High rate algal pond cultivation of indigenous microalgae for biomass using municipal wastewater

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This study evaluates the growth and nutrient removal ability of indigenous algal consortium on municipal wastewater in a high rate algal pond (HRAP). Primary treatment wastewater was used as a nutrient source of indigenously grown microalgae in high rate algal pond which were under different conditions of hydraulic retention time (HRT: 2, 4, 6, and 8days). The average removal efficiencies of chemical oxygen demand, total nitrogen and phosphate of real municipal wastewater were maintained at 85.44 ± 5.10 %, $92.74 \pm 5.82\%$ and $82.85 \pm 8.63\%$, respectively in 2 day HRT. Biomass and lipid productivity was 0.500 ± 0.03 g/L/d and 0.103 ± 0.0083 g/L/d (2 day HRT), respectively. Fatty acid methyl ester analysis revealed a predominance of palmitate (C16:0), palmitoleate (C16:1), linoleate (C18:2), and linolenate (C18:3). Microalgal diversity analyses determined the presence of Chlorella, Scenedesmus and Stigeoclonium as the dominant microalgae. From these results, indigenous algal consortium provides significant value not only in terms of nutrient removal but also bioenergy potential.