Lotka Volterra Model Simulation for Rice-field Rat and Tyto Alba Owls in Sumpiuh District, Banyumas Regency, Central Java

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ABSTRACT

Rice-field rat (Rattus argentiventer) is a rodent that has a high level of productivity. These animals attack rice plants from the vegetative to the generative phase. This research aimed to analyze and to predict the accuracy of the use of owls with mathematical equations model in Kebokura and Lebeng villages, Sumpiuh district. Lotka - Volterra and Competitive Lotka-Volterra models were used to predict the population dynamics of Owl (predator) and rice-field rats (prey), then Runge - Kutta numerical method was applied to analyze the population dynamics of predator and prey at a certain time. The results of the analyses using the Lotka – Volterra, Competitive Lotka - Volterra equations and simulation data, each graph data showed that the rats' population was able to be maximally suppressed. Based on the analysis result, started with 24 owls and 1,689 rats, the rats' population could be suppressed to 104 using Lotka – Volterra, and to 176 using the Competitive Lotka – Volterra model. Then in the first and second simulation, started with 50 and 100 owls and 1,689 rats, analysis using Lotka – Volterra and Competitive Lotka – Volterra showed that the rat population could be suppressed to as much as 126, 188 and 145, 189, respectively. Based on the analysis, it could be concluded that use of Serak Jawa owl strategy was able to reduce and stabilize the rat populations. Furthermore, the higher population of owls can prevent the population explosion of rats and can suppress the rat population to a lower number.

Keywords: Lotka – Volterra; rice-field rat; Runge – Kutta algorithm; Tyto alba owl

INTRODUCTION

Rice-field rat (*Rattus argentiventer*) are often found to damage food crops, especially rice paddy. Rice-field rat can reproduce from 1.5 to 5 months, and a female rat gives birth to an average of 8 children per childbirth, and is able to mate again within 48 hours and be able to conceive while breastfeeding at the same time. For a year a female can give birth 4 times, so that in one year can be born 32 rats (Agriculture Department, 2013).

With a high population, rice-field rat can cause considerable rice crop damage resulting in decreased rice production and farmer losses. This happened at Sleman DI Yogyakarta, 7,200 Ha of paddy fields attacked by rice-field rat and resulted in production losses up to 1,000 tons precisely decreased 0.98% from 109,724

DOI: http://doi.org/10.22146/agritech.46456 ISSN 0216-0455 (Print), ISSN 2527-3825 (Online) tons in 2012 and in 2013 to 108,363 tons (Bernas Jogja, 2013).

There are several methods to overcome rice-field rat attack, among others: a) Planting rice in unison; b) habitat sanitation; c) Gropyok masal; d) Fumigation; e) Rodenticides; and f) Trap Barrier System (TBS). However, some of these methods have some deficiency, among others, not all farmers or farmer groups are willing to plant rice in unison. Methods of sanitation and gropyok masal require a lot of manpower, fumugation is usually done after the attack. The use of rodenticides is quite effective when the rat population is large but if the rice field area is close to the residential area, the rats will most likely die in people's homes and cause an unpleasant odor because the rodenticide toxins work slowly at 48 hours, around including humans (Pardosi, 2005). Than, the Trap Barrier System method requires a trap that is routinely installed in paddy fields.

Agricultural Department of Banyumas District is developing a method of rice-field rat control by using natural enemies, namely Serak Jawa (Tyto alba) because it is considered potential and has advantages compared to other methods. In accordance with the Agricultural Department of Banyumas District program, subdistrict Sumpluh also apply that method on agricultural land in their region, precisely in the village of Lebeng and Kebokura. The use of owl methods is more economical and ergonomic, because it requires a small cost and does not require human intervention to control the rat population. The Serak Jawa owls can effectively control the rats because the specific foods are rats (99%) and insects (1%) (Morris, 1979; Duckett, 1991). Consumption power reaches 2-4 rats / day / owl (Lenton, 1980; Sipayung et al., 1990). In addition, Serak Jawa owl performs its activities at night from 19:00 to 06:00 am which coincides with the activity of rats.

The use of owl methods has many advantages and has long been applied, but not known specifically how the strategy of using owl as a method of rice-field rat control. Such strategies include; how many owls are needed for a given land area or a certain number of mouse populations, how to stabilize the rat population to keep it low, so that it has low damage power at least without disturbing the balance of the ecosystem.

The purpose of this research was to analyze the strategy to control rice-field rats using the Serak Jawa owls with the calculation of Predator-Prey model simulation using the Lotka Volterra and Competitive Lotka Volterra equations, and to make a simulation with the addition of the number of predators, then make a comparison with actual data to determine the factors of the initial number of predators against the dynamics of rat populations.

METHODS

Study Area

The study area is in Sumpiuh District, one of districts area in Banyumas Regency, Central Java, Indonesia (Figure 1). Location of Sumpiuh District (7°32'18.1"S - 7°39'47.9"S, 109°24'05.3"E - 109°19'45.1"E) and bordering with Somagede, Tambak, Nusawungu, Kemranjen Subdistrict in north, east, south and west, respectively. The total area of Sumpiuh approximately 103 km² or equivalent to 10,300 ha.



ADMINISTRATION MAP OF SUMPIUH DISTRICT, BANYUMAS REGENCY, CENTRAL JAVA, INDONESIA

Figure 1. Administration map of Sumpiuh District, Banyumas Regency, Central Java, Indonesia

Data and Analytical Method

Data that used in this research is the data of application of owl house in Sumpiuh District that obtained from Agricultural Department of Banyumas Regency, Land use map, Lotka-Volterra and Competitive Lotka-Volterra equation coefficient that obtained from calculation and reference from other research.

Method that used in this research is using Lotka-Volterra and Competitive Lotka-Volterra equation to know the value of competition between owl and ricefield rat, then do a simulation by predicting using Runge Kutta numerical method that performed on Visual Basic Microsoft Excel, and ArcGIS software is used to display data spatially.

The Lotka-Volterra equation was first introduced by Lotka and Volterra in 1925, with the Equation 1 and 2.

$$\frac{dN_1}{dt} = a N_1 - b N_1 N_2 \tag{1}$$

$$\frac{dN_2}{dt} = -c N_2 + db N_1 N_2 \tag{2}$$

Where N_1 is the population of the Predator, N_2 is the population of the Prey, a is the coefficient of birth rate of the population of Prey, b is the coefficient of predation level, c is the mortality rate of the Predator population, and d is the Predator reproduction.

The Competitive Lotka - Volterra is basically the same as the Lotka-Volterra equation such as Eq. 1 and Eq. 2, but on the competitive model, two coefficients are added ie a (reproduction rate of prey in its territory) and β (action of reproduction of prey) (Willson, 2010), with the Equation 3 and 4.

$$\frac{dN_1}{dt} = a N_1 - b N_1 N_2 - \alpha (N_1)^2$$
(3)

$$\frac{dt}{dt} = -c N_2 + db N_1 N_2 - \beta (N_2)^2$$
(4)

The Runge-Kutta method is a method used to solve numerical differential equations or approaches so as to obtain solutions representing a complete or analytical solution (Chitode, 2010). In order to obtain the dynamics of the Owl and Rice-field rat population, the Lotka-Volterra and Competitive Lotka-Volterra is solved using the Runge-Kutta numerical method, so that the following two differential equations can be obtained (Butcher, 2008). The Runge-kutta equation as follows (Equation 5 and 6).

$$\frac{dN_1}{dt} = F(x, y, z) \tag{5}$$

$$\frac{dN_2}{dt} = G(x, y, z) \tag{6}$$

Then completed the Runge-Kutta method for each order (Nugroho, 2009). To obtain Predator and Prey population numbers at the next time step, we use the n-order Runge-Kutta equation, as in the Equation 7 and Equation 8.

$$N_{1_{n+1}} = N_1 + \frac{K_1 + 2K_2 + 2K_3 + K_4}{6} \tag{7}$$

$$N_{2_{n+1}} = N_2 + \frac{K_1 + 2K_2 + 2K_3 + K_4}{6}$$
(8)

The next step is to do the simulation twice, compare the calculation of Lotka-Volterra and Competitive Lotka-Volterra equations with real data and simulation data. Based on the simulation results it can be seen the exact and optimal number of owls to be applied in the research location.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Coefficient of Lotka-Volterra and Competitive Lotka-Volterra Equations

The Coefficient of Lotka-Voltera equation consists of a, b, c, and d. The coefficient value depends on the prey rate of birth (a), predator mortality (b), mortality rate of predator population (c), and predator reproduction after prey (d).

The population of rats in Banyumas District reached 900 / 105 ha of paddy fields (Winarto, 2018), and rice-field rat has a birth rate of 32 per year annually (Agriculture Department, 2013). Rice field in Sumpiuh Subdistrict has an area of 1,604 ha and in the village of Kebokura and Lebeng has an area of 197 ha. Application of the owl method to overcome rice-field rat, located in

Table 1. The value of predator-prey coefficient with Lotka-Volterra equation

Case	а	b	С	d	Reference
Canadian Lynx – Snowshoe Hare	1	0.03	0.4	0.01	(Ondum, 1953)
Wolf – Rabbit	1	0.21	0.5	0.04	(Kumar, 2006)
Fox – Rabbit	0.4	0.001	0.001	0.9	(Lundin, 2011)

Model	N ₁	N ₂	а	b	С	d	a	β
Lotka-Volterra	1,689	24	32	0.21	60	0.5	-	-
Competitive Lotka-Volterra	1,689	24	32	0.21	60	0.5	0.0087	0.0011

Table 2. The value of predator-prey coefficient of Serak Jawa Owl and Rice-field Rat

Kebokura and Lebeng villages, Sumpiuh sub-district in 2015. Based on the data, the rat population in the land area of 197 ha can be assumed, the rats population are 1,689. As an effort to overcome rice-field rat, at some point in the location of rice field has been placed 12 cages of owl house (rubuha) or 24 owls (one pair per owl house).

Animals that used as a predator for rice-field rat are the Serak Jawa Owl (Ruyyschaert *et al.*, 2011) which have the longest life span of 37 years and have a reproductive rate once a year but can be two to three times a year depending on the food supply and usually spawn 2 - 18 points (Marti, 1992). Owl age ranges from 34 years (Harris, 2002) and even up to 60 years if treated well (Anonim, 2016).

Coefficient value a = 32 (Agricultural Department, 2013); c = 60; d = 0.5 (comparison between predator birth and prey birth); b = 0.21 using coefficient according to (Kumar, 2006). Selection of coefficient values due to similarity of predation rate with owl, the owl preys 2-4 rat per day, then the wolves prey on 1-2 rabbits a day, and the wolf-like owls are preyed at night because wolves have a reflective retina (Tapetum) that helps sharpen the vision of wolves at night day (Sandra, 2010; Catharina, 2010). The values of a and β are derived from prey reproduction in its territory (32/365) / 10) and predator consumption on prey reproduction ((4/365) / 10), resulting in values a = 0.0087; β = 0.0011. So the coefficient value obtained as in Table 2.



Figure 2. Dynamic population of owls and rats using the Lotka Volterra equation

Actual Data Analysis Using Lotka-Volterra and Competitive Lotka-Volterra Equations

Based on the analysis using data in the Table 2 for Lotka-Volterra and Competitive Lotka-Volterra equation, has been obtained the dynamics data of owl population and rice-field rat that can be seen in Figure 2.

Figure 2 shows that the rat population had risen up until 2,045 in the 5th month but able to be suppressed optimally until 104 rats in the 23rd month, then fluctuate and then the rat population increased in the 62nd month with 1,530 rats, but can be controlled by owls again.



Figure 3. Phase space plot of owls and rat using Lotka-Volterra equation

The owl population also increased twice, up to 694 and 501 at 10th and 69th month, respectively. Based on the results of the analysis, owls are able to control the rice-field rat population significantly.



Figure 3. Phase space plot of owls and rat using Lotka-Volterra equation

Based Figure 3, the competition between owls and rats, that owls are able to suppress the rat population well, from 1,689; 2,045; 104; 1,530 and 174, respectively and continue to decline.



Figure 4. Dynamic population of owls and rats using the competitive Lotka Volterra equation

Figure 4 shows that the rat population had risen up until 1,779 in the 4th month but able to be suppressed optimally until 176 rats in the 24th month, then fluctuate and then the rat population increased in the 61st month with 1,066 rats, but can be controlled by owls again. The owl population also increased twice, up to 485 and 273 at 12th and 71st month, respectively. Based on the results of the analysis, owls are able to control the rice-field rat population, evidenced by declining rat populations of each cycle.



Figure 5. Phase space plot of owls and rat using competitive Lotka-Volterra equation

Based on the graph (Figure 5), it can be seen the competition between owls and rats, that owls are able to suppress the rat population very well, from 1,689; 1,779 and 176; 1,066; 332 respectively continue to decline each cycle and possibly stable at 500 rats population.

First Simulation Analysis Using Lotka-Volterra and Competitive Lotka-Volterra Equations

The simulation is performed by replacing the initial value of the owl number, this simulation is to model the relationship between owl and rat, in an effort to find the optimal of initial predator value.

Based on the simulation analysis using data in the Table 3 and Lotka-Volterra and Competitive Lotka-Volterra equation, has been obtained the dynamics data of owl population and rice-field rat that can be seen in Figure 6.



Figure 6. Dynamic population simulation 1 of owls and rats using the Lotka Volterra equation

The graph (Figure 6) shows that the rat population had risen up until 1,839 in the 3rd month, than able to decreased until of 126 rats in the 22nd month, then fluctuate and then the rat population increased in the 59th month with 1,412 rats, but can be controlled by owls again. The owl population also increased twice, up to 616 and 458 at 10th and 66th month, respectively. Based on the results of the analysis, owls are able to control the rice-field rat population significantly.

Table 3. The Value of predator-prey coefficient of Serak Jawa owl and rice-field rat in simulation 1

Simulation 1	N ₁	N ₂	а	b	С	d	a	β
Lotka-Volterra	1,689	50	32	0.21	60	0.5	-	-
Competitive Lotka-Volterra	1,689	50	32	0.21	60	0.5	0.0087	0.0011



Figure 7. Phase space plot simulation 1 of owls and rat using Lotka-Volterra equation

Based on the graph (Figure 7) it can be seen the competition between owls and rats, that owls are able to suppress the rat population well, from 1,689, 1,839, 126, 1,412 and 198, respectively and continue to decline each cycle and possibly stable at 750 rats population.



Figure 8. Dynamic population simulation 1 of owls and rats using the competitive Lotka Volterra equation

The graph (Figure 8) shows that the rat population had risen up until 1,704 in the 2nd month, than able to decreased until of 188 rats in the 22nd month, then fluctuate and then the rat population increased in the 58th month with 1,040 rats, but can be controlled by owls again. The owl population also increased twice, up to 462 and 265 at 10th and 69th month, respectively.



Figure 9. Phase space plot simulation 1 of owls and rat using competitive Lotka-Volterra equation

Based on the results of the analysis, owls are able to control the rice-field rat population.

Based on the graph (Figure 9) it can be seen the competition between owls and rats, that owls are able to suppress the rat population very well, from 1,689, 1,704, 188, 1,040 and 341, respectively to decline each cycle and possibly stable at 600 rats population.

Second Simulation Analysis Using Lotka-Volterra and Competitive Lotka-Volterra Equations

The second simulation is performed by replacing the initial value of the owl with the higher number, this simulation is to model the relationship between owl and rat, in an effort to find the optimal of initial predator value.

Based on the simulation analysis using data in the Table 4 and Lotka-Volterra and Competitive Lotka-Volterra equation, has been obtained the dynamics data of owl population and rice-field rat that can be seen in the Figure 10.

The graph (Figure 10) shows that the rat population had risen up until 1,708 in the 2nd month, than able to decreased until of 145 rats in the 21st month, then fluctuate and then the rat population increased in the 56th month with 1,334 rats, but can be controlled by owls again. The owl population also increased twice, up to 568 and 427 at 8th and 64th month, respectively. Based on the results of the analysis, owls are able to control the rice-field rat population.

Table 4. The value of predator-prey coefficient of Serak Jawa owl and rice-field rat in simulation 2

Simulation 2	N ₁	N ₂	а	b	С	d	a	β
Lotka-Volterra	1,689	100	32	0.21	60	0.5	-	-
Competitive Lotka-Volterra	1,689	100	32	0.21	60	0.5	0.0087	0.0011



Figure 10. Dynamic population simulation 2 of owls and rats using the Lotka Volterra equation



Figure 11. Phase space plot simulation 2 of owls and rat using Lotka-Volterra equation



Figure 12. Dynamic population simulation 2 of owls and rats using the competitive Lotka Volterra equation

Based on the graph (Figure 11) it can be seen the competition between owls and rats, that owls are able to suppress the rat population well, from 1,689, 1,708, 145, 1,334 and 216, respectively and continue to decline each cycle and possibly stable at 600 rats population.

The graph (Figure 12) shows that the rat population is decreased until of 189 rats in the 21st month, then fluctuate and then the rat population increased in the 57th month with 1,039 rats, but can be controlled by owls again. The owl population also increased twice, up to 459 and 265 at 8th and 67th month, respectively. Based on the results of the analysis, owls are able to control the rice-field rat population significantly and without an increase of initial rat population.

Parameter	Actu	al data	Si	mulation 1	Simulation 2		
Initial population of owl	24		50		100		
Initial population of rat	1,689		1,689		1,689		
а	32		32		32		
b	0.21		0.21		0.21		
С	60		60		60		
d	0.5		0.5		0.5		
a	0.0087		0.0087		0.0087		
β	0.0011		0.0011		0.0011		
Equation	Lotka Volterra	Competitive Lotka Volterra	Lotka Volterra	Competitive Lotka Volterra	Lotka Volterra	Competitive Lotka Volterra	
Maximum population of owl	649	485	616	462	568	459	
Second owl population peak	501	273	458	265	427	265	
Minimum population of owl	13	26	18	28	23	28	
Maximum population of rat	2,045	1,779	1,839	1,704	1,708	1,689	
Second rat population peak	1,530	1,066	1,412	1,040	1,334	1,039	
Minimum population of rat	104	176	126	188	145	189	

Table 5. Comparison of parameter and analysis results using Lotka-Volterra and competitive Lotka-Volterra equation



Figure 13. Phase space plot simulation 2 of owls and rat using competitive Lotka-Volterra equation

Based on the graph (Figure 13) it can be seen the competition between owls and rats, that owls are able to suppress the rat population well, from 1,689, 189, 1,039 and 341, respectively and continue to decline each cycle and possibly stable at 600 rats population.

Comparison Between Actual And Simulation Data Analysis

Comparison of actual and simulation data analysis results is performed to find out in detail, the most

appropriate method to be used in the analysis and prevention or controlling of rat on rice-field.

The higher the owl population at the beginning, can prevent the rat population explosion and owls themselves, because at the beginning of the number of rat is adequate, the rat population decreased dramatically and the owl population increased, but when the rat population is low, the owl population also decreased as the number of owl food becomes scarce.

Proven in the early years, based on the analysis result with the higher number of owls are able to reduce the population of rats quickly, and still able to control and suppress the population in low numbers, with little difference between the real data and the simulation data, i.e. 5 rats.

Based on the results of real data analysis and two simulations, it is recommended to use owls in comparison between owls and rat 2: 140 (if known the number of rat in the fields). Based on the territorial coverage of the owls that reaches 1 km (Taylor, 2004), it can be described the application of owl house/ rubuha in rice fields of Kebokura and Lebeng villages as follows in the Figure 14.

With the number of initial owls and proper owl house placement, it can be lowered the rat population



OWL HOUSE IMPLEMENTATION MAP IN KEBOKURA AND LEBENG VILLAGES SUMPIUH DISTRICT, BANYUMAS REGENCY, CENTRAL JAVA, INDONESIA

Figure 14. Owl house implementation map in Kebokura and Lebeng Villages



Figure 15. Rice production graph in the Kebokura and Lebeng Village (2012-2016)

and able to control the rat population quickly if there is an increase of rat population and prevent the occurrence of a rats population explosion, which capable of attacking huge areas of rice fields that can cause high damage.

In the rice fields of Kebokura and Lebeng villages, along with the owl method, farmers use Trap Barrier System (TBS). Both methods can be used simultaneously because it does not interfere with each other. Never use rat poison when applying the owl method, because it can kill the owls that eat the poisonous rat. With these recommendations, the effectiveness of the use of natural enemies can be more optimal and able to reduce rat populations more leverage.

Driesche *et al.* (2009) also said that efficacy of native or previously introduced predators can be enhanced through habitat modification. Adding nesting boxes for barn owls (*Tyto alba*) reduced crop damage from rats in Malaysian oil palm, in combination with rodenticide campaigns.

Comparison of Paddy Production Before and after the Application of Owl Methods

Paddy type that used in the Kebokura and Lebeng villages is situbagendit, and those villages have the same land and climate characteristic. Based on the obtained data from the Sumpiuh Agricultural Instructor Center, paddy production data from 2012 to 2016 can be seen in the following graph.

The owl method is applied in May 2015, proven on the planting time on April-September 2015, and October-March 2016 paddy production increased from 12,400 to 14,134.4 ton, achieved the highest productivity during the last 4 years and most likely will continue to increase in the next harvest.

CONCLUSIONS

Using 24 Serak Jawa owls or one pair in each 12 owl house that placed precisely according to the owl range

radius in the 197 ha rice field proved capable of reducing and controlling the rat population and can increase rice production (minimize the impact of pest damage). On the other hand, initial population number of owls greatly affect the dynamics of rat populations. Proved by the initial explosion of rat populations decreased in Simulation 1, and no more rat population explosion occurred in simulation 2. Higher initial owl population it can suppress the high rat population, but unable to suppress the rat population into lowest number.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Authors declare that there was no conflict interest between authors and the founder.

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