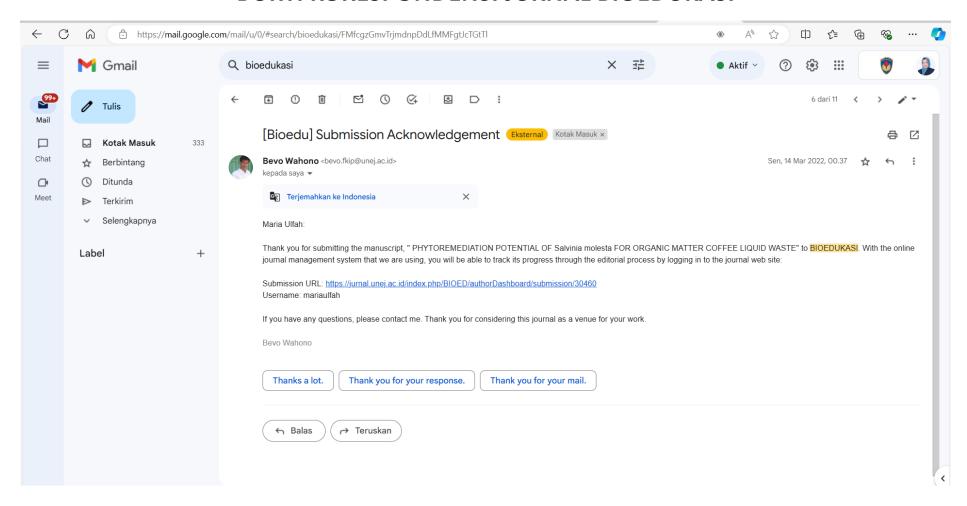
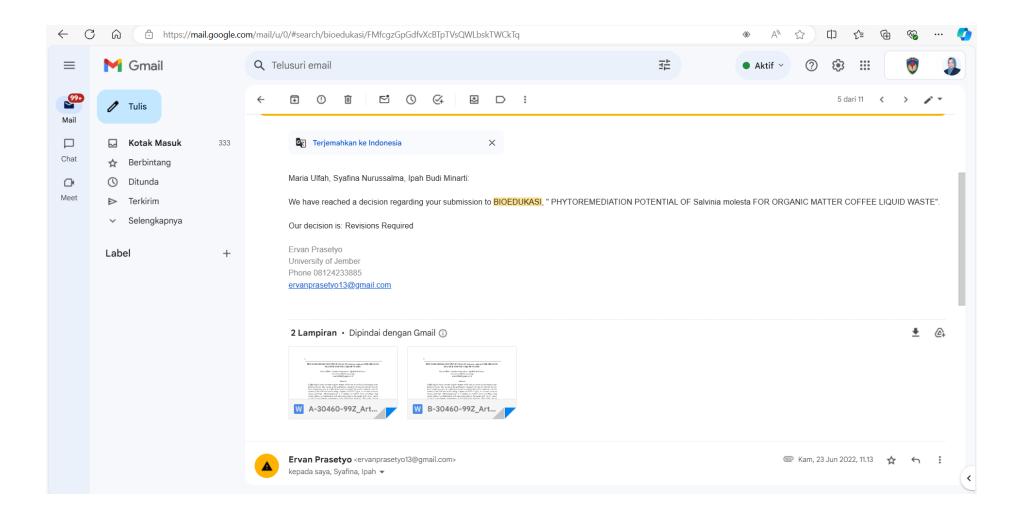
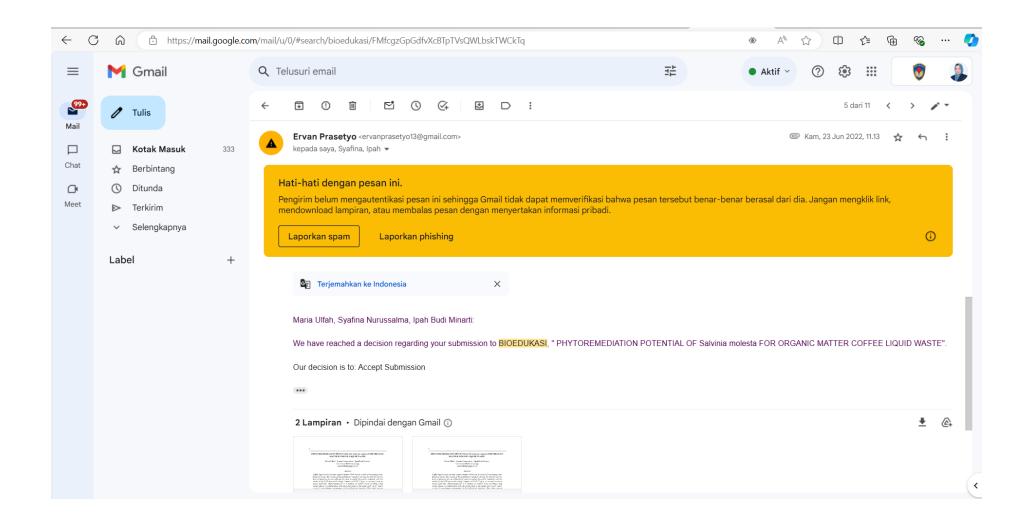
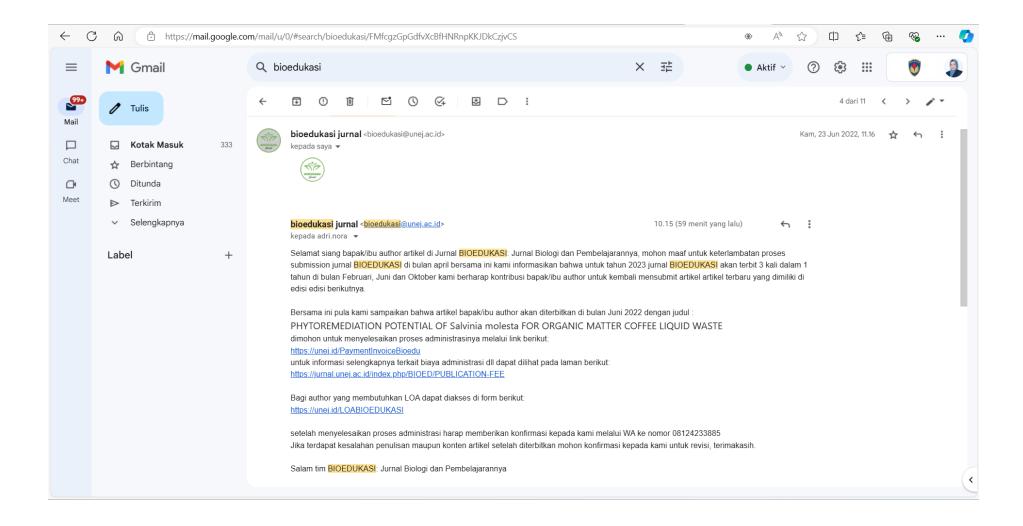
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# Effectiveness of Water Lilies (Zantedeschia ethiopica) as a Phytoremediation AgentBiological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Leachate Turbidity

#### Maria Ulfah<sup>1,</sup> Luhur Pujo Santoso <sup>1</sup>, Atip Nurwahyunani <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Biology Education, Universitas PGRI Semarang, Indonesia

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#### ABSTRACT (9)

Leachate is a black liquid with an unpleasant odor that contains organic and inorganic chemicals and many pathogenic bacteria that cause environmental pollution. One effort that can be done to deal with environmental pollution due to leachate is the phytoremediation technique. This study aims to determine the effectiveness of water lily (Zantedeschia aethiopica) as a biological oxygen demand (BOD) and leachate turbidity phytoremediation agent. This experimental study used a one factorial Completely Randomized Design (CRD) with three treatment levels (P0: without water lilies; P1: 200 gr water lilies; P2: 400 gr water lilies). Based on the results of the study, it was shown that water lily plants were able to reduce BOD levels and leachate turbidity, but the treatment had no significant effect. The most optimal percentage reduction in BOD levels occurred in treatment P1 on day 1 of the study, which was 9.2% with a final concentration of 464 mg/L; while the lowest percentage decrease in BOD levels occurred in the P0 treatment on the 7th day of the study, which was 1.56% with a final concentration of 502 mg/L. The most optimal percentage of turbidity reduction occurred in the P2 treatment on day 3 of the study, which was 96.23% with a final concentration of 6.3 NTU; while the lowest percentage of turbidity reduction occurred in the P0 treatment on day 1 of the study, which was 92.53% with a final level of 7.47 NTU. The leachate BOD content after the research still exceeds the quality standard set out in the Minister of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia No. 59 of 2016, while the turbidity level of leachate after research is by the quality standards set out in the RI Minister of Health No. 32 of 2017.

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#### Corresponding Author:

Maria Ulfah, Biology Education, Universitas PGRI Semarang Jalan Sidodadi Timur No 24, Kota Semarang Email: mariaulfah@upgris.ac.id

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Every day human activities cannot be separated from activities that can produce waste, both organic and inorganic waste. This problem still requires special attention because rubbish left in open spaces can have negative impacts, both on the environment and health. Waste has properties that have the potential to cause pollution and health problems if not managed properly (Takwanto, 2018). Piles of rubbish can later release a black, unpleasant-smelling liquid called leachate. Leachate will appear in the layers of waste heaps and seep into the soil layers below. Leachate arises from the entry of water into waste heaps, dissolving and washing away materials, including organic materials resulting from biological decomposition (Saniyet al., 2017). Leachate is generally toxic due to the presence of pollutants and incomplete decomposition that occurs in the waste. Leachate contains organic and inorganic materials as well as pathogenic bacteria which have the potential to cause environmental pollution (Hartini & Yulianto, 2018).

Leachate produced from waste management at the Jatibarang landfill in Semarang has the potential to cause water pollution in the Kreo River because its flow is at the lower end of the landfill. The condition of the leachate pond which is leaking also plays a role in causing pollution of the Kreo River because the leachate water will flow into the river water body. The leachate collected in the holding pond will have its material content reduced through an aeration process, then the leachate will flow into the Kreo River (Kurniawatiet al., 2015). Surface water that is polluted by leachate during the biological decomposition process will deplete the oxygen

content in the water and ultimately life in the water that depends on the presence of dissolved oxygen will die (Thomas & Santoso, 2019).

Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and turbidity can be used as parameters in measuring water quality. The lower the BOD levels contained in a body of water, the better the quality of the water. The level of turbidity determines the amount of brightness entering the waters and is related to the need for sunlight for the assimilation process. Examination of BOD and turbidity levels is necessary to determine the pollution load that occurs.

Based on the results of Rezagama's researchet al (2017), Jatibarang Semarang landfill leachate had a BOD level of 1,200 mg/L and a turbidity of 300 NTU. The results of the latest research show that the leachate from the Jatibarang Semarang landfill has a BOD level of 1,395 mg/L and a turbidity of 300 NTU (Nofiyantoet al., 2019). Based on this research, it can be seen that the BOD levels and leachate turbidity of the Jatibarang Semarang Landfill each year exceed the quality standards stipulated in the Republic of Indonesia Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation No. 59 of 2016 and RI Minister of Health Regulation no. 32 of 2017, where the BOD quality standard is 150 mg/L and turbidity is 25 NTU.

One effort that can be made to overcome environmental pollution due to leachate is phytoremediation. Phytoremediation is a series of processes for breaking down complex pollutants into molecules that are simpler and less harmful to the environment by utilizing plants. Phytoremediation is a technology that emerged as a result of the combined activities of plants and their association with groups of microorganisms to degrade, transfer and reduce toxic substances in soil and water (Sari, 2019).

water lily plant (Zantedeschia ethiopica) can be used as a phytoremediation agent because it is able to accumulate and decompose pollutant substances. Plants that are used as agents for absorbing heavy metals or pollutants must have phytoremediator properties, namely having hyperaccumulator properties and hypertolerance to highly polluting substances (Nofiyantoet al., 2019). In general, aquatic plants are used as aquatic phytoremediators because they have fast growth and absorption of pollutants.

This research aims to determine the effectiveness of water lilies (Zantedeschia ethiopica) as a phytoremediation agentBiological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and leachate turbidity.

#### 2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research was carried out in February 2023 at TPA Jatibarang Semarang. Measurements of BOD levels and leachate turbidity were carried out at the Semarang City Environmental Service Laboratory. This research is an experimental study using a one-factorial Completely Randomized Design (CRD) with three treatment levels and three replications, resulting in 9 research units. The treatment given in this research was as follows:

- P0: 10 liters of leachate without water lilies
- P1: 10 liters of lindi + 200 gr of lily air
- P2: 10 liter lindi + 400 gr lili air

Before the research, acclimatization was carried out on water lily plants (Zantedeschia ethiopica) for 1 week using distilled water which aims to make water lilies (Zantedeschia ethiopica) can adapt to new environmental conditions, so that they will not experience stress and die when they are given treatment.

The leachate samples used in this research were taken from the leachate reservoir of the Jatibarang Landfill, Semarang. Before treatment is given, a preliminary test is carried out on leachate samples to determine the initial BOD levels and leachate turbidity. Then testing was carried out again on days 1, 3 and 7 of the research to determine the development of BOD levels and leachate turbidity during the research. Data on differences in the influence between treatments on improving leachate water quality were analyzed using the Sidik Ragam test or ANOVA (Analysis of Variant). If after testing the Ragam Print analysis, treatment results are obtained that are significantly or significantly different, then further tests need to be carried out.

#### 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Initial Characteristics of Jatibarang Landfill Leachate, Semarang

The leachate from the Jatibarang Semarang landfill has a dark black color, is cloudy, and has a distinctive, strong organic aroma. Physically, the leachate from the Jatibarang Semarang Landfill appears to be completely dissolved because there is no sediment at the bottom of the research unit and there are no lumps floating on the surface of the leachate. Test results for initial BOD levels and turbidity of Jatibarang landfill leachate can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Initial characteristics of the Jaribarang landfill leachate in Semarang

| Parameter | Unit | Kadar | Baku Mutu |
|-----------|------|-------|-----------|
| BOD       | mg/L | 511   | 150       |
| Turbidity | NTU  | 167   | 25        |

Based on the results of these data, it can be seen that the initial BOD levels and leachate turbidity of the Jatibarang Semarang Landfill still exceed the quality standards set in the Republic of Indonesia Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation No. 59 of 2016 and RI Minister of Health Regulation no. 32 of 2017, where the quality standard for BOD is 150 mg/L and turbidity is 25 NTU. If this continues continuously it can cause environmental pollution.

#### 3.2 Effectiveness of Water Lilies (Zantedeschia ethiopica) sebagai Agen Fitoremedasi BOD Leachat

Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed by microorganisms to decompose dissolved and suspended organic matter in waters (Anwar, 2019). Water lilies (Zantedeschia ethiopica) has the ability to reduce leachate BOD levels because it has properties as a hyperaccumulator and hypertolerant to pollutant substances. Data on the reduction in leachate BOD levels during treatment can be seen in Table 2: Table 3; and Table 4.

Table 2. BOD rate of leachate on the 1st day of treatment

| Tuble 2. Bob face of federate on the 1st day of treatment |                       |                          |     |                     |                        |      |  |  |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----|---------------------|------------------------|------|--|--|
| Treatment   | Average Initial Grade | Repeat BOD Levels (mg/L) |     | Final Grade Average | Decline Percentage (%) |      |  |  |
|   |                       | 1                        | 2   | 3                   |                        |      |  |  |
| P0  | 511                   | 456                      | 514 | 447                 | 472,33                 | 7,57 |  |  |
| P1  | 511                   | 453                      | 500 | 439                 | 464                    | 9,2  |  |  |
| P2  | 511                   | 474                      | 506 | 467                 | 482,33                 | 5,61 |  |  |

**Table 3.**BOD level of leachate on the 3rd day of treatment

| Treatment | Treatment Average Initial Grade |     | BOD Level | ls (mg/L) | Final Grade Average Decline Percent (%) | 0    |
|-----------|---------------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------|---|------|
|           |                                 | 1   | 2         | 3         |   |      |
| P0        | 511                             | 451 | 469       | 473       | 464,33                                  | 9,13 |
| P1        | 511                             | 487 | 512       | 429       | 476                                     | 6,85 |
| P2        | 511                             | 441 | 508       | 483       | 477,33                                  | 6,59 |

Table 4.BOD level of leachate on the 7th day of treatment

| Treatment | Average Initial Grade | Repeat BOD Levels (mg/L) |     |     | Final Grade Average | Decline Percentage (%) |
|-----------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----|-----|---------------------|------------------------|
|           |                       | 1                        | 2   | 3   |                     |                        |
| P0        | 511                   | 502                      | 509 | 498 | 503                 | 1,56                   |
| P1        | 511                   | 512                      | 490 | 463 | 488,33              | 4,44                   |
| P2        | 511                   | 499                      | 521 | 486 | 502                 | 1,76                   |

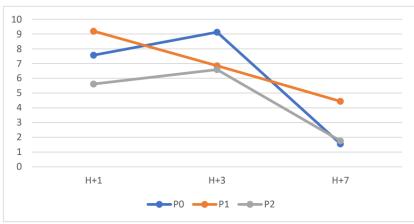


Figure 1. Graph of the effectiveness of reducing leachate BOD levels

Based on the results of these data, it can be seen that the treatment in this study did not have a significant effect. The final average leachate BOD content during the study continued to fluctuate in each treatment. The most optimal effectiveness of reducing BOD levels occurred in treatment P1 on day 1 of the study, namely 9.2% with a final level of 464 mg/L; while the effectiveness of reducing BOD levels was lowest in treatment P0 on day 7 of the study, namely 1.56% with a final level of 502 mg/L.

Hyperaccumulator plants are plants that have the ability to concentrate contaminants in their biomass at high levels (Rachmawati, 2020). Hypertolerant plants are plants that are able to adapt and survive environmental conditions with high levels of contaminants. Water lilies have dense, fibrous roots that spread in various directions so they have a high ability to absorb pollutants. Water lilies have rhizosphorus which functions to carry pollutants in the planting medium to the root cells which will then be degraded by enzymes found in the roots.

The decrease in leachate BOD levels was caused by the phytoremediation process carried out by water lilies *Rhizofiltration*. *Rhizofiltration* is the process of deposition of pollutant substances by the roots which are then translocated to the stem through transport vessels and spread to all parts of the plant (Irhamniet al., 2017). In this process, the absorbed organic substances will undergo a biological reaction and accumulate in the plant stem and then be transferred to the leaves (Ahmad & Adiningsih, 2019). The ability of water lilies to absorb organic material in leachate is also due to the presence of rhizosphere microbes in the roots. Rhizosphere microbes are a form of symbiosis between bacteria and fungi that are able to break down organic and inorganic materials found in water and use them as a source of nutrition (Khaer & Nursyafitri, 2017).

In the phytodegradation process, leachate organic materials will be broken down by dehalogenase and oxygenase enzymes through plant metabolic processes. The decrease in leachate BOD levels is also a result of the phytodegradation process, where organic compounds in water that are absorbed by plant roots will experience decomposition through metabolic processes in plant organs (Fitriana & Kuntjoro, 2020). The ability of water lilies to excrete certain chemical compounds can degrade organic materials trapped in the root area and then the degraded organic materials will be easier to translocate to the stems and leaves. Water lilies do not directly absorb organic materials in leachate, but will adapt and provide conditions that allow the decomposition process of organic materials by microorganisms.

The decrease in leachate BOD levels was also caused by the presence of lactic acid bacteria (*Lactobacillus* sp.) in leachate. Lactic acid compounds can accelerate the breakdown of organic materials through an anaerobic fermentation process (Damsir*et al.*, 2016). Renovating microbes will carry out the process of breaking down organic materials into simple compounds such as amino acids and fatty acids until ammonia, nitrate, nitrite and nitrogen are obtained. The longer the time for the anaerobic process to take place and the easier the organic material degradation process in the leachate to occur, the lower the leachate BOD level will be, the closer it is to the quality standard value that is safe for the environment. Therefore, during the anaerobic process, leachate BOD levels fluctuate at any time as a result of the use of organic material by microbes to be converted into body cells and other harmless compounds and some are converted into volatile materials, such as CO<sub>2</sub>.

During the research, leachate BOD levels tended to fluctuate, indicating that the decomposition process of leachate organic material was still ongoing by microorganisms. The fluctuating increase in leachate BOD levels in treatments P1 and P2 indicates that the water lilies were less able to contribute significantly to reducing the total organic matter in the leachate. Parts of water lilies that cover the surface of the leachate will prevent sunlight from entering the bottom of the water, so that photosynthetic organisms cannot photosynthesize properly. This causes dissolved oxygen levels in the leachate to decrease, so that the decomposition process of organic material by aerobic microorganisms is disrupted. Dead plant parts become a source of aquatic organic matter. The biomass of dead water lily plants will mix with leachate, resulting in an increase in leachate organic matter and BOD levels will increase again.

The decrease in the effectiveness of water lilies in the P0 treatment in reducing leachate BOD levels was caused by the creation of hypoxic conditions due to the decreasing dissolved oxygen levels in the leachate, so that many aerobic microorganisms died and were unable to reproduce. Meanwhile, the decrease in the effectiveness of water lilies in treatments P1 and P2 in reducing leachate BOD levels was due to the plants having reached their threshold in tolerating the absorption of pollutant levels so that many plant organs died.

#### 3.2 Effectiveness of Water Lilies (Zantedeschia ethiopica) as a leachate turbidity phytoremediation agent

Turbidity or *turbidity* is a condition where the transparency of a liquid is reduced due to the presence of insoluble substances (Fajri*et al.*, 2014). Water turbidity levels are influenced by the presence of suspended solids, both organic and inorganic. High levels of turbidity in waters will disrupt the penetration of light entering the waters. Water lilies have the ability to reduce leachate turbidity levels because they are hyperaccumulators and hypertolerant of pollutants. Data on reducing turbidity levels in leachate during treatment can be seen in **Table 5**; **Table 6**; and **Table 7**.

| <b>Table 5.</b> The turbidity rate of leachate on the 1st day of treatment |                       |            |             |            |                     |                    |  |  |
|--|-----------------------|------------|-------------|------------|---------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Treatment  | Average Initial Grade | Repetitive | Turbidity R | Rate (NTU) | Final Grade Average | Decline Percentage |  |  |
|  |                       |            |             |            |                     | (%)                |  |  |
|  |                       | 1          | 2           | 3          |                     |                    |  |  |
| P0   | 167                   | 7,8        | 7,71        | 6,9        | 7,47                | 92,53              |  |  |
| P1   | 167                   | 6,98       | 7,2         | 6,8        | 6,99                | 95,81              |  |  |
| P2   | 167                   | 6,9        | 7,2         | 6,35       | 6,82                | 95,91              |  |  |

|--|

| Treatment | Average Initial Grade | Repetitive Turbidity Rate (NTU) |      | Final Grade Average | Decline Percentage (%) |       |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------|---------------------|------------------------|-------|
|           |                       | 1                               | 2    | 3                   |                        |       |
| P0        | 167                   | 7,12                            | 6,8  | 6,72                | 6,88                   | 95,88 |
| P1        | 167                   | 6,54                            | 6,56 | 6,5                 | 6,5                    | 96,11 |
| P2        | 167                   | 6,15                            | 6,2  | 6,54                | 6,3                    | 96,23 |

**Table 7.** The rate of turbidity of leachate on the 7th day of treatment

| Table 7: The face of turblarty of reachate on the 7th day of treatment |                       |                                 |      |                     |                        |       |  |  |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------|---------------------|------------------------|-------|--|--|
| Treatment  | Average Initial Grade | Repetitive Turbidity Rate (NTU) |      | Final Grade Average | Decline Percentage (%) |       |  |  |
|  |                       | 1                               | 2    | 3                   |                        |       |  |  |
| P0   | 167                   | 6,15                            | 5,89 | 7,71                | 6,58                   | 96,06 |  |  |
| P1   | 167                   | 7,26                            | 7,09 | 7,09                | 7,15                   | 95,72 |  |  |
| P2   | 167                   | 7,16                            | 7,11 | 6,91                | 7,06                   | 95,77 |  |  |

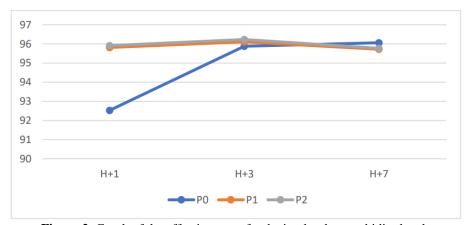


Figure 2. Graph of the effectiveness of reducing leachate turbidity levels

Based on the results of these data, it can be seen that the treatment in this study did not have a significant effect. Abilities of water lilies (Zantedeschia ethiopica) in reducing leachate turbidity levels due to its hyperaccumulator and hypertolerant properties. In this study, the most optimal percentage reduction in leachate turbidity levels occurred in treatment P2 on the 3rd day of the study, namely 96.23% with a final turbidity level of 6.3 NTU. Meanwhile, the lowest percentage reduction in leachate turbidity levels occurred in the P0 treatment on day 1 of the study, namely 92.53% with a final turbidity level of 7.47 NTU.

Suspended solids are closely related to turbidity levels, the higher the suspended solids, the higher the turbidity levels (Ahmad & Adiningsih, 2019). However, high levels of dissolved solids are not always accompanied by high levels of turbidity. Turbidity is an optical property of a solution, namely the scattering and absorption of light that can pass through it. High levels of turbidity not only endanger aquatic biota but also cause waters to become unproductive because they can prevent sunlight from entering the waters, thereby inhibiting the photosynthesis process and reducing dissolved oxygen levels in the water.

In the P0 treatment, the decrease in leachate turbidity levels occurred due to the decomposition of organic and inorganic materials carried out by microorganisms contained in the leachate. The instability of leachate turbidity levels during the research was caused by the decreasing volume of leachate and shaking when collecting leachate samples for testing, so that the sediment at the bottom of the research basin rose to the top. Meanwhile, the decrease in leachate turbidity levels in treatments P1 and P2 was caused by the ability of the roots of water lilies to absorb pollutants, both in water bodies and sediment.

The ability of water lilies to absorb organic material in leachate is also due to the presence of rhizosphere microbes. Rhizosphere microbes are a form of symbiosis between bacteria and fungi that are able to break down organic and inorganic materials in water, and use them as a source of nutrition (Khaer & Nursyafitri, 2017). The ability of water lilies and rhizospheric microbes in the roots is supported by the roots' large absorption and accumulation capacity for pollutants, causing leachate turbidity levels to decrease. Organic and inorganic materials in leachate can be reduced by rhizospheric microbes found in the roots of water lilies. In plant roots, pollutant materials are absorbed from water bodies and sediments and then accumulated in other parts of the plant (Novitaet al., 2019). The roots of the water lily plant will act as a filter in the process of absorbing colloidal particles floating in water bodies. In the rhizofiltration process, plant roots will retain solid particles contained in wastewater (Nasrullahet al., 2017). Pollutant substances will be accumulated into dissolved materials in various parts of the plant, so that the level of suspended solids in the waste is reduced (Santosoet al., 2014). Reducing the value of suspended solids will be accompanied by decreasing levels of turbidity.

Reducing turbidity levels in waters can make it easier for sunlight to penetrate into the waters, so that photosynthetic microorganisms can carry out the photosynthesis process perfectly and dissolved oxygen levels in the waters increase. Waters with high levels of dissolved oxygen can support the life of aerobic microorganisms which play a role in the decomposition process of pollutants in waters. In addition, low levels of turbidity in waters can reduce the incidence of disease in the digestive and immune systems, due to the low potential for contamination by viruses and bacteria that attach to suspended solids

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, it can be concluded as follows:

- a. The most optimal effectiveness of reducing BOD levels occurred in treatment P1 on day 1 of the study, namely 9.2% with a final level of 464 mg/L; while the lowest effectiveness of reducing BOD levels occurred in treatment P0 on day 7 of the study, namely 1.56% with a final level of 502 mg/L.
- b. The most optimal effectiveness of reducing turbidity levels occurred in treatment P2 on the 3rd day of the study, namely 96.23% with a final level of 6.3 NTU; while the lowest effectiveness of reducing turbidity levels occurred in the P0 treatment on day 1 of the study, namely 92.53% with a final level of 7.47 NTU.

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