

13 September 2023

Dear Dr. Miftahul Ilmi,

I am pleased to submit our manuscript entitled “Probiotic Ability of Lactic Acid Bacteria Cultured from Soymilk By-product (Okara) Medium” by Faizah Diah Retnowati, Yekti Asih Purwestri, Yuni Sine for consideration as a *Journal of Tropical Biodiversity and Biotechnology* research article.

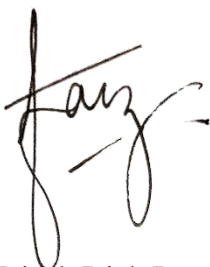
In this manuscript, we show that the isolation and identification of lactic acid bacteria by 16S rRNA sequencing from fermented soymilk resulted in *Weissella confusa*, which is a lactic acid bacteria. The utilization of soymilk by-product, which is the solid portion that is usually discarded during the making of soymilk, to create a medium for the growth of lactic acid bacteria is possible, especially at a concentration of 2%, although the use of MRS medium still yielded a higher colony count. Furthermore, soymilk fermentation by the isolate cultured from SMB also showed positive probiotic ability, in which 5.5×10^9 CFU/mL was reached, while the lactic acid content of the soymilk fermented with the LAB isolate reached 0.27%

We believe that our paper is appropriate for publication by *Journal of Tropical Biodiversity and Biotechnology* because this journal focuses on research performed in the Southeast Asia area, specifically in the biotechnology site of study, in which our research was conducted in the appropriate region. Furthermore, the issues that our research focused on is an issue that is widely experienced in the region. We hope that our manuscript could contribute to the understanding on the utilization of organic waste that is done in the food industry.

This manuscript has not been published before and is not being considered for publication elsewhere. We have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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