**ANALYSIS OF MOISTURE CONTENT, CALORIFIC VALUE AND BURNING RATE OF CORNCOB AND KAPOK RANDU (*Ceiba pentranda*) SKIN BRIQUETTE**

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**Abstract**

Bio charcoal Briquette is a product made from biomass with a carbonization process and compressed with a certain shape. This study aims to examine the calorific value and burning rate of corncob and kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) randu (*Ceiba pentranda*) skin briquettes with variations in the composition of ingredients. The briquette were produced in 5 stages: First, the main material for cobs and kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) randu skin is dried in the sun for 3 days so that the weight of the ingredients is reduced by 20%. Second, the carbonization of the main material with a temperature of 400˚C for 60 minutes with a furnace and then materials that has been crushed is sieved with a sieve 50 mesh. Third, compressed briquettes with corncob composition and kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin in the following ratios of A (100%: 0%), B (75%: 25%), C (50%: 50%), D (25%: 75 %), E (0%: 100%) with 10% w/w tapioca starch as binder. Fourth, the dry the briquette under the sun for 3 days (20 hours) and roasted with a temperature of 100˚C for 60 minutes. Fifth, after dried, the samples were then characterized their moisture content, calorific value, and burning rate. The results show that the highest moisture content value in sample E is 3.3303% and the lowest moisture content in sample B (2.4587%). The highest calorific values are sample E which is 6195.05 Cal / grams. While the lowest calorific value was found in sample D (25% corn cobs and 75% kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin), which was 3803.96 Cal / grams. The lowest burning rate was found in sample E (100% kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin) with a value was 0.0448 grams / minute. While the highest burning rate was found in sample D (25% corn cobs and 75% kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin) with the value was 0.0622 grams/minute.

Keywords: Briquettes, corncob, Kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) randu (*Ceiba pentranda*) skin, calorific value, burning rate

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### INTRODUCTION

Energy is a basic need for humans. The use of energy is increasing every year, but the existence of energy sources is decreasing, so there is a need for new solutions to obtain renewable energy, such as implementing new energy conservation. Energy needs in Indonesia are generally obtained from mining products, where the supply is running low until one day it will run out. Data from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources in 2018 states that the Indonesian state has 3.2 - 3.3 per barrel or 0.2% of world oil and gas reserves are only 15% of world gas reserves [1]. Based on these data, it shows that the availability of fuel oil in Indonesia is decrease so that it has an impact on fuel price increases, therefore it is necessary to use other energy sources as alternative energy, one of which is the use of biomass.

Biomass is used as alternative energy, one of which is briquettes. Briquettes can be defined as a fuel that is solid and comes from the remaining organic material which has undergone a compression process with a certain compressive power. Charcoal briquettes can replace the use of firewood which is starting to increase in consumption and has the potential to destroy forest ecology. Charcoal briquettes are quite economical, have a high, flavorless, durable and can be made with materials that are easily available, for example corn cobs and kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin [2]. Corn cobs as raw material are quite abundant, cheap and renewable. Corn cobs contain 33% crude fiber, 44.9% cellulose content and 33.3% lignin. From some of these ingredients, it is possible for corn cobs to be used as raw material for charcoal briquettes [3]. While the kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) Randu (*Ceiba pentranda*) skin has a supportive content for briquette raw materials including 50-69% Holocellulose, 23-36% cellulose, and 10-26% lignin [4].

The use of corn cobs for briquettes can increase the high calorific value [3]. According to Laily (2017) and Andi, et al. (2011) corn cob briquettes produce low ash content, high ash content causes low briquette quality. Corn cobs briquettes can produce a low water content of 6.01%. The low water content will result in the combustion rate, the higher the water content, the faster the briquettes will run out when burned [5][6]. In addition, kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) Randu skin can also be used as an ingredient for briquettes. According to Faizal, et al (2018) the raw material for kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin is able to produce a calorific value that exceeds the Indonesian briquette standard, with a predetermined carbonization temperature of 400° -600° C [4]. In previous studies, making briquettes from a mixture of kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) seeds and kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin with a ratio of 50%: 50% with 30% starch adhesive resulted in a calorific value of 4981 Cal / g [7]. The production of biomass from kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin with 10% starch adhesive also has a high calorific value of 6782 Cal / g and produces a fairly low water content [8].

Making briquettes cannot be done without adhesive, the use of adhesive is to increase the calorific value and burning time [9]. There are several kinds of adhesive, including starch adhesive, flour adhesive, sugar cane adhesive, adhesive, sodium silicate and others. According to previous research, starch adhesive will produce high value briquettes in terms of density and ash content. In the research of Nasruddin and Risman (2011) 4% starch adhesive will produce a calorific value of 4552 Cal / g higher than sugar cane adhesive which produces 4485 Cal / g with the main ingredient of corn cobs and adhesive composition of 4% each. The use of a higher composition will result in a higher density and longer combustion process [6]. In a study conducted by Unokoly, et al. (2016) with the main ingredients of corn cobs and bamboo showed that variations in the composition of the adhesive produced a burning time value that was not too much different, including 10% adhesive burned in 123,10 minutes, 20% with 123,147 minutes and 30% with 123,363 minute [2]. The use of the type and composition of the adhesive is an important factor in making briquettes.

This research was conducted by analyzing the calorific value and the rate of burning in the manufacture of briquettes from two materials, namely, corn cobs and kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin with starch adhesive. Of the two main ingredients, variations in composition will be tested with 5 samples, namely Briquette A (100% pure corn cobs), Briquette B (corn cobs and kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin = 75%: 25%), Briquette C (corn cobs and kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin = 50%: 50%), Briquette D corncob and kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin = 25%: 75%), and Briquette E (100% pure kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin). This study aims to obtain the results of moisture content, heating value and combustion rate in accordance with Indonesian briquette standards.

**MATERIALS AND METHOD**

The method used in this research is an experimental method. The making of briquettes through several stages including: First, the main material for cobs and kapok randu (Ceiba pentranda) randu skin is dried in the sun for 3 days so that the weight of the ingredients is reduced by 20%. Second, the carbonization of the main material with a temperature of 400˚C for 60 minutes with a furnace and then sieved with a 50 mesh size. Third, compressed 6 grams of briquettes sample with the composition of corn cobs and kapok randu (Ceiba pentranda) randu skin with ratio A (100%: 0%), B (75%: 25%), C (50%: 50%), D (25%: 75%), E (0%: 100%) with 10% w/w of tapioca starch as binder, and then pressed with a strength of 1.32 tons. Fourth, drying the briquette sample under the sun for 3 days (20 hours) and oven at 100˚C for 60 minutes. Fifth, characterized the sample for moisture content, calorific value and burning rate.

1. Moisture content

Determination of water content can be obtained using the equation:

Moisture Content

Initial weight

Weight after drying

1. Calorific value

Calorific value was determined with bomb calorimeter. The equation of calorific value is as follows:

Calorific Value

Benzoate acid value (2465,57 ˚C)

Burnt wire x 2,3 Cal

Ml titration x 1 Cal

Mass

1. Burning rate

The burning rate is the ratio between the mass of the briquette burned with the duration of time. Materials with low density have a larger air cavity so that the amount of material burned is greater. The equation used to determine the rate of combustion is as follows:

Burning rate

Mass of the briquette burned

Mass of Initial Briquette

Mass of residual briquette

Duration of burning time

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

1. **Moisture Content**

Figure 1 is a graph of the percentage of moisture content, showing that the briquettes with composition E (0% corn cobs, 100% kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin) have the highest moisture content of 3.33% and briquettes with composition B (75% corn cobs, 75% kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skins) has the lowest moisture content of 2.45%. The moisture content that is still contained in the briquette is due to the water trapped in the main materials particles when drying cannot come out completely. In addition, the water trapped in the adhesive material used causes the water content in the briquettes to remain high. The water trapped in the briquette is due to the difficulty of evaporating a number of water during the drying process because the outside has dried first and forms a strong bond [6]. The moisture content in the briquette is related to the initial ignition of the fuel. If the moisture content higher, so it will be more difficult to ignition the briquettes. Because it takes energy to evaporate the moisture in the briquette [10].

**Figure 1. Moisture Content**

Based on Figure 1, the water content value of sample B to sample E has increased based on the ratio of increasing the composition of kapok randu (Ceiba pentranda) randu skin. The difference in composition of each briquette sample will result in a different surface area of ​​the briquette, so this has an effect on the absorption of moisture in the briquette. In addition, the adhesive composition and the type of adhesive also affect the moisture content value.

All samples made have met the national briquette standards that have been determined by Badan Standar Nasional (BSN) according to table 1 (Indonesian Briquette Standards) [11]. The results of this study with a moisture content of 2.45 -3.3%, was lower than previous studies. The value of the moisture content of this study is better than the previous research conducted by Faiz et al. (2015) regarding the combination of corn cobs and tea waste resulted in the lowest moisture content of 2.89% and the highest was 3.90% [12]. Research conducted by Lilih and Budi (2017) briquettes of corn cobs with variations and percentages of tapioca starch showed an average moisture content value of 4.58% [9].

**Table 1. Bio Briquette Quality (SNI 01-6235 2000**)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Parameters** | **Units** | **Value** |
| 1. | *Inherent Moisture* | % | Max. 8 |
| 2. | *Ash Content* | % | Max. 8 |
| 3. | *Volatile Matter* | % | Max. 15 |
| 4. | *Fixed Carbon* | % | Min 77 |
| 5. | *Calorific Value* | Cal/gr | Min 5000 |

1. **Calorific Value**

Figure 2 shows that the calorific value has decreased from sample A to sample D along with the decreasing composition of the corn cobs. The lowest calorific value was found in sample D (25% corn cobs and 75% kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin), namely 3803.96 Cal / gram. The low calorific value can be caused by several factors, among others. First, the low temperature and time of carbonization resulted in a low heating value [3]. Second, the more adhesive is added, the water and ash content that comes from the adhesive will result in high moisture content and ash content [9]. The calorific value determines the quality of the briquette. The higher the calorific value, the better the briquette quality. This is inversely proportional to the moisture content and ash content, the higher the water content and the ash content, the less good the briquette quality.

Figure 2 shows that the more corn cobs composition in the briquette making, the higher the calorific value is obtained. The results of this study are in line with the research conducted by Budi et al. (2016) with variations in the composition resulting in the highest calorific value at the composition of 100% corn cobs, namely 6078 Cal / gram. [3]. The highest calorific value is found in sample E (0% corn cobs and 100% kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin) which is 6195.05 Cal / gram. Research by Faizal, et al. (2018) obtained the highest calorific value results from the carbonization temperature. This is because the higher the carbonization temperature, the higher the carbon content in the briquette charcoal, while the water content will be lower so that it will produce a high calorific value in the briquette. [4]. The calorific value obtained from 5 samples according to the briquette standard according to SNI is only 1 sample that meets the standards, namely sample E (6195.05 Cal / gram).

**Figure 2. Calorific Value**

1. **Laju pembakaran**

Based on Figure 3 shows that the highest burning rate is in sample D (25% corn cobs and 75% kapok randu (Ceiba pentranda) skin). While the lowest burning rate of briquettes was found in sample E (100% kapok randu (Ceiba pentranda) skin) with a value of 0.0448 grams / minute. The less the composition of the corn cobs in making briquettes, the higher the value of the burning rate obtained. The high and low burning rate is influenced by the calorific value contained in the briquette [13]. It can be seen in Figure 3 that sample E has the lowest combustion rate but has the highest calorific value.

**Figure 3. Burning Rate**

Besides being influenced by the composition of the briquette material, the burning rate is also influenced by the presence of adhesive. The use of high adhesive concentrations results in high density, compressive strength and slows down the burning rate. The use of the type and composition of the adhesive in the manufacture of briquettes is an important factor in making briquettes [2].

**CONCLUSIONS**

Corn cobs and kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin can be used as ingredients for briquettes with a mixture of tapioca flour adhesive. The results show that the highest moisture content value in sample E is 3.3303% and the lowest moisture content in sample B (2.4587%). The highest calorific values are sample E which is 6195.05 Cal / grams. While the lowest calorific value was found in sample D (25% corn cobs and 75% kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin), which was 3803.96 Cal / grams. The lowest burning rate was found in sample E (100% kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin) with a value was 0.0448 grams / minute. While the highest burning rate was found in sample D (25% corn cobs and 75% kapok randu (Ceiba Pentranda) skin) with the value was 0.0622 grams/minute.

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