

## Comparative Study on some Organic Manure Commonly Used in Aquaculture

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### Abstract

Assorted physical and chemical parameters were measured in glass aquaria (10 l) receiving some commonly used organic manure namely cow dung (CD), compost charged with rock phosphate (CR), vermin-compost charged with rock phosphate (VCR), horse dung (HD) and farm yard manure (FYM). There was no significant difference in the moisture content of the manures tested. The values of pH, conductance, TDS, PO<sub>4</sub>-P, NH<sub>3</sub>-N was highest in the VCR treatment indicating a better manurial value for VCR than others. The size of fibers of VCR was significantly ( $P>0.05$ ) lower in size when compared with other manures tested. There was almost no difference in fiber content of the manures tested except VCR where it was significantly low ( $p<0.05$ ) than other four. The different organic manures used can be graded in the following descending order in manurial value as direct application manure: VCR (T<sub>3</sub>) > CD (T<sub>1</sub>) > CR (T<sub>2</sub>) > HD (T<sub>4</sub>) > FYM (T<sub>5</sub>). The values of total suspended solids (TSS) imparted by the manures showed significant differences ( $P>0.05$ ) among various treatments and was in the following descending order: HD (T<sub>4</sub>) > CD (T<sub>1</sub>) > CR (T<sub>2</sub>) > FYM (T<sub>5</sub>) > VCR (T<sub>3</sub>). This indicates that the application of (VCR) will pass on less fiber garbage to aquatic body.

**Key words:** Limnology, aquaculture, vermi-compost, organic manure, rock phosphate

### Introduction

The purpose of pond manuring is primarily to provide adequate amounts of essential nutrients for phytoplankton production (Wunder, 1949; Edwards, 1980; Jhingran, 1997). Manuring is widely practiced in fishponds for natural fish production as it is important to sustainable aquaculture and to reduce expenditure on costly feeds and fertilizers which form more than 50% of the total input cost (Edwards, 1980; Pillay, 1995; Omoyinmi *et al.*, 2005). Wide variety of organic manures such as grass, leaves, sewage water, livestock manure, industrial wastes, night soil, compost, farm yard manure, vermicompost, dried blood meal have been used (Schroeder, 1980; Dhawan,

1989; Jhingran, 1997; Chakrabarty *et al.*, 2009) to improve fish production.

The major disadvantage of application of organic manures is that it contains very low amount of available phosphorus, for that a huge quantity of organic manures is required to apply for improvement in production (Hickling, 1962; Schroeder, 1980). The amount of available phosphorus is high in chemically processed fertilizer, but it renders pollution from its production to use (Rand, 2003). So, organic manures should be improved in their available phosphorus content before application in the aquatic system. The phosphate rock excavated from mine and ground to 100-

mesh size and used as rock phosphate contains insoluble tricalcium phosphate (Chakrabarty, 1994). The phosphate rock if treated in proper way (weathering, composting etc.) may be used to improve the soluble-P content of organic manure.

The problem of application of organic manures in an aquatic body is that it leaves a blanket of fibers over the sediment, which blocks the succession of chemical response in the sediment water interface (Jhingran, 1997; Rand, 2003; Chakrabarty, 2008). The chain of chemical reaction in the sediment water interface helps in releasing the sediment bound macro and micronutrient (Tacon, 1987; Pillay, 1995; Chakrabarty *et al.*, 2007). The cellulose blanket also increases deoxygenation of water (Probst, 1950; Hickling 1962). Naturally the application of regular and huge quantity of cellulose containing organic manures renders a productive aquatic body into unproductive and useless (Smith and Swingle, 1939; Silva and Anderson, 1995). The present trial was undertaken to study the size and percentage of the fibers, improvement of available-P in organic manure mixing rock phosphate and also to assess the water quality parameters in aquariums receiving five organic manures, namely cow dung (CD), compost charged with rock phosphate (CR), vermicompost charged with rock phosphate (VCR), horse dung (HD) and farm yard manure (FYM).

#### Materials and methods

The present trial was conducted in limnology laboratory of Krishnagar Government College during May-July (Temp. 34°C). Fifteen glass aquaria (capacity 10 liters) were treated with five different types of organic manures namely, cow dung (CD), compost charged with rock

phosphate (CR), vermicompost charged with rock phosphate (VCR), horse dung (HD) and farm yard manure (FYM). It is necessary to mention that rock phosphates is an igneous phosphate rock in the form of insoluble tricalcium phosphate excavated from mine and ground to 100 mesh size and marketed as rock phosphate (PPCL, 1987). The purulia rock phosphate (an indigenous variety of rock phosphate of West Bengal, India) was used here. In this trial an effort has been taken to improve the available-P through vermicomposting.

#### Preparation of manure

1. Cow dung (CD=T<sub>1</sub>): Freshly collected faecal matter from adult *Bovis indicus*, used in the experiment.
2. Compost charged with rock phosphate (CR=T<sub>2</sub>): Fresh *Eichornia crassipes* and Cowdung were collected from nearby area chopped in small pieces and mixed Purulia rock phosphate in the ratio of 1:1:0.05 and composted for 75 days in an earthen vat.
3. Vermicompost charged with rock phosphate (VCR=T<sub>3</sub>): Cowdung, *Eichornia crassipes* and Purulia rock phosphate was mixed in 1:1:0.05 ratio for and left for partial decomposition for 45 days then earthworm (*Eudrillus euginae*) were allowed to grow in that substrate, the finished vermicompost was collected after 30 days.
4. Horse dung (HD=T<sub>4</sub>): Freshly collected faecal matter from adult *Equus equus*, used in the experiment.
5. Farmyard manure (FYM=T<sub>5</sub>): The manure was collected from a private farm nearby.

#### Application of manures and estimation of various parameters

The moisture content of the above mentioned materials were analyzed using a standard moisture meter. Then the materials were applied in equal amount in dry weight basis to glass aquarium containing 10L tap water. The materials were thoroughly mixed with a glass rod. Every set was allowed to settle for 24 hours. The sample from settled materials (fibers) were taken out with the help of a pipette, fibers such collected dried in air and the lengths were measured in a microscope using ocular micrometer. A definite amount (50g dry weight) from each testing sample was dissolved separately in distilled water (500 ml), mixed thoroughly and the whole water mixed manure was filtered through a sieve (pore size  $10\mu$ ) The filtrate was collected and dried in a hot air oven for 24 hours in  $100^{\circ}\text{C}$  and then weighted in a digital balance. The final weight was subtracted from the initial weight to get the fiber content. The values of pH, conductance, total suspended solids (TSS), total dissolved solids (TDS),  $\text{PO}_4\text{-P}$ ,  $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$  of the water of the aquarium were measured following Standard Methods (2005) and with standard equipments.

#### **Statistical analysis**

The data obtained from the various treatments was evaluated using one-way analysis of variance (one way). The SPSS software was used to analyze the data.

#### **Results and discussion**

The interpretation of the Table 1 shows that the lowest moisture content was found in VCR followed by FYM, CR, HD and CD respectively. There was no significant difference in the moisture content of the manures tested. The values of pH, conductance, TDS,  $\text{PO}_4\text{-P}$ ,  $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$  was highest in the ( $T_3$ ) treatment indicating a

better manurial value for VCR than others. However, there was no significant differences ( $P>0.05$ ) in the values of pH, conductance, TDS,  $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$  concentration, but a significant difference was observed in the concentration of  $\text{PO}_4\text{-P}$ . This was probably due to the superior microbial action in the gut of the earthworm during the digestion process (Ramu, 2001; Dynes, 2003; Omoyinmi *et al.*, 2005; Verma and Prasad, 2005) that helped in liberating phosphorus from bound form in the rations of the earthworms. The same treatment combination (CR) which was allowed to decompose without earthworms failed to release phosphorus. This is also worth mentioning that, due to the utilization of iron from the substrate by the earthworms for the production of their serum hemoglobin, iron bound phosphate was released from the substrates in turn. Among the various organic manures tested the percentage of fiber was lowest (25%) in vermicompost followed by cow dung (60%); horse dung (63%); farmyard manure (64%); compost (65%). There was almost no difference in fiber content of the manures tested except vermicompost where it was significantly low ( $p<0.05$ ) than other four (Tab.1).

The length measurement of fiber present in the manure (Tab.1) demonstrated highest value in the FYM ( $T_5$ ) followed by CR ( $T_2$ ). The length of fiber was moderate in the faecal matters of CD ( $T_1$ ) and HD ( $T_4$ ). Lowest fiber size was observed in VCR ( $T_3$ ). Lowest values of fiber size were encountered in the VCR due to the intensive grinding of the organic substances in the gut of the earthworms during digestion process (Sinha *et al.*, 2002; Sogbesan and Ugwumba, 2006). Smallest sizes of fibers indicate that as organic manure the VCR

**Table 1.** Physico-chemical characteristics of various organic manures tested in laboratory aquaria.

Manures	Fibers (%)	Moisture (%)	Length of fibers(μ)	pH	Conductance (μmhos cm <sup>-1</sup> )	TSS mg l <sup>-1</sup>	TDS mg l <sup>-1</sup>	PO <sub>4</sub> -P mg l <sup>-1</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub> -N mg l <sup>-1</sup>
CD (T <sub>1</sub> )	60	82	60-125	7.4±.05	295±15	1.3±0.03	273±12	0.08±0.02	0.08±0.01
CR (T <sub>2</sub> )	65	78	90-250	7.2±.06	268±13	1.2±0.03	240±13	0.08±0.01	0.07±0.01
VCR(T <sub>3</sub> )	25•	75	10-15••	7.4±.05	323±14	0.2±0.005••	315±15	0.16±0.02••	0.10±0.02
HD (T <sub>4</sub> )	63	80	80-135	7.3±.04	296±13	1.4±0.04	283±14	0.09±0.02	0.10±0.02
FYM (T <sub>5</sub> )	64	76	90-300	7.2±.02	278±11	1.1±0.03	280±15	0.06±0.02	0.08±0.01
(ANOVA oneway)	P<0.05	ns	P<0.001	ns	ns	P<0.001	ns	P<0.001	ns

Level of significance: ns= not significant; •= P<0.05, ••= P<0.001

would not pose any threat of spreading the blanket of fiber over the sediment.

The values of total suspended solids (TSS) showed significant differences (P>0.05) among various treatments and was in the following descending order; HD (T<sub>4</sub>) > CD (T<sub>1</sub>) > CR (T<sub>2</sub>) > FYM (T<sub>5</sub>) > VCR (T<sub>3</sub>). This indicates that application of vermicompost charged with rock phosphate (VCR) will impart less fiber garbage to aquatic body. However, considering all the qualities different organic manures tested here can be graded in the following descending order in manurial value as direct application manure: VCR (T<sub>3</sub>) > CD (T<sub>1</sub>) > CR (T<sub>2</sub>) > HD (T<sub>4</sub>) > FYM (T<sub>5</sub>).

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