

## Lead (Pb) Accumulation in Water, Sediment and Mussels (*Hiatulachinensis*) from Pasir Panjang Coast, Lekok-Pasuruan

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### ABSTRACT

This study attempted to evaluate Pb accumulation in the water, sediment and mussels (*Hiatulachinensis*) from Lekok-Pasuruan. There were four sampling stations representing the study area: (1) urban areas, (2) water flow area from steam power plant (PLTU), (3) waste disposal area of PLTU, (4) fishing port. The average concentration of lead varied between stations in the water (0.279 ppm), sediment (0.423 ppm) and mussels (0.427 ppm). Pearson's correlation test shows strong relationship ( $p > 0.05$ ) between Pb in the water, sediment and *Hiatulachinensis*. Mussels accumulation of lead from the sediment was assessed using bio-concentration factor (BCF) and the result shows *Hiatulachinensis* is an accumulator of Pb ( $BCF > 1$ ).

**Keywords:** Lead, heavy metal, *Hiatulachinensis*, Lekok-Pasuruan.

### INTRODUCTION

Lead (Pb) is heavy metal that is considered serious threat to water pollution. It is non-essential metal (has no biological function) and even toxic at low concentration. Lead enters the environment mainly from the emission of petrol from the vehicles and from the industrial wastes. Once it accumulates in the sediment, it is easily absorbed by organisms living in the sediment such as mussels.

In many coastal areas, bivalves including mussels *Hiatulachinensis* (Bouchet, 2015) could be used as bioindicator of pollutants including heavy metals (Belabed et al., 2013).

Most of bivalves are sessile with limited movement ability and tolerant of fluctuations in environmental changes, thus they are subject to heavy metal contamination in their tissues. There are many studies about heavy metals contamination and accumulation in bivalve molluscs (Belabed *et. al.*, 2013; Duarte *et. al.*, 2011; Kwon *et. al.*, 2012; Spada *et. al.*, 2013; Yap *et. al.*, 2016). Heavy metal accumulations in marine organisms occur through the process of bioconcentration or biomagnification. Bioconcentration is the process by which a chemical substance is absorbed by an organism from the environment through respiratory system. On the other hand, biomagnification is the process by which a chemical substance is absorbed by an organism from its diet or food chain (Arnot and Gobas, 2006). Therefore, *Hiatulachinensis* is vulnerable to the contamination of heavy metal from the environment and also their food. *Hiatulachinensis* is consumed by many local people. Consuming mussels in long term that contain heavy metals might be dangerous to health.

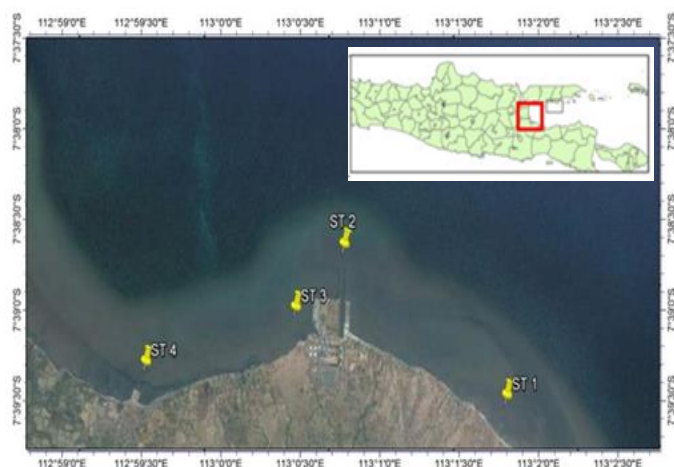
Lekok is coastal areas with high urban and industrial activities. Moreover, Steam Power Plant (PLTU) contributes to pollution in this area. Therefore, this study aims to evaluate heavy metal Pb in the water, sediment and mussels *Hiatulachinensis* and to analyse the accumulation of Pb in the mussels *Hiatulachinensis*. They are four sampling stations representing the study area (1) urban areas, (2) water flow area from

steam power plant (PLTU), (3) waste disposal area of PLTU, (4) fishing port (Fig. 1).

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

This study was conducted in March 2016 at Lekok coastal areas, Pasuruan. Temperature, salinity, pH and Dissolved oxygen (DO) were measured in-situ using Multi Probe Horiba U-50. In each station, about 100 ml surface water sample for Pb analysis was collected in pre-cleaned (acid

washed) polyethylene bottle and added 3-4 drops of nitric acid (HNO<sub>3</sub>). Water samples were immediately kept in cool box and transported to the laboratory to avoid contamination. In the laboratory, water samples were filtered using Whatman GF/F membrane filter 0.45 μm and placed in 50 ml beaker glass. The samples were then analyzed its Pb content using Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS).



**Figure 1.** Map of the Four Sampling Stations in Lekok Coastal Areas, Pasuruan.

Surface sediment samples at ± 5 cm were collected by hand and placed in clean polyethylene bottle. The samples were stored in frozen condition for further analysis. Sediment samples were dried in oven at 80°C for 48 h. Dried sediment samples were then crushed to the finest possible fraction using an acid-washed pestle and mortar. About 2 g of the sample was digested at room temperature in a beaker with 10 ml of 70% reagent grade nitric acid for an overnight. The digested samples were then analysed using a flame Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS).

A total of 10 mussels *Hiatulachinensis* were collected for each station and rinsed with sea water to clean it from the mud. Cleaned mussel samples were placed in

plastic bag, properly packed and immediately put into cool box. In laboratory, mussel samples were dried at 80°C for 48 h and homogenized with a mixer. Samples were then weighed and placed in Furnace oven at 450°C for 12 h. Pb in the digested samples were determined by AAS.

Pb accumulation in the mussels *Hiatulachinensis* from the sediment is measured using bioconcentration factor (BCF) that is the concentration of Pb in the mussels *Hiatulachinensis* divided by the concentration of Pb in the sediment. Bioconcentration factor is categorized into three different types: excluder (BCF<1), indicator (BCF=1) and accumulator (BCF>1). The relationships between heavy metal concentrations in the water, sediment and

mussels *Hiatulachinensis* were tested using Pearson`s correlation analysis.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Hydrographic condition of the study area is shown at Table 1. The average values of temperature, salinity, pH and dissolve oxygen were not very different among

stations. Temperature was in the range of 32.06-33.71° C, salinity was found between 31.64-33.97 psu, pH was 7.45-8.51 and dissolved oxygen was 6.85-7.31 mg/l. The physico-chemical parameters were still in the range of normal condition for marine environment.

**Table 1.** Mean (± SD) of the Environmental Data

Sampling station	Temperature (° C)	Salinity (psu)	pH	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/l)
St 1	33.35 ± 0.50	32.80 ± 1.64	7.9 ± 0.64	6.97 ± 0.08
St 2	32.11 ± 007	33.08 ± 0.33	7.8 ± 0.53	7.21 ± 0.13
St 3	32.63 ± 0.32	33.08 ± 0.29	8.1 ± 0.41	7.04 ± 0.26
St 4	33.59 ± 0.94	32.95 ± 1.27	8.3 ± 0.24	6.58 ± 0.56

Pb concentration showed significant increasing values from the water to the sediment and the mussels *Hiatulachinensis* (Fig. 2). The concentrations were found in similar range between the sediment and the mussels but the concentration in the water was lower compared to those two. Pb concentration in the water was in the range of 0.198-0.291 ppm; in the sediment 0.241-0.437 ppm and in the mussels *Hiatulachinensis* 0.256-0.496 ppm (Table 2). Pb concentrations in this study were higher compared to concentrations in another study both in water and sediment. Sugiyanto (2016a) in her study in Paciran, Lamongan found Pb concentrations in the water were in the range of 0.035-0.276 ppm and in the sediment 0.108-0.261 ppm. However, the results of this study were lower compared to the study conducted in the coastal areas of Probolinggo with Pb concentration in the water was in the range of 0.140-0.521 ppm and in the sediment 0.273-0.509 ppm (Sugiyanto, 2016b). The difference in Pb concentrations was the result of many factors such as source input of Pb to the environment and also characteristics of the

environmental factors (temperature and salinity).

Pb concentration in the sediment is related to the concentration in the water and it is supported with the result of Pearson`s correlation test ( $r^2=0.755$ ,  $p<0.05$ ). Higher concentration of Pb in the water was followed with higher concentration in the sediment for all sampling stations. The concentrations were higher in the sediment than the concentration in the water. Heavy metal is not easy to degrade and easily to accumulate especially in the sediment. The distributions of Pb in the water and sediment show increased concentrations toward station 4. Station 4 is a fishing port with heavy fisheries activities such as the use of fuel for the fishing ships, boat painting and also urban activities resulted in the increase of Pb concentration in this area. Among the sampling stations, the lowest concentrations of Pb in the sediment and in the mussels *Hiatulachinensis* occurred at Station 2. However, the lowest Pb concentration in the water was found in Station 1.

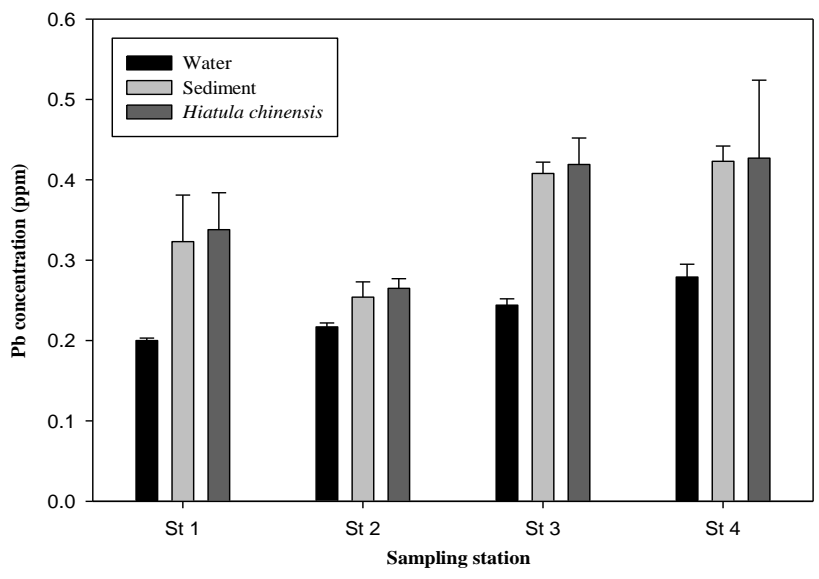
**Table 2.** Pb Concentration (ppm) in the Water, Sediment and Mussels *Hiatulachinensis*

Sampling Station	Pb Concentration (ppm)		
	Water	Sediment	<i>Hiatulachinensis</i>
<b>St 1</b>			
Max	0.203	0.365	0.371
Min	0.198	0.282	0.305
Mean	0.200	0.323	0.338
St.Dev	0.003	0.058	0.046
<b>St 2</b>			
Max	0.221	0.268	0.274
Min	0.213	0.241	0.256
Mean	0.217	0.254	0.265
St.Dev	0.005	0.019	0.012
<b>St 3</b>			
Max	0.250	0.418	0.443
Min	0.238	0.398	0.396
Mean	0.244	0.408	0.419
St.Dev	0.008	0.014	0.033
<b>St 4</b>			
Max	0.291	0.437	0.496
Min	0.267	0.409	0.358
Mean	0.279	0.423	0.427
St.Dev	0.016	0.019	0.097

The steam power plant is also contributed to the input of Pb to the environment either directly to the water system or to the air. In this study, significant impact of the power plant can be seen at Stations 2 and 3. Based on the International Finance Corporation (2008), the effluent of Pb from the power plant should not exceeded 0.5 mg/L. Thus, Pb concentration in this study area which received influence from the power plant was still in the permissible limit.

*Hiatulachinensis* is benthic organism live in the sediment and the rate of their accumulation of heavy metals is in proportion with the rate of water and sediment contamination. Higher accumulation of Pb in Stations 3 and 4 compared to the accumulation in Stations 1 and 2 were due to

Pb concentration in the water and sediment in these two stations were also high. Bioconcentration factor shows that a mussel *Hiatulachinensis* was an accumulator of heavy metal Pb (BCF>1) for all stations with the average was 1.028. Similar result was also observed in the study of intertidal mussel *Pernaperna* in accumulating Pb from the sediment with value>1 in the Gulf of Annaba, Algeria (Belabed et. al., 2013). Accumulation process of heavy metal to organisms is related with many factors such as the hydrographic condition of the study areas (Kumar et. al., 2015), heavy metal bioavailability (Baltas et. al., 2016), organic content also morphology of the organisms such as sex, size, and age (Belabed et. al., 2013).



**Figure 2.** The Average concentration of Pb (ppm) in the Water, Sediment and Mussels *Hiatulachinensis* in Lekok-Pasuruan.

Pb concentration in this study was observed to be very much higher than the acceptable level (0.05 mg/l) for the seawater quality set by the Indonesian Ministry of Environment (2004). Furthermore, Pb concentration in the mussels *Hiatulachinensis* was also found to be very much higher than the permissible limit set by both the Indonesian Ministry of Environment (2004) for marine organism (0.008 mg/l) and the Indonesian National Standards Authority (2009) for seafood consumption safety level (0.3 mg/kg). Therefore, the consumption of mussel *Hiatulachinensis* needs to be taken caution in order to prevent dangerous health issues especially for local people.

**Table 3.** Bioconcentration Factor of Mussels *Hiatulachinensis* in the Study Area.

Sampling station	Bioconcentration factor
St 1	1.046
St 2	1.039
St 3	1.026
St 4	1.009
<b>Average</b>	<b>1.028</b>

**CONCLUSION**

Pb is one of the heavy metals that is considered dangerous pollutant because its toxicity even at low concentration. The accumulations of Pb in the environment and also in the mussels are related with the metal source from the urban and industrial activities.

In this study, Pb concentrations were found above the permissible limit in the water, sediment and also in the mussel *Hiatulachinensis*. Therefore, more attention is needed in order to keep Pb concentration levels safe regarding the accumulation in the

mussel *Hiatulachinensis* that is consumed by local people.

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