

March, 24th 2021

Dear Dr. Miftahul Ilmi,

I am pleased to submit our manuscript entitled **“Astaxanthin-Producing Microalgae Identification Using 18S rRNA : isolates from Bangkalan Mangrove Waters and Sowan Tuban Northern Waters, East Java, Indonesia”** by **Dini Ermavitalini, Siska Yulia Rukhmana, Thalita Meidina, Leonardus Pascalis Dimas Cahyo Baskoro, Triono Bagus Saputro, Hery Purnobasuki** for consideration as a *Journal of Tropical Biodiversity and Biotechnology* research article.

In this manuscript, we show that :

1. Exploration of the diversity of microalgae obtained from mangrove waters in the area of Sepulu Bangkalan Madura and northern coastal waters of Sowan Tuban succeeded in isolating four microalgae isolates and identified molecularly with the 18 S rRNA gene marker.
2. Isolates B1 and B3 were close to *Chlorella vulgaris*, isolate B2 had a close relationship with *Prasinoderma coloniale*, and isolate S2 had a close relationship with *Picochlorum oklahomense*.
3. Giving salinity of 1 M NaCl had a bad effect, namely decreased growth and decreased levels of chlorophyll, carotenoids and astaxanthin pigments in the culture of all microalgae isolates.

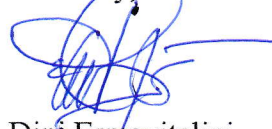
We believe that our paper is appropriate for publication by *Journal of Tropical Biodiversity and Biotechnology* because is **in accordance with the scope and focus of this journal, namely on the biodiversity of microalgae from tropical Indonesian waters which we identified molecularly with the 18SrRNA gene marker. Furthermore, from the isolates we obtained, we screened astaxanthin producers with simple biotechnology in the form of salinity stress.**

This manuscript has not been published before and is not being considered for publication elsewhere. We have no conflicts of interest to disclose. If you feel that the manuscript is appropriate for your journal, we suggest the following reviewers:

1. Dr. Ni'matuzahroh (Universitas Airlangga) email : nimatuzahroh@unair.ac.id
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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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