SCREENING AND ISOLATION OF POTENTIAL BACTERIA FOR MICROBIAL FUEL CELL

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv-v
LIST OF TABLES	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	viii
ABSTRACT	ix
ABSTRAK	Х

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1	Background of study	1
1.2	Problem statement	2
1.3	Significance of the study	2
1.4	Objectives of study	2

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	Microbial Fuel Cells	3
2.2	Bacteria inoculum for MFC	5
2.3	Bacteria in soil and mud	6
2.4	Kuala Selangor mangrove	7
2.5	Actinobacteria	9

CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

3.1	Materials		
	3.1.1	Raw materials	10
	3.1.2	Chemicals	10
	3.1.3	Apparatus	10
3.2	Methods		
	3.2.1	Sampling	11
	3.2.2	Screening and isolation of bacteria for electricity	12
		production	
	3.2.3	Gram staining	13
	3.2.4	Catalase test	13
	3.2.5	Identification of Isolates by 16S rRNA	14
	3.2.6	Inoculum development for MFC	15
	3.2.7	Microbial Fuel Cell setup and operation	16

CHAP	FER 4: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	
4.1	Determination of Phenotypic Characteristics	18
4.2	Sequences Analyses and Phylogeny Study	21
4.3	Power generations of the MFCs	24
4.4	Comparison of different incubation period	27
CHAP	FER 5: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	30

CITED REFERENCES	32
APPENDICES	36
CURRICULUM VITAE	44

ABSTRACT

SCREENING AND ISOLATION OF POTENTIAL BACTERIA FOR MICROBIAL FUEL CELL

The study aimed for the isolation of electron producing bacteria from mangrove and for the comparisons of their electricity production. In this context, samples were collected from the Kuala Selangor mangrove. The pure cultures of selected two strains KS2 and KS3 were isolated from the serial dilution of the samples respectively and the plating was made on ISP2 Agar medium. The bacteria were then incubated at 37°C for 7 days. DNA from the bacterial samples was isolated and 16S rRNA gene amplification was carried out followed by phylogenetic trees construction to determine the phylogenetic position of the strains. The results showed that strains were from the Streptomyces species. The two strains were then used in inoculum development by incubation in two batches, 1 week incubation period and 2 weeks incubation periods before dilution by adding 1.8L seawater containing pre-treated bagasse. After dilution, the inoculums were incubated for another 1 week. The results for electricity production showed that the microbial isolates produced differing levels of currents. As for 1 week predilution incubation, strain KS2 started with increase of electricity production for the first three hours and began to drop at the 4th and 5th hour while strain KS3 started with high reading and began to drop from the 1st hour. 2 weeks predilution incubation showed an ironic result; strain KS2 started to produce highest electricity form the 1st hour and continue to drop while strain KS3 produced highest electricity at the 3rd hour and began to drop at the 4th and 5th hour.