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# Integrated Evaluation of POME Treatment by Dielectric Barrier Discharge based on Yield of H<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub>, EEMs and removal of COD

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### Introduction

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species and molecules reactants are effective in degrading organic compounds in POME (Budiman et al., 2016; Hazmi et al., 2017). Zeng et al. (2018) have investigated the combination of DBD plasma with Ni-/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst at 160 °C. The results showed that the combination of the DBD plasma with Ni-based catalysts increased the conversion of methane, the yield of hydrogen and the energy efficiency.

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Fig. 2. Production of biogas achieved from different applied voltage for methane yield (a); hydrogen yield (b)

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The COD, pH and BOD were measured with the procedures described in the APHA standard methods [15]. The treated wastewater was filtrated using a 0.2  $\mu$ m cellulose acetate membrane filter produced by

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The degradation of organic compounds to  $CH_4$  and  $H_2$  reached 30 to 39% and 61 to 70%, respectively, for applied voltage at 15 and 25 V after running for 1000 seconds. Lattif et al. (2016) investigated biogas production from date palm fruit waste and found that the biogas contained 63% methane under well-controlled temperature at 37 °C. Reaction time is a significant parameter for the degradation of organic



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specific excitation emission (Ex/Em) wavelengths can be correlated with certain molecular structures. Volumetric gas production was reported at standard temperature and pressure (STP). All the measurements were done in triplicate and the results were plotted and reported as the average value with standard deviation.

### 2. Results and Discussion

### 2.1 Production of Methane and Hydrogen

Due to the voltage enrichment, both the electron density and the concentration of radical species increased significantly, which stimulates and activates the production of CH<sub>4</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>. The applied voltage had a significant effect on the CH<sub>4</sub> and H<sub>2</sub> yield from the POME, as shown in Figs. 2(a) and (b). The CH<sub>4</sub> yield was 7697, 20050 and 24156 mL/mL POME and the H<sub>2</sub> yield was 7697, 20050 and 24156 mL/mL POME for applied voltage at 15, 20 and 25 kV, respectively. Radical species were generated by the C=O and C-H bounds when a high voltage was applied to the POME and reacted to form CH<sub>4</sub>, H<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>. The chain reaction led to a higher degradation of the POME when the applied voltage was increased. It is clear that, as Figs. 2 (a-b) show, the applied voltage

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The removal efficiency of COD is displayed in Fig. 3. The COD removal efficiency was 48.9, 50.54, and 53.7% for applied voltage at 15, 20 and 25 kV running for 1000 seconds, respectively. For the BOD it was 30, 32 and 44% with applied voltage at 15, 20 and 25 kV, respectively. These interactions indicate that the source of electricity and the applied voltage significantly affect the COD removal efficiency. Zainal et al. (2018) studied the COD removal from POME using a thermophilic anaerobic process and found a COD removal efficiency of 21.95% at 30 °C for a reaction time of 8 h. Khemkhao et al. (2011) have reported that the COD removal efficiency increases when the organic loading rate (OLR) is

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### Conclusions

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