cover soils obtained from batch studies	21
Table 2.4	The advantages and disadvantages of using various non-soil materials for final cover.	48
Table 2.5	Summary of maximal methane oxidation rates for landfill cover soils obtained from batch studies.	58
Table 3.1	The parameters used in the study of CH ₄ oxidation in the Biocover	62
Table 3.2	Specifications and settings for GC-8A	64
Table 4.1	Properties of Biocover Materials	73
Table 4.2	Biocover Performance Index (BPI) for Biocover from batch incubation	94
Table 4.3	The kinetic constant of the kinetic model used for Wheaton bottle experiments	97
Table 5.1	Summary for the results obtained from this study	103

LIST OF PLATES

Plate 3.1	Garden Waste Compost heap	62
Plate 3.2	Black Soil	63
Plate 3.3	(a) Injecting out gas sample from Wheaton bottle	66
	(b) Injection of gas into GC	66
Plate 3.4	The Gas Chromatography model Shimadzu 8A used for the analysis	67

LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

MSW	–	Municipal Solid Waste
LFG	–	Landfill Gases
GHG	–	Greenhouse Gases
SWM	-	Solid Waste Management
COD	-	Chemical Oxygen Demand
VOC	-	Volatile Organic Compounds
CO ₂	-	Carbon dioxide
CH ₄	-	Methane
NH ₄	-	Ammonium
H ₂ S	-	Hydrogen sulphide
O ₂	-	Oxygen
H ₂ O	-	Water
C	-	Carbon
N	-	Nitrogen
NH ₃	-	Ammonia