



THE GROWTH OF *Ankistrodesmus* Sp IN RESPONSE TO CO₂ INDUCTION

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ABSTRACT

*This research aims to know the effect of CO₂ induction to growth of fresh water microalgal cell of *Ankistrodesmus* sp. Microalgal culture was carried out by means of laboratory scale on Erlenmeyer tube containing Basal Bold Medium (BBM). The experiment design was completely randomized design in single factor with 3 levels: CO₂ induction, air induction and control (without treatment). The growth of *Ankistrodesmus* sp cell with air induction treatment was reach growth peak same as control at the 11th day with cell density 1.063.166 cell.ml⁻¹ and control 385.833 cell.ml⁻¹. Two peak of growth was occurred in CO₂ induction treatment, at the 9th day with cell density 772.793 cell.ml⁻¹ and the 13th day with cell density 436.888 cell.ml⁻¹. The optimum growth of rate *Ankistrodesmus* sp cell in CO₂ induction treatment was 1.59 cell division.day⁻¹ at the 6.87th day, in air induction 1.49 cell division.day⁻¹ at the 7.69th day and control 1.05 cell division.day⁻¹ at the 3.96th day. In the end observation, pH of culture medium in CO₂ induction treatment was reach 9.1, in air induction treatment 8.3 and control 7.6. The highest biomass of *Ankistrodesmus* sp cell was occurred in CO₂ induction treatment 2.4 g.l⁻¹, followed by air induction treatment 2.1 g.l⁻¹ and control 1.6 g.l⁻¹. The highest chlorophyll concentration of *Ankistrodesmus* sp cell in CO₂ induction treatment 10.70 mg.l⁻¹ followed by air induction treatment 10.57 mg.l⁻¹ and control 7.84 mg.l⁻¹.*

Keywords: *Ankistrodesmus* SP, CO₂, Growth

INTRODUCTION

Since a few decades ago, global warming has become a serious threat to human kind and the natural environment (Brennan and Owende, 2010). Increasing the temperature of the earth's surface can lead to extreme climate changes, rising sea levels, extinction of some species of organisms, the melting of icebergs in the poles and some other disaster. Rising global temperatures ca used by high levels of carbon dioxide gas (CO₂) in the atmosphere (Florides and Christodoulides, 2009). That way the seriousness of the threat of global warming, the Kyoto protocol in 1997 proposed the reduction of greenhouse gases about 5.2% of the emitted since 1990. Several mitigation measures

were attempted to carry out the CO₂ target of the proposal on the Kyoto protocol. Among the existing way of mitigation in biology, is the most promising. The benefits of CO₂ mitigation in biology in addition to capturing CO₂ can also produce energy through photosynthesis (Li *et al.*, 2011).

Photo synthesis is performed by all plants, including microorganisms. However, plants are considered less efficient in capturing CO₂ for the slow growth rate. On the other hand, microalgae as photosynthetic microorganisms capable of capturing solar energy and more efficient CO₂ of about 10 to 50 times than in higher plants (Wang *et al.*, 2008).

There are more than 27,000 types of microalgae found in the earth and containing diverse chemicals that is worth selling (Hollar, 2012). Biomass resulting from the cultivation of microalgae has some uses (Sayre, 2010). 1) Sources of bio fuels (biodiesel and bio ethanol). 2) Nutritional supplements for human in the form of tablets, capsules, powder and liquid, 3) Natural food colorings, 4) Natural food source for many species of fish, 5) Nutritional supplement for live stock in order to increase immunity and fertility, 6) Supplement ingredient cosmetics, 7) Source of valuable materials such as unsaturated fatty acids, ω-3 fatty acids, pigments and biochemical stable isotope, 8) Raw materials to form a "Biochar" through pyrolysis which can be used as biological fertilizers and carbon source, 9) Source of renew able hydrogen.

Microalgae can capture CO₂ from the atmosphere, or from the gas industry (for example, the exit gas from power plants) in the form of dissolved carbonate (Na₂CO₃ and NaHCO₃) (Chang and Yang, S.S., 2003). In general, the concentration of CO₂ from power plants is higher than in the atmosphere. Low concentrations of CO₂ in the atmosphere causes the slow growth of microalgae because of slow mass transfer of gas. Capture efficiency of CO₂ by microalgae increased with the flow of gas from power generation to 15% CO₂ (Amaro *et al.*, 2011). Green microalgae (Chlorophyta) such as the species of *Ankistrodesmus* sp has a simple structure which is less than 2 mm in diameter. Growth of microalgae requires three main factors: sunlight, nutrients and carbon dioxide (CO₂). Therefore in this study will be used induction gas carbon dioxide (CO₂) to the growth of the *Ankistrodesmus* sp. can be maximized. This research aims to know the effect of CO₂ induction to growth of fresh water microalgal cell of *Ankistrodesmus* sp.

MATERIALS AND METHODE

Microalgae *Ankistrodesmus* sp. was derived from the collection of the Laboratory Department of Biology, Faculty of Science and Technology, State Islamic University Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung, was the result of isolation from the fresh waters Cibiru Bandung. Research carried out at room Algae Culture Department of Biology State Islamic University Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. Culture conditions: temperature 26°C, humidity 82%, light intensity 2970 Lux, and

photoperiod 24 hours of light. Experimental design used was completely randomized design consisting of 3 treatments that was, without treatment (control), air induction (aerators) and the induction of carbon dioxide (CO₂). The medium was used bold basal medium (BBM).

Initial density of cells inoculated *Ankistrodesmus* sp. 10.000 cells.ml⁻¹ in 500ml Erlenmeyer tubes containing 200 ml of culture medium, initial pH 6.5 treatment medium was regulated by the addition of solution of HCl 1% and KOH 1%. Calculation of the number or density of cells was done periodically every 24 hours for 14 days, using Haemocytometer. For the growth rate calculated by the following equation (Chrismadha *et al.*, 2006):

$$\ln (X_t / X_0)$$

$$\mu = \frac{\ln (X_t / X_0)}{t}$$

Description: μ = The rate of growth (cell division.day⁻¹), X_t = cell density at time t, X_0 = initial cell density, t = time (days).

Biomass measurements obtained by knowing the weight of the organic materials. Samples of 10ml filtered with filter paper Whatman GF/A and heated in an oven at 100°C. Then the sample was dried at a temperature of 600°C for 24 hours. Microalgae weight organic materials obtained by subtracting the weight of sample that has been heated 100°C with ash weight after it was created. Measurement of chlorophyll content of cultures performed on the 14th day using a spectrophotometer at a wavelength of 663nm and 645nm (Hosikian *et al.*, 2010). Measurement of pH of culture media are also performed daily using a digital H meter to see the status of the availability of CO₂ in the culture media for microalgae cells are cultured. The mean value of all data were compared by variance analysis (ANOVA) and then Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT) for pairwise comparison was used at the 5% significance level (Gomez and Gomez, 1995).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Culture of microalgae *Ankistrodesmus* sp. during 14 days of observation showed a diverse growth pattern for each given treatment. The growth in the aeration treatment could reach the peak similar to the controls at the 11th day with the cell density was almost three times of 1,063,166 cells.ml⁻¹ whereas the growth in CO₂ treatment reach the peak at the 9th day of 772,793 cells.ml⁻¹ (Figure 1).

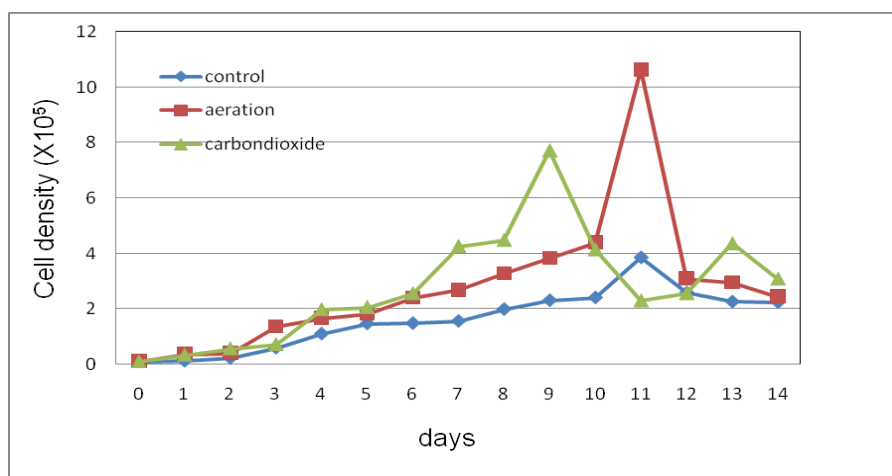
In the treatment of CO₂ induction, the two of growth peak of microalgae *Ankistrodesmus* sp. on BBM occurred on the 9th day and the 13th day respectively. Whereas the control and treatment of air induction, only had one peak of growth on the 11th day. This was probably due to that induction of CO₂ could provide microalgae rapidly to carry out photosynthesis process, as nutrient in the medium still available and utilize for subsequent growth until it reached a second peak of growth. Cell density at the peak of growth for CO₂ induction treatment was lower than the air induction

treatment but it was higher than the control. Under the microscope view, it was found large cells of *Ankistrodesmus* sp. had been growing on CO₂ induction.

The growth of microalgae of *Ankistrodesmus* sp did not exhibit a phase of adaptation. This happened due to adaptation phase lasted less than 24 hours therefore it was not clearly observed. From the first day of the average density of the cell had begun improvement. Moreover, the absence of adaptation phase was also due to the utilization of medium in this experiment was similar to the maintenance medium. According to Pittman *et al.* (2011), a number of microalgae cell on the environmental conditions of culture media was similar to the previous culture of maintenance led to a phase of adaptation was not visible, or the cells had moved into the exponential phase.

At the exponential phase, the cell density increased which caused rapid multiplication process was still occurred. Exponential phase was likely occurred because the content of nutrients in the BBM was still available in significant amounts, led to an increase in the growth and cell division. After reaching the peak of growth, cell density began decline, and then entered stationary phase. The stationary phase culture of microalgae associated with a reduced amount of nutrient in the medium and accumulation of toxic metabolic compounds. In addition, the decrease occurred due to the reduced intensity of light received by microalgae cells which were caused by the phenomenon of the formation of shadows (self-shading) by microalgae cells in the culture (Costa and Morais, 2011).

Figure-1. Growth of microalgae *Ankistrodesmus* sp. for 14 days on Bold Basal Medium (BBM)



The growth patterns of *Ankistrodesmus* sp. for 14 days in culture of BBM with various treatments in accordance with the rate of growth in the number of cell divisions per day, form a hyperbolic curve with a quadratic regression equation (Figure 2, 3 and 4). This was consistent with observations by (Mata *et al.*, 2010), which reported a growth rate of microalgae cultures that make up the hyperbolic curve.

Based on the hyperbolic curve showed the maximum of growth rate which obtained CO₂ induction was 1.59 cell division.day⁻¹ on the 6.87th day, while in the air induction was 1.49 cell division.day⁻¹ on the 7.69th day, and the control was 1.05 cell division. day⁻¹ on the 3.96th day. From the curve of growth rate could be seen that the highest of *Ankistrodesmus* sp. growth per day with CO₂ induction was 1.59 cell division.day⁻¹ and no far from the treatment of the air induction was 1.49 cell division. day⁻¹. As reported by (Mutanda *et al.*, 2011), microalgae cells could multiply up to 3 times per day. If cell of microalgae obtained adequate nutrition, they would grow well especially when supplied with CO₂ into the medium which was associated with photosynthesis reaction. Induction of air through the aerator and the induction of CO₂ through a CO₂ gas cylinder would create a stirring in the medium so that each cell of microalgae would get an adequate nutrition for the growth.

Figure-2. The growth rate of microalgae *Ankistrodesmus* sp. Without treatment (control) for 14 days on Bold Basal Medium (BBM). Regression equation: $y = -0.10 + 0.28x - 0.02x^2$

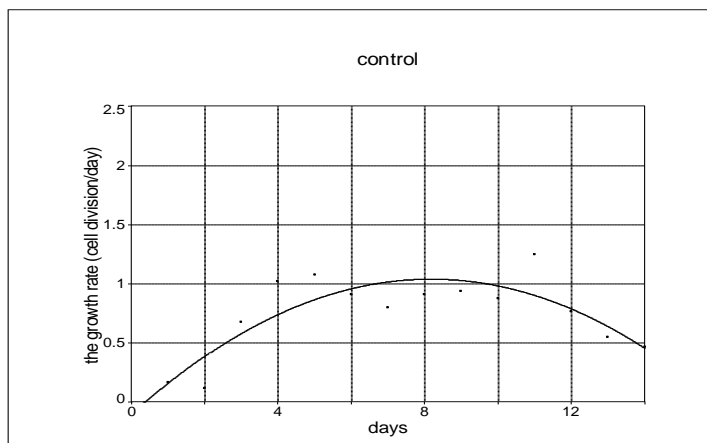


Figure-3. The growth rate of microalgae *Ankistrodesmus* sp. With CO₂ air induction for 14 days on Bold Basal Medium (BBM). Regression equation $y = 0.72 + 0.23x - 0.02x^2$

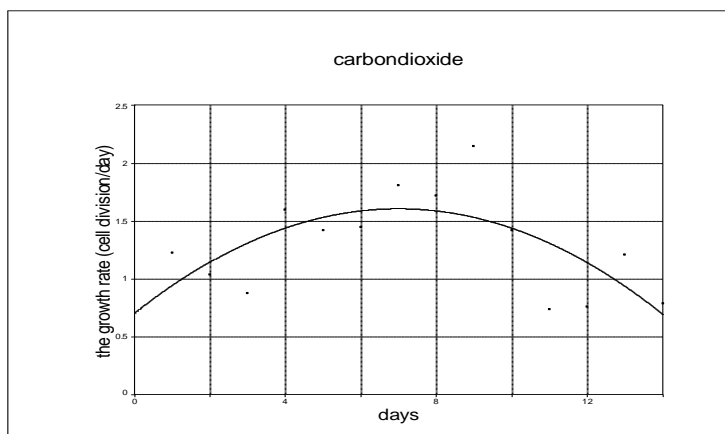


Figure-4. The growth rate of microalgae *Ankistrodesmus* sp. With Aeration induction for 14 days on Bold Basal Medium (BBM). Regression equation $y=0.71+0.26x - 0.02x^2$

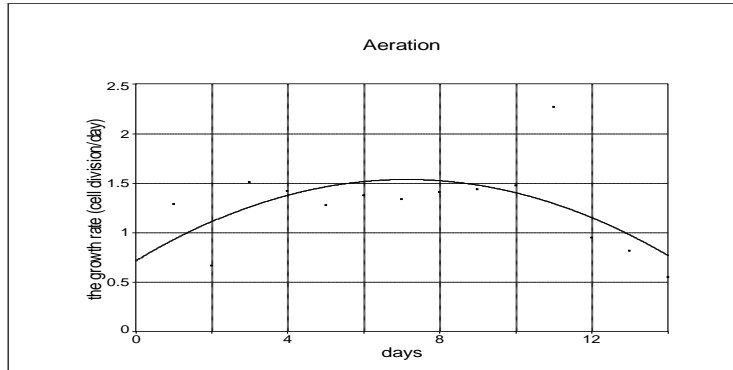
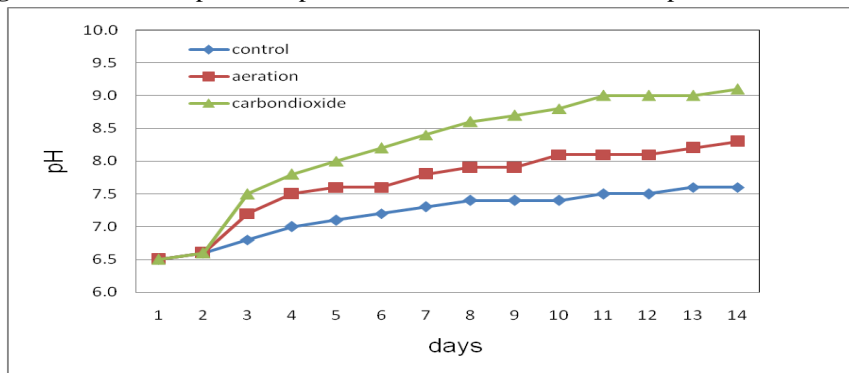


Figure 5 showed that the development of pH in culture medium increased both in controls and air induction as well as CO₂ induction. Increasing the pH in the treatment of CO₂ induction was quite sharp, reaching 9.1 at the end of the observation, while in the air induction and control, the pH rose up to 8.3 and 7.6 respectively. Increasing the pH of the culture medium of *Ankistrodesmu* sp. From the initial pH 6.5 showed that all of microalgal cells using the CO₂ which contained in the growth medium. Although the control and treatment of air induction was not supplied with CO₂ gas, but microalgae cells still could obtain and utilize the existing CO₂ in medium for growing well.

CO₂ was used by microalgae as a source of carbon because of the nature of photo autotrophic life. CO₂ was the main inorganic carbon source for microalgae culture. Another source of organic carbon in the medium according to Singh *et al.* (2011), can be obtained from carbonates (CO₃²⁻) and bicarbonate ions (HCO₃⁻). The use of CO₂ and bicarbonate ions by microalgae would decrease the concentration of CO₂, so it could increase the pH in the growth medium. The highest increase of pH occurred in the *Ankistrodesmus* sp. culture medium that obtained CO₂ induction. It was possible, with the supply of CO₂ to the medium, the more microalgae cells to carry out photosynthesis which would increase the cell biomass of microalgae and pH in the medium would continue to increase.

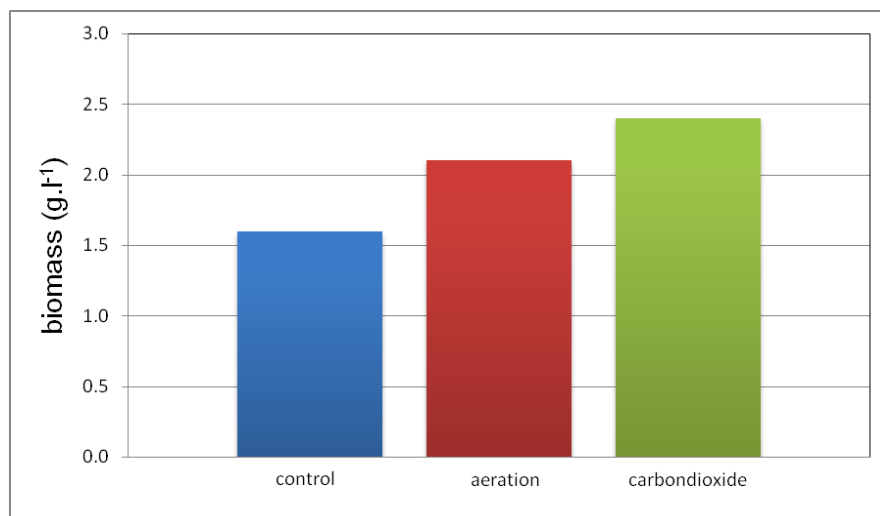
Figure-5. The development of pH in medium of *Ankistrodesmus* sp. culture for 14 days



Biomass of microalgae cells would markedly increase when the medium is induced by CO₂ gas (Figure 6). CO₂ was the sole source of carbon which was necessary for the growth of microalgae. As described by Khoo *et al.* (2011), in the growth of microalgae required sunlight, nutrients and CO₂. The presence of CO₂ in the medium would be utilized by the microalgae cells to carry out photosynthesis. According to (Widjaja *et al.*, 2009), the photosynthesis process would produce simple carbohydrates that could be converted into other organic compounds. Formation of organic compounds would increase the biomass of microalgae.

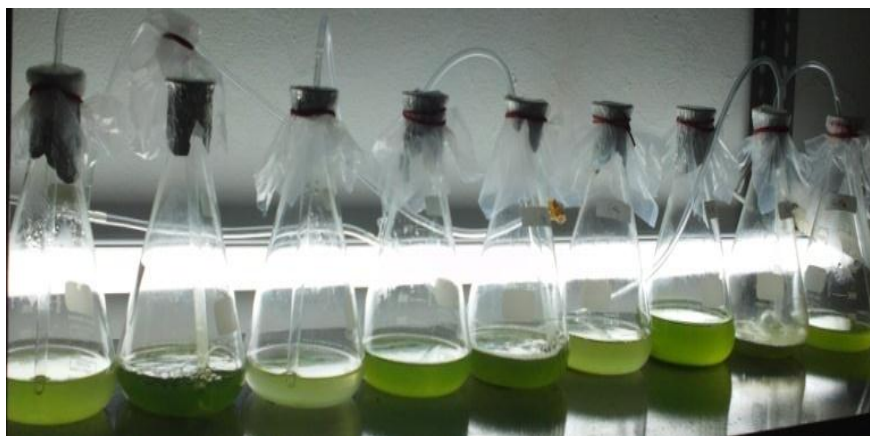
Nutrient content in the BBM was sufficient to support the growth of microalgae cells. Macro nutrients such as Mg, Ca, K, and P was used by microalgal cells as components of the cell, while the micro nutrients such as Fe, Zn, Mn, and Cu was required by microalgal cells either as an enzyme cofactor, and as a component for chlorophyll formation (Demirbas, 2011).

Figure-6. Biomass of *Ankistrodesmus* sp. at the end of the 14th day of observation



Increased biomass of microalgae cells could also be seen from the color change of culture medium (Figure 7). The color of microalgae culture medium due to chlorophyll as the main pigment contained in the cell cytoplasm. At the beginning of the experiment, cultured microalgae grown in media treatment of pale white. This color of medium appeared which caused by the amount of microalgae cells were not proportional to the volume of media. The color of culture medium on the third day was like green apples, on the 7th day was green, on the 10th day was dark green and on the 14th day was the final day of microalgae culture medium changed to yellow like copper. Changes in culture medium of green color ranging from light green to green copper (yellow like copper) showed that the cell population increases with age of culture.

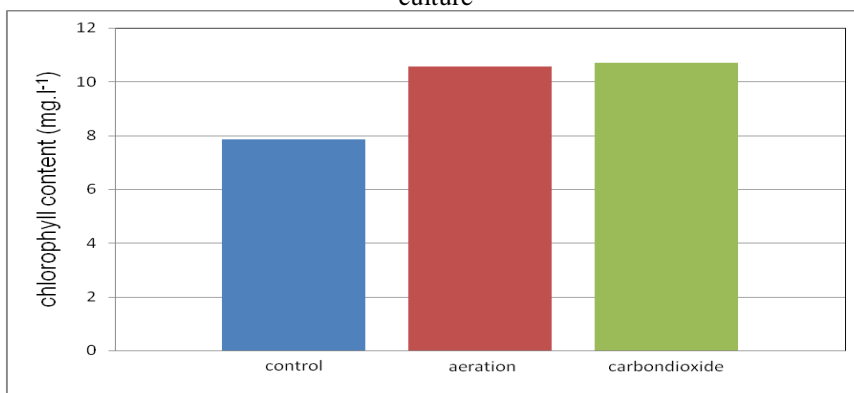
Figure-7.The 7th day of culture of *Ankistrodesmus* sp.



The green color indicated an increase of population of culture cells, also indicated the containing of chlorophyllin microalgal cells. Chlorophyll content of micro algae *Ankistrodesmus* sp. cells were measured at the end day of the experiment or the 14th day culture. In Figure 8. showed that microalgal cell treated by induction of CO₂ has the highest chlorophyll content of 10.70mg.l⁻¹ and statistically data was not significantly different from the chlorophyll content of microalgae cells were treated air induction of 10.57mg.l⁻¹, while the control have the lowest chlorophyll content of 7.84mg.l⁻¹.

Ankistrodesmus sp. cell densities were higher in cultures treated the air induction than the induction of CO₂ (Figure 1.) which was not associated with the content of chlorophyll. High content of chlorophyll which occurred in *Ankistrodesmus* sp. cell cultures treated induction of CO₂. This could occur due to high cell densities on *Ankistrodesmus* sp. Culture could inhibit the penetration of light into the column so that the culture would be reduced the process of photosynthesis and chlorophyll synthesis.

Figure-8.Chlorophyll content of *Ankistrodesmus* sp at the end of the observation of the 14th day culture



CONCLUSIONS

Ankistrodesmus sp cell growth for 14 days in culture medium treated air induction reached peak growth similar to the controls at the 11th day culture, but the highest cell density of 1,063,166

cells.ml⁻¹, whereas in the control of 385,833 cells.ml⁻¹. In the culture medium induced with CO₂ reached the first growth peak at the 9th day with a cell density of 772,793 cell.ml⁻¹ and the second growth peak at the 13th day with a cell density of 436,888 cells.ml⁻¹. The growth rate of cell of *Ankistrodesmus* sp. cultures with induction of CO₂ was 1.59 cell division.day⁻¹ on the 6.87th day, while in the air induction treatment was 1.49 cell division.day⁻¹ on the 7.69th day, and on the control was 1.05 cell division.day⁻¹ on the 3.96th day. At the end of the observation, the pH of the culture medium treated CO₂ induction reached was 9.1 while in the air induction treatment and control reached was 8.3 and 7.6 respectively.

The highest biomass of *Ankistrodesmus* sp cells in culture that had achieved the CO₂ induction treatment was 2.4 g.l⁻¹ followed air induction treatment and control were 2.1 g.l⁻¹ and 1.6 g.l⁻¹ respectively. The highest chlorophyll content of *Ankistrodesmus* sp. cells achieved in culture treated CO₂ induction was 10.7 mg.l⁻¹ followed air induction treatment and control were 10.57 mg.l⁻¹ and 7.84 mg.l⁻¹ respectively.

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