



Bioremediation of Petroleum Hydrocarbons in Crude Oil Contaminated Soil from Wonocolo Public Oilfields using Aerobic Composting with Yard Waste and Rumen Residue Amendments

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ABSTRACT

The efficiency of composting method with yard waste and rumen residue amendments to reduce soil pollution by total petroleum hydrocarbon in Wonocolo public oilfields was investigated in the laboratory scale for 150 days. Crude oil contaminated soil was mixed with yard waste and rumen residue mixture at 1:1 ratio then composted in 2 replicates. Pure crude oil contaminated soil was composted in parallel. The results showed that total petroleum hydrocarbon degradation efficiency of soils amended with yard waste and rumen residue mixture was 31 times higher than contaminated soil, which fulfilled the soil quality standard (6,974.58 mg/kg). The degradation of total petroleum hydrocarbon might be performed by *Bacillus sp.*, and *Bacillus cereus* as the dominant bacteria at the end of composting process. These results showed that yard waste and rumen residue transformation could accelerate the degradation of aliphatic and aromatic fractions of petroleum hydrocarbon in crude oil contaminated soil. Both of these wastes are generally easy to obtain around Wonocolo public oilfield and highly recommended to use as the main substrate in the composting process.

KEYWORDS

Petroleum hydrocarbon degradation, Composting, Bacillus sp., Bacillus cereus, Wonocolo public oilfields.

INTRODUCTION

Wonocolo public oilfields, which inadequately operated since 1942, was one of the crude oil sources in Indonesia [1]. The spills of crude oil from exploitation activities such as drilling, transportation, and refining caused soil pollution by Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon

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(TPH). As reported by Handrianto *et al.* [1], the TPH concentration in soil at Wonocolo public oilfields was 41,200 mg/kg which exceeded the quality standards of 10,000 mg/kg in Indonesia [2], Texas, Louisiana, Colorado, and Michigan [3]. Our previous study also confirmed that the topsoil of transportation, refining, and old well area at Wonocolo public oilfields were highly polluted by TPH of 52,328, 76,752 and 107,189 mg/kg, respectively [4]. There also have been found soil contamination by lead (Pb), chromium (Cr), and mercury (Hg) in the ranged of 0.07-0.10, 0.02-0.03, and 0.05-0.06 mg/g, respectively [5].

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ASTDR) [6] and Indonesian Government Regulation No. 101 [7] stated that TPH polluted soil was categorized as hazardous waste, classified as prioritized pollutant. TPH are toxic, mutagenic, and carcinogenic compounds [8] which consist of aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons [6]. Both of these hydrocarbons could harm living things through protein synthesis process and membrane plasma system damage [9], then lead to gene mutation [10]. For humans, TPH exposure could be through dermal contact and inhalation system because its semi-volatile compounds [11]. Furthermore, Das and Chandran [12] stated that TPH is recalcitrant and hardly degraded by bacteria which is influenced by its atomic structure [13] and low solubility [14]. It makes TPH potentially accumulate in the environment [15]. To minimize the risks to local communities and environment, soil remediation was required to remove TPH in the soil.

Indonesian Ministry of Environment Decree No. 128 [2] suggested biological methods for soil remediation which polluted less than 150,000 mg/kg of TPH. Biological methods utilized microbial co-metabolism to breakdown and transform TPH into innocuous substances. The co-metabolism capability could be optimized by stimulating the growth of indigenous microorganisms through providing suitable nutrients, air supply, pH, and moisture applied in composting technique [11]. The composting process, known as the easiest and most cost-effective method to treat TPH [16], could be conducted by mixing the polluted soil with compost-making materials as the main nutrient source [17]. The difference of compost-making materials may affect the effectiveness of TPH removal in polluted soil.

Xu and Liu [18] reported that peanut hull powder amendments could eliminate 38.00% of TPH in crude oil contaminated soil composting process for 84 days. Omosiwho *et al.* [19] reported that grass and wood chips could degrade 66.54% of TPH for 35 days of composting process. Qin *et al.* [20] also reported that biochar from wheat straw utilization as the main nutrient might reduce 77.80-84.80% of TPH during 180 days composting process. Furthermore, polluted soil in Wonocolo public oilfield has been composted by Handrianto *et al.* [1] using peanut shell compost for 30 days and could reduce the TPH content up to 66.80%. However, the usage of peanut shell compost in composting process of TPH polluted soil is less effective for field application due to its limitations.

The aim of this study is to investigate the feasibility of yard waste and rumen residue mixture as nutrient sources in composting process to remove TPH in polluted soil. In this study, we also identify the degraded fractions of TPH and dominant bacteria in composting process using both of organic waste. In addition, yard waste and rumen residue utilization are expected to solve the high production of organic waste in Indonesia.

METHODS

Crude oil contaminated soil and organic waste were used as raw materials in this research. During the research, physicochemical properties of composting were periodically analyzed.

Contaminated soil

The crude oil contaminated soil was obtained from Wonocolo public crude oilfields. Thirty-eight samples were taken from 0-30 depth from old wells, transportation line, and refinery area with different patterns of diagonal, random, and line, respectively. The samples were mixed and filtered using 2 mm sieves to obtain a homogenous composite sample, then stored at 4 °C [21]. Soil texture was identified as silty-clay loam (25% clay, 56% silt, and 20% sand) according to USDA classification using hydrometer method [22].

Organic waste

The organic waste was prepared by mixing yard waste and rumen residue in a ratio of 3:1 (Y/R) to fulfill the composting nutrient requirements [1, 23]. Both of organic wastes were shredded and sieved into 5 mm size before mixing. The C/N ratio, moisture, and pH of the organic waste were 29.96, 62.50% and 5.00, respectively. The initial concentration of TPH was 2,153.33 mg/kg, and bacterial population was 1.76×10^{10} CFU/g.

Composting experiments

The composting process was conducted in laboratory scale experiment for 150 days. About 1.00 kg Contaminated Soil (CS) and soil-YR mixture, S/YR (1:1 ratio), were placed in glass reactor of 3.50 L volume capacity. The composting was performed at existing temperature and pH which were measured daily (thermometer) and every 3 days (Takemura soil tester), respectively. Furthermore, the composting process was conducted under aerobic condition through manual agitation every 3 days to allow good aeration and homogenization. Moisture was maintained in optimal value of 50-60% [24, 25] during the composting period. This experiment was implemented with two replications. Compost samples were collected on day 0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, and 150 to be analysed.

Carbon and nitrogen ratio analysis

The carbon and nitrogen (C/N) ratio were calculated based on organic carbon with total nitrogen content. Organic carbon and total nitrogen content were analyzed using Walkley and Black [26] and Kjeldahl [27] method, respectively.

Bacterial enumeration and identification

The determination of heterotrophic bacteria population was performed by serial dilution of compost samples using 0.90% NaCl, then plated on nutrient agar medium. The bacteria population was counted after incubation at room temperature for 24 hours, and the results were expressed as Colony-Forming Units (CFU) per gram. Furthermore, dominant colonies were isolated and streaked into nutrient agar medium for bacterial strain characterization and identification [28]. Morphological and physiological characteristics were observed using microscope, Gram staining [29], and Microbact Identification Kits (Microbact™ GNB12A and 12B). Identification of bacterial strain was conducted following Bergey's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology [30].

Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon analysis

The changes of TPH in crude oil contaminated soil were observed on 0th and 150th day of composting. The samples were extracted using conventional Soxhlet extraction and Gravimetric method following APHA-AWWA and WEF standard No. 5520D and 5520F [31], respectively. Quantification of TPH in the extract was done by Fourier Transform Infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR). The FT-IR was performed using Thermo Scientific™ Nicolet iS5 at $2,930 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ absorbance according to ASTM D7066-4 with 0.1 μL injection volume of TPH extract [32]. The fractions of TPH were measured by Gas

Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS), using Agilent HP 1 MS column. Chromatographic resolution was achieved by a 30 m × 0.25 mm capillary column with a 0.25 µm film thickness. The carrier gas was helium at a flow rate of 3 mL/min. 0.1 µL TPH extract was injected to GC-MS with analytical conditions, such as initial temperature 60 °C with isothermal operation for 5 min, heated to final temperature of 280 °C at a constant rate of 5 °C min⁻¹ with a 71 min isothermal. The measurement was conducted by internal calibration method, and TPH analysis was performed by comparing their peaks standards. The TPH concentration was expressed in mg/kg.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The physicochemical properties of composting process fluctuated during 150 days which indicates bacterial activity. It affects the bioremediation effectiveness considering that bacteria are the primary degrader of TPH.

Characteristics of raw material

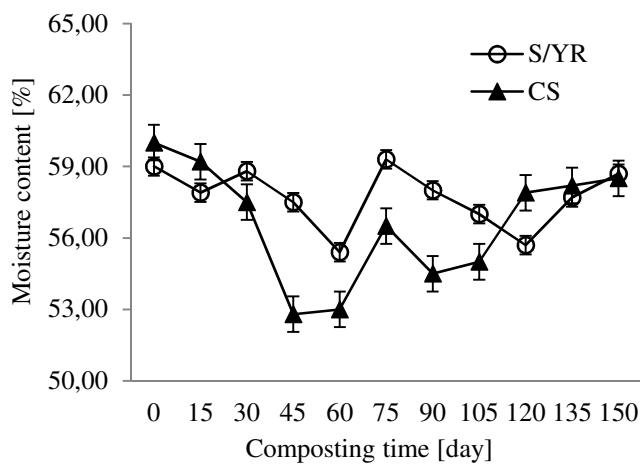
The initial concentration of TPH, moisture, pH, and C/N ratio for CS were 51,083.04 mg/kg, 50.00, 7.00 and 23.37, respectively. The C/N ratio of CS indicated that crude oil contaminated soil was reasonable for composting process, which the criteria was ranged from 15-30 [33]. There was also 4.26×10^7 CFU/g of indigenous bacterial population in soil. Meanwhile, the S/YR values were 27,743.57 mg/kg, 58.00%, 5.20, 34.40, 3.03×10^{10} CFU/g for initial concentration of TPH, moisture, pH, C/N ratio, and bacterial population, respectively. The pH value of S/YR was lower than CS, it might influence by the pH of organic waste [33, 34]. Moreover, organic waste amendments led to C/N ratio and bacterial population increasing which indicated that it could act as nutrient and exogenous bacteria sources [33, 35]. The C/N ratio of S/YR was close to Zhang *et al.* [18] criteria value for contaminated soil composting of 25-40.

Composting process

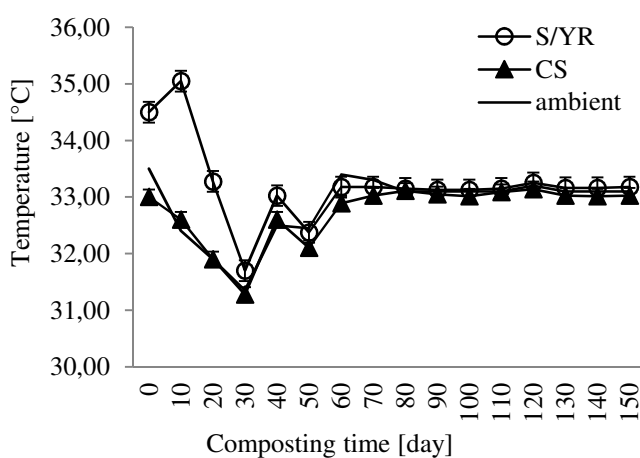
Moisture content, temperature, pH, C/N ratio, and bacterial population showed fluctuating values during 150 days of crude oil contaminated soil composting process. The values of these parameters in this experiment was expressed in the mean of two replicates. Figure 1a showed that the composting of CS and S/YR were carried out in maintained condition of moisture content (50.00 to 60.00%) to ensure the process worked well [36].

During composting process, temperature in CS showed almost similar values to those of the ambient temperature values (31.28-33.50 °C) which was lower than S/YR (Figure 1b). The temperature of S/YR was increased in the 10th first day of composting process from 34.50 to 35.05 °C. Then, it showed similar trend of changes with CS which was decreased up to day 30th (31.70 °C) of composting process. On day 40th, the temperature was increased (33.03 °C), then decreased at 50th (32.38 °C), and slightly increased following ambient temperature from 60th up to the end of composting process (33.13-33.25 °C).

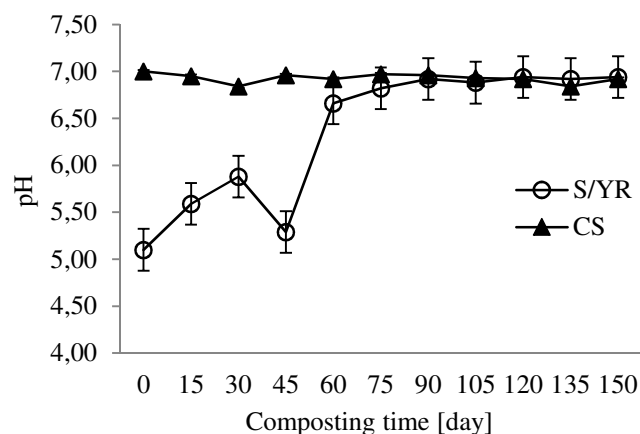
The increased temperature indicated that organic substrate decomposition by microbial microorganism which produced heat energy, was high [25, 37]. It might lead to TPH degradation in contaminated soil, to occur at the same time. It is related to S/YR pH value decreasing from day 30th to 45th of composting process (Figure 1c), which due to the accumulation of organic acids from organic substrate hydrolysis [25]. Then, the organic acids were decomposed into CO₂ and H₂O, which made its availability low. This caused the pH to increase to 6.66 and it remained stable in the range of 6.82-6.94 until the end of the process. It also caused the pH value of CS to range in neutral values (6.85-7.00) from day 0th to 150th composting process.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Figure 1. The changes of moisture content, temperature, and pH

Carbon and nitrogen ratio and bacterial population during composting process

The C/N ratio values of CS and S/YR declined from 23.37 and 34.40 to 3.76 and 13.29 at the end of composting process, respectively (Figure 2). Prior to declining, the C/N ratio values of CS reactor were slightly increased from day 0th (23.37) to 30th (26.02)

of composting period. It might be caused by high release of nitrogen under anoxic-anaerobic conditions, which might occur due to inadequate mixing of air supply during the process.

The decrease of C/N ratio was caused by the occurrence of microbial mineralization. Declined C/N ratio value of S/YR was three times higher than CS, which showed carbon utilization of organic waste as energy source was high [34]. It was expressed by a slightly increased of S/YR bacterial population from initial (3.03×10^{10} CFU/g) to 120th day (1.02×10^{21} CFU/g) on S/YR. This may be related to the adapted (lag phase) and growth (log phase) ability of heterotrophic bacterial from organic waste with the TPH presence in the mixture. At the end of S/YR composting process, the bacterial population declined to 7.28×10^{19} CFU/g reflecting the occurrence of maturation phase. Meanwhile, CS bacterial population was in the log phase from day 0th to 150th which increased from 4.26×10^7 to 6.89×10^{19} CFU/g, respectively. It indicates that substrate availability was still sufficient for bacterial growth, shown by high C/N ratio at the end of the composting process.

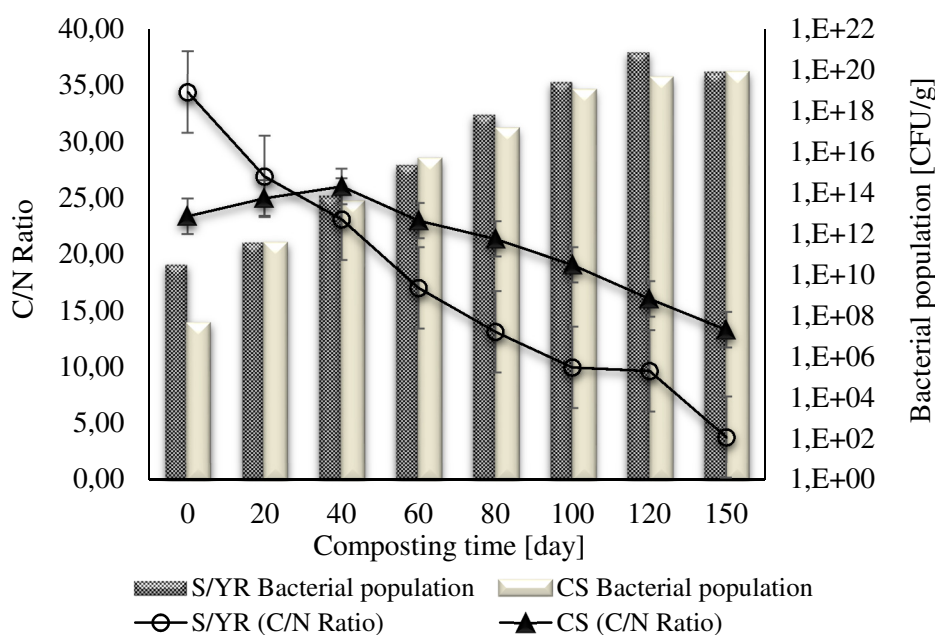


Figure 2. The changes of C/N ratio and bacterial population

Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon removal during composting process

The concentration of aliphatic and aromatic petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) before and after 150th days composting is listed in Table 1. The addition of YR mixture into polluted soil could reduce the initial TPH level from 51,083.04 to 27,743.57 mg/kg, which eases bacteria load to reduce TPH.

After the treatment, TPH concentration on S/YR was 6,974.58 mg/kg and fulfilled soil quality standard of 10,000 mg/kg. The S/YR treatment showed higher TPH removal than CS in average of 20,768.99 mg/kg (74.86%) and 1,205.67 mg/kg (2.36%), respectively. This is due to the intense microbial activity in S/YR composting process, which was shown by higher population than CS. It was also related to high temperature achievement and pH values fluctuation.

The biodegradable substrate in organic waste provided an opportunity for bacteria to adapt and grow simultaneously, while also producing required biosurfactant to improve TPH bioavailability for them [38]. The increasing of TPH bioavailability was also assisted by the presence of compost Humic Acid Like (cHAL) which was formed in

humification process and had surfactant like-ability [39, 40]. Furthermore, that process could lead to greater TPH catabolic activity of indigenous bacteria in crude oil contaminated soil [41]. This was the reason for low TPH degradation in CS composting, although the bacterial population was similar to S/YR.

Table 1. TPH concentrations during composting process

TPH fraction	Concentration [mg/kg]					
	CS			S/YR		
	Initial	150 days	Removal [%]	Initial	150 days	Removal [%]
Aliphatic hydrocarbon						
C ₅₋₈	0.00	2,657.90	0.00	1,538.53	1,494.95	2.83
C ₉₋₁₂	1,282.07	92.25	92.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
C ₁₃₋₁₆	11,133.41	887.89	92.03	3,277.23	2,800.16	14.56
C ₁₇₋₂₀	32,735.00	30,263.13	7.55	19,151.50	741.55	96.13
C ₂₁₋₂₄	453.56	10,821.85	0.00	1,618.60	1,937.93	0.00
C ₂₅₋₂₈	3,084.21	5,154.36	0.00	734.95	0.00	100.00
Aromatic hydrocarbon						
C ₅₋₈	0.00	0.00	0.00	397.50	0.00	100.00
C ₉₋₁₂	2,394.80	0.00	100.00	1,025.26	0.00	100.00
C ₁₃₋₁₇	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	51,083.04	49,877.37	2.36	27,743.57	6,974.58	74.86

The occurrence of high TPH degradation was also caused by higher solubility of aliphatic (C₅₋₂₈) and aromatic (C₅₋₁₇) hydrocarbon in samples than other complex TPH fractions of 0.65-5.80 and 0.03 mg/L [6], respectively. During S/YR composting process, the dominance of TPH fraction degradation was found at C₁₇₋₂₀ aliphatic and C₉₋₁₂ aromatic hydrocarbons of 18,409.96 mg/kg (96.13%) and 1,025.26 mg/kg (100.00%), respectively. For CS, the dominant degraded fractions were C₁₃₋₁₆ aliphatic (10,245.52 mg/kg, 92.03%) and C₉₋₁₂ aromatic (2,394.80 mg/kg, 100%). In contrast, C₅₋₈ and C₂₁₋₂₈ concentrations of aliphatic fraction were increases. This may be due to the accumulation of decomposed aromatic fractions, because it was completely removed at the end of the process.

Compared to the previous research, highest TPH removal in this study (20,768.99 mg/kg, 74.86%) was lower than the research conducted by Handrianto *et al.* [1], who composted crude oil contaminated soil from Wonocolo oilfields using peanut (*Arachishypogaea L.*) compost for 30 days (21,090-27,532 mg/kg, 51.20-66.80%). Peanut composting was conducted by adding livestock dung, husks, molasses, and EM4 as stimulant. This suggested that rumen residue and yard waste were favorable bulking agent to be added in the treatment of crude oil contaminated soil in Wonocolo oilfields, though it took a longer time.

The difference in bioremediation efficiency of each study was significantly influenced by environmental factors such as temperature, pH, moisture content, C/N ratio, air supply, particle size, and incubation time [12, 21]. In addition, the TPH fraction in crude oil contaminated soil also affected the degradation efficiency which referred to its hydrophobicity [42].

Dominant bacteria during composting process

At the end of composting process, three and two dominant bacteria colonies from S/YR and CS, respectively, were isolated. Morphological (Table 2) and physiological (Table 3) characteristics of isolated colonies belonged to *Bacillus genera* [43]. The characteristics and the prediction following Bergey's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology of S/YR confirmed that the colonies belong to *Bacillus sp.* (73.68%), *Bacillus pantothenicus* (75.00%), and *Bacillus cereus* (82.00%). For CS, the colonies were *Bacillus sp.* (72.00%) and *Bacillus cereus* (77.00%).

Table 2. Morphological characteristics of isolated colony

Bacteria colony	Morphological characteristics				
	Color	Shape	Edge	Size [cm]	Gram strain
S/YR 1 st colony/ <i>Bacillus sp.</i>	White	Irregular	Undulate	0.50	+
S/YR 2 nd colony/ <i>Bacillus pantothenicus</i>	White	Irregular	Lobate	4.00	+
S/YR 3 rd colony/ <i>Bacillus cereus</i>	Cream	Circular	Entire	0.40	+
CS 1 st colony/ <i>Bacillus sp.</i>	White	Irregular	Undulate	4.50	+
CS 2 nd colony/ <i>Bacillus cereus</i>	White	Circular	Filiform	0.10	+

Bacillus sp., and *Bacillus cereus* were confirmed as hydrocarbon-degrading bacteria by Prakash *et al.* [44] and Cerqueira *et al.* [45]. Both bacteria might be responsible for TPH removal in composting process [26]. *Bacillus sp.*, was capable to remove naphthalene and pyrene [44, 45]. Similar capabilities were shown by *Bacillus cereus*, which was able to degrade TPH [46], naphthalene [47], and benzene [48]. Meanwhile, *Bacillus pantothenicus* was a protease producer [49] that might act as organic substrate decomposer. However, its ability to degrade hydrocarbon was unknown until now.

Table 3. Physiological characteristics of isolated colony

Bacteria	Biochemical characteristics														
	Motility	Oxidase	Nitrate reduction	Amylase	Catalase	Hydrogen sulphide (H ₂ S) production	Indole production	Gelatinase	Voges proskauer	Urease	Glucose	Mannitol	Xylose	Sucrose	Lactose
S/YR 1 st colony/ <i>Bacillus sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
S/YR 2 nd colony/ <i>Bacillus pantothenicus</i>	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
S/YR 3 rd colony/ <i>Bacillus cereus</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
CS 1 st colony/ <i>Bacillus sp.</i>	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
CS 2 nd colony/ <i>Bacillus cereus</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-

CONCLUSION

Rumen residue and yard waste amendments play an important role to increase the TPH removal efficiency (74.68%) during 150 days of composting process. TPH concentration at 150th day of composting meets the contaminated soil quality standard of 10,000 mg/kg. The degradation of TPH carried out by *Bacillus sp.*, and *Bacillus cereus*, where the highest level found in C₁₃₋₂₀ of aliphatic fraction.

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