



Original Research Article

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## Selection and *In-Vitro* Potentials of Amylolytic Mold from Several Local Ragi Tapai in West Sumatra

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### ABSTRACT

Ragi tapai is an inoculum for tapai fermentation in Indonesia, ragi tapai contains several microbes and hydrolase enzymes. In West Sumatra ragi tapai preparations varies by region because they cultivate themselves based on their own knowledge (traditional knowledge) so the results obtained in each region will vary. This study aims to identify the most potent amylolytic mold in several samples of local ragi tapai in West Sumatra (Padang, Padang Panjang, Pesisir Selatan, Payakumbuh, Solok, Padang Pariaman, Batusangkar). For selection and characterization RFA, PDA, MEA, Czapek Agar, CMCA and GPACaCO<sub>3</sub> were used as medium. The results showed there were six potential amylolytic species of mold in ragi tapai such as *Aspergillus oryzae*, *Aspergillus terreus*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Aspergillus candidus*, *Aspergillus clavatus* and *Geotricum* sp. *Geotricum* sp. showed the highest amylolytic *in-vitro* potential.

### Introduction

Ragi tapai is an inoculum for fermentation of carbohydrate materials such as cassava tapai. Microbes from ragi tapai produce hydrolase enzymes such as amylases. The existence of microbes in ragi tapai is influenced by materials and process. In general, ragi tapai is made using a mixture of rice flour and several types of spices. According to Handayani (2007) the addition of different of spices can affect the presence of microbes in ragi tapai. Microbes used in the

process of tapai making can be mold, yeasts and bacteria. Periadnadi (2005) reported that the biochemical processes in cassava fermentation include several stages, but the important process is conversion of starch into sugar by amylolytic mold isolated from ragi tapai. Gandjar (2003) also reported that in ragi tapai there are various types of mold, yeast and bacteria. Mold in ragi tapai have strong amylolytic potential to conversion of carbohydrates into sugars. The conversion process of starch into sugars was known as saccharification. Saccharification is a process of

converting starch into sugars by hydrolase enzyme (Lima and Natalense, 2012).

Optimization of saccharification is a factor that can increase sugar production. The main materials for saccharification process are chemical compounds, commercial enzymes and microbes. However, chemical compounds and commercial enzymes is not effective for saccharification. According to Adini et al. (2015) the conversion method for enzymatic hydrolysis by *Aspergillus niger* can produce higher value of reducing sugar, compared with acid hydrolysis using 1% H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. So it is necessary to find another alternative such as of amyolytic mold that can convert starch into sugars and optimize the process of starch conversion. The amyolytic potential of ragi tapai microbe can be used in the process of starch hydrolysis without the needs of commercial amyolytic enzymes or other chemical compounds.

## Materials and methods

The research was conducted using survey method with several stages including: isolation and characterization (morphology and *in-vitro* potency) of amyolytic mold from several West Sumatra local ragi tapai.

### Isolation amyolytic mold

Isolates of amyolytic mold was isolated from several local ragi tapai. Isolate of amyolytic mold used as isolate is a mold that has the largest clear zone on Rice Flour Agar (APB) medium. The isolates were purified on Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA) medium.

### Characterization of amyolytic mold isolates

#### Macroscopic characters of mold isolates

Isolates of amyolytic mold were cultured on Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA), Carboxy Methyl Cellulose Agar (MEA) and Czapek Agar medium. For identification, the identification book by Samson

and Van Reenen-Hoekstra (1988) and Barnett and Hunter (1972) were used.

### Microscopic isolate

Isolates of amyolytic mold were observed for conidia head, vesicles and phialides on a microscope. For identification, the identification book by Samson and Van Reenen-Hoekstra (1988) were used.

### *In-vitro* potential isolate

For analyze *In vitro* Potency, medium APB, CMCA and *Glucose Peptone Agar + Calcium Carbonate* (GPA + CaCO<sub>3</sub>) were used. Potential *in-vitro* isolates was observed by counting the amyolytic, cellulolytic and fermentative index. Calculate index of the isolate with largest clear zone was obtained by calculating the ratio between the diameter of the clear zone with the diameter of the colony of mold (Jamilah et al., 2009).

## Results and discussion

### Characteristics of amyolytic mold isolates

The amyolytic mold found in this research were classified to Division of Amastigomycota, Class Deuteromycetes (Alexopoulos and Mims, 1979). Amyolytic mold were classified into genera *Aspergillus* and *Geotrichum*. According to Dwita (2009) in ragi tapai there are *Aspergillus* which has higher amylase activity than isolate *Geotricum* sp. and *Mucor ramosus*. Fig. 1 shows the amyolytic mold on Rice Flour Agar medium. Description of each amyolytic mold as follows:

#### *Aspergillus oryzae*

Macroscopic observations showed that colony grew very quickly in MEA and Czapek Agar. At the beginning of incubation the colony is white and in the seventh day changed to be yellow-green with colony diameter 6-6.5 cm. According to Oramahi (2006) *Aspergillus oryzae* colonies on medium Czapek Agar and MEA are yellow-green

with 6 cm diameter. Microscopic observation showed the conidia head is radiate, subglobose or semicircular vesicles with phialides directly appearing on the vesicle or metulae. This is in accordance with the characteristics by Samson and van Reenen-Hoekstra (1988) that the conidia head radiate, vesicle subglobose, phialides often directly borne on the vesicle or on metulae and conidia ellipsoidal when young, globose to sub-globose when mature (Fig. 2).

### *Aspergillus terreus*

Macroscopic observations showed that colony grew very quickly in MEA and Czapek Agar. At the beginning of incubation colony showed white coloration while on the seventh day of incubation colony coloration changed to be green-yellow with colony diameter 4-7 cm. From microscopic observation it can be seen that this mold has a yellow conidiophore with type of conidia heads is columnar and compact and the phialides appear on top of the metulae with globose and ellipsoidal type of conidia. This is in accordance with Samson and van Reenen-Hoekstra (1988) that the colony of this mold has an yellow-brown conidiophores, becoming darker with age and diameter colony is 3.5-5 within seven days. Conidial heads compact, phialides borne on matule, vesicle subglobus and conidia globose to ellipsoideal (Fig. 3).

### *Aspergillus fumigatus*

The macroscopic observation showed that the color of colony was green-yellow in MEA and Czapek Agar medium with colony diameter is about 5 cm on the seventh day incubation. Young colony showed white coloration but quickly change to green-yellow. According to Wangge (2012) young colony of *A. fumigatus* has the characteristics of white coloration that is rapidly changed to green with the formation of conidia. The conidiophore is short, and green (especially on the top). Vesicle is mace shaped and conidia shape ranges from globose to subglobose (Fig. 4).

### *Aspergillus candidus*

The macroscopic observation showed that the color of colony was creamy white. The colony growth was slower on MEA and Czapek Agar medium. The colony diameter after 7 days incubation was 1.5-3 cm. Conidiophore was arose from the agar or from mycelium area, color of conidia head was creamy white. Microscopically this mold has a form of conidia and globose and subglobose vesicle (Fig. 5). Phialides are sometimes borne directly on the vesicle but mostly on metulae (Samson and van Reenen-Hoekstra, 1988). The ability of *Aspergillus* to decompose amylum is due to the amylase enzyme content. Genus *Aspergillus* is the most dominant fungi group for starch decomposition process (Melliawati et al., 2006).

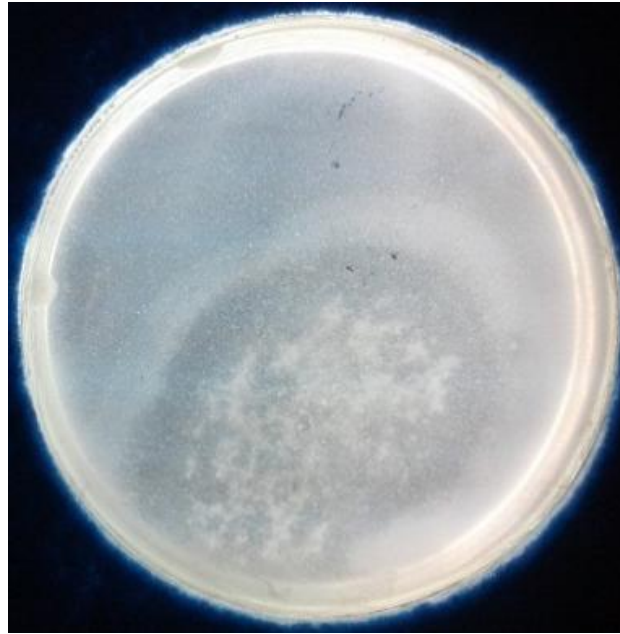
### *Aspergillus clavatus*

Macroscopic observation showed the color of this colony was blue-green. Colony diameter was ranged from 2.5 to 3.5 cm after seventh days of incubation. This microscopic mold showed corresponding characteristics to *A. clavatus* in Samson's and van Reenen-Hoekstra identification book (1988) which are long conidiophores, conidial heads clavate that usually splitting into several divergent columns. Vesicle typically clavate, phialides borne directly on the vesicle and conidia ellipsoid (Fig. 6).

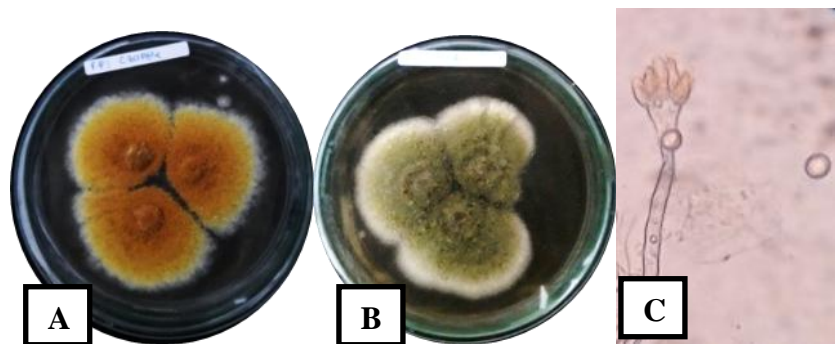
### *Geotrichum* sp.

Macroscopic observation showed the color of this colony was white on MEA and Czapek Agar medium. This mold growth was slow and on the seventh day of incubation colony diameter was only 1 cm. These characteristics correspond to the characteristic of *Geotrichum* sp. in Samson and van Reenen-Hoekstra's identification book (1988).

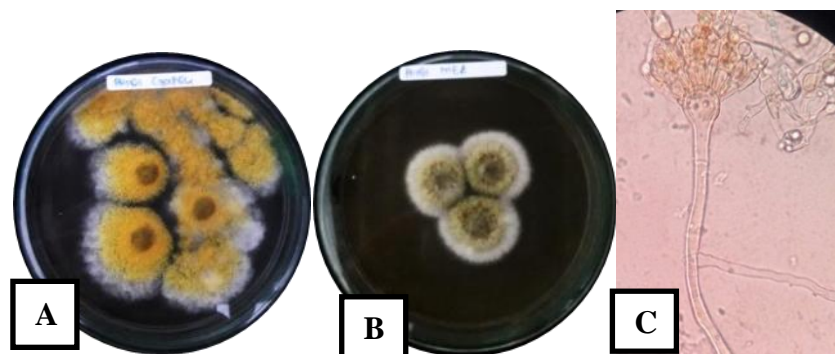
The characteristic of this colony is white mycelium and cylindrical, barrel-shaped or ellipsoidal conidia (Fig. 7).



**Fig. 1:** Amyolytic mold on Rice Flour Agar (RFA) medium.

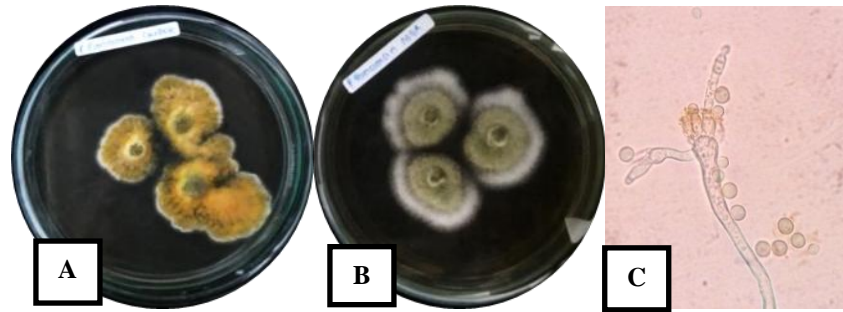


**Fig. 2:** *Aspergillus oryzae*. Colonies after 7 days incubation (A) Czapek Agar (B) MEA (C) *A. oryzae* at 40× magnification.

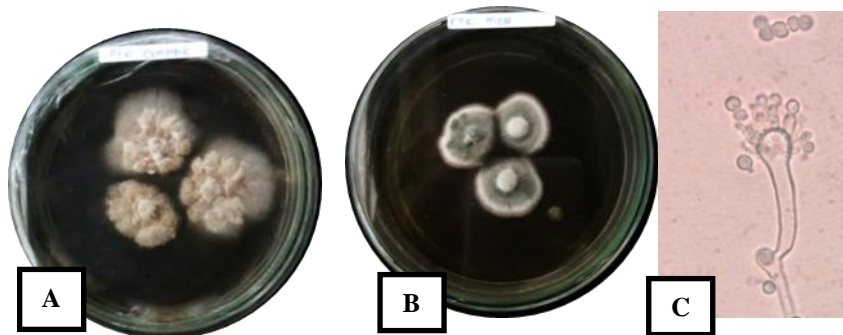


**Fig. 3:** *Aspergillus terreus*. Colonies after 7 days incubation (A) Czapek Agar (B) MEA (C) *A. terreus* at 40× magnification.

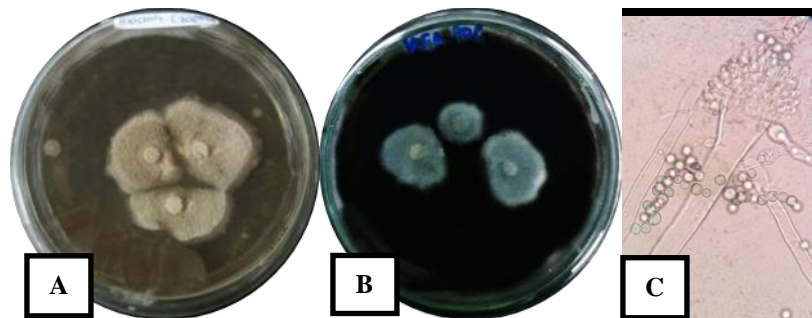




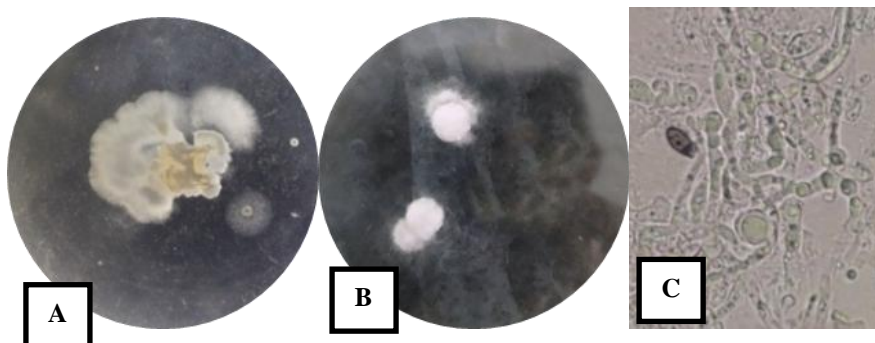
**Fig. 4:** *Aspergillus fumigatus*. Colonies after 7 days incubation (A) Czapek Agar (B) MEA (C) *A. fumigatus* at 40× magnification.



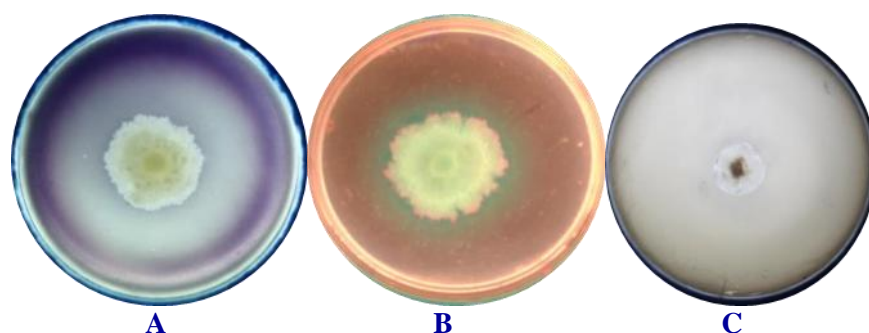
**Fig. 5:** *Aspergillus candidus*. Colonies after 7 days incubation (A) Czapek Agar (B) MEA (C) *A. candidus* at 40× magnification.



**Fig. 6:** *Aspergillus clavatus*. Colonies after 7 days incubation (A) Czapek Agar (B) MEA (C) *A. clavatus* at 40× magnification.



**Fig. 7:** *Geotrichum* sp. Colonies after 7 days incubation (A) Czapek Agar (B) MEA (C) Isolate SLKP at 40× magnification



**Fig. 8:** *In-vitro* potential of amyolytic mold (*Geotrichum* sp.) on some selective medium (A) Amyolytic, (B) Cellulolytic and (C) Fermentative.

**Table 1.** Value of *in-vitro* potential index of amyolytic mold isolates.

Isolate	Hydrolysis	Halo diameter (cm)	Colony diameter (cm)	Index value
SLKP	<b>Amyolytic</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>2.12</b>
	Cellulolytic	10.1	7.3	1.38
	Fermentative	1.3	1	1.3
PYKP	<b>Amyolytic</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1.25</b>
	Cellulolytic	5.9	4.7	1.25
	Fermentative	-	0.6	-
BTKP	<b>Amyolytic</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>1.02</b>
	Cellulolytic	8.9	6.2	1.43
	Fermentative	1.1	0.9	1.2
PPKP	<b>Amyolytic</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>1.6</b>
	Cellulolytic	4.8	3.3	1.45
	Fermentative	1.4	1	1.4
PSKP	<b>Amyolytic</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>1.37</b>
	Cellulolytic	4.2	3.2	1.31
	Fermentative	1.5	0.6	2.5
PJKP	<b>Amyolytic</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.46</b>
	Cellulolytic	2.7	2.5	1.08
	Fermentative	1	0.8	1.25
PDKP	<b>Amyolytic</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>1.10</b>
	Cellulolytic	3.9	2.8	1.39
	Fermentative	-	0.6	-

Description: BTKP Isolate (*Aspergillus oryzae*), PSKP Isolate (*Aspergillus terreus*), PPKP Isolate (*Aspergillus fumigatus*), PJKP Isolate (*Aspergillus oryzae*), PYKP Isolate (*Aspergillus candidus*), PDKP Isolate (*Aspergillus clavatus*), SLKP Isolate (*Geotrichum* sp.).

### Potency *in-vitro* of amyolytic microbial isolates

The results of potency *in-vitro* examination of isolate can be seen in Fig. 8.

Fig. 8 shows that in addition to amyolytic potential, the isolates of mold also have cellulolytic and fermentative potentials. This potential can be seen from the clear zone formation around the

colony on each selective medium. The ability was measured into an Index values. Index values include amyolytic, cellulolytic, and fermentative index. The values are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 showed that all isolate of mold from several samples ragi tapai have amyolytic, cellulolytic and fermentative ability with different index. This can be seen from the index values of each isolate on

some selective medium, i.e. APB, CMCA and GPA + CaCO<sub>3</sub>. *Geotrichum* sp. was the mold that has the highest amyolytic index which is 2.12. *Geotrichum* sp. can be used as the most potential mold, in the conversion of starch to sugar. According to Ochoa-Solano and Olmos-soto (2006). The isolates that able to produced clear zone with diameter twice colony diameter can be classified as potential enzyme producers. The high index of amyolytic potential rather than cellulolytic and fermentative indicates that *Geotrichum* sp. isolated from ragi tapai can be a potential isolate in saccharification. From several West Sumatra local ragi tapai (Padang, Padang Panjang, Pesisir Selatan, Payakumbuh, Solok, Padang Pariaman, Batusangkar) 6 species of amyolytic mold were found. Those were *Aspergillus oryzae*, *Aspergillus terreus*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Aspergillus candidus*, *Aspergillus clavatus* and *Geotrichum* sp. Highest *in-vitro* potential of amyolytic activity was found in *Geotrichum* sp.

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