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## POTENCY AND EFFICACY TEST OF A VACCINE IN ADDITION WITH ADJUVANT AGAINST KOI HERPESVIRUS IN KOI (*Cyprinus carpio*)

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### ABSTRACT

Koi Herpesvirus (KHV) is a malignant virus infecting the goldfish and koi in all stadia and cause mortality up to 95%. The purpose of this study was to determine the potency and efficacy of inactivated-vaccine in addition with adjuvant against KHV in koi fish. The viral propagation was done using a KF-1 cell line in 25 cm<sup>2</sup> flask. The cultured virus was harvested on 12 days post inoculation, and then the harvested virus was inactivated with 0.1% formalin as inactivated-vaccine. Three hundred of test fish (10.38 ± 1.25 g) maintained in 126 L of plastic containers with aeration, and fed with pellets twice a day. After 14 days of adaptation, the fish were divided into five treatments (A= vaccine; B= vaccine + *Complete Freund's Adjuvant*; C= vaccine + *Incomplete Freund's Adjuvant*; K+ = positive control, and K- = negative control) and each treatment has four replicates. Vaccine was given by injecting intramuscularly of 0.1 mL per fish. All fish were challenged by injecting intramuscularly of 0.1 mL of KHV virus with concentration of 10<sup>4.58</sup> TCID<sub>50</sub>/mL after 21 days post vaccination. The results showed that the B treatment had higher (P<0.05) values of hematocrit level, lysozyme activity, and titer of antibody compared with positive control. In addition, the survival of fish in B treatment also had the highest percentages and significantly different compared to other treatments (P<0.05). The conclusion of this research was the application of inactivated KHV vaccine in 0.1% formalin with the addition of *Complete Freund's Adjuvant* through the injection dose 0.1 mL fish<sup>-1</sup> in 10<sup>4.58</sup> TCID<sub>50</sub>/mL capable to enhance the immune responses and raised the optimal protection of KHV antibody in koi fish.

**KEYWORDS:** inactivated vaccines; adjuvants; immune responses; *Cyprinus carpio*; KHV

### INTRODUCTION

Koi Herpesvirus Disease (KHV/KHVD) is a virus that causes the contagious disease in koi and goldfish (Ilouze *et al.*, 2006). KHVD was first reported in Israel and the United States in 1998. Furthermore, the disease spread to other countries such as Poland, UK, Germany, and the Netherlands (Antychowicz *et al.*, 2005). In Asia, KHVD outbreak was first reported in Indonesia in April 2002 (Melba, 2004).

Fish infected with KHV showed pale white and necrosis in the gill filaments. Other clinical symptoms may include abnormal eye, pale body surface, mucus production, and pale spots on the skin. KHV outbreaks in some cases showed no clinical symptoms (Lio-Po, 2011). This virus can infect goldfish when the water

temperature ranging from 17°C-27°C whereas high virulence occurs at a temperature of 22°C-24°C (Perelberg *et al.*, 2003). Deaths caused by KHV may reach 80%-95% (Sunarto *et al.*, 2005).

Several kinds of vaccines used in fish farming, among others; whole-cell vaccines, vaccines from cell components, and DNA vaccines. The viral vaccine is an antigen preparation derived from attenuated or killed. Yasumoto *et al.* (2006) in Japan developed a formalin-inactivated vaccine KHV by utilizing liposomal membrane applied to the fish feed.

Nakajima *et al.* (1999) using iridovirus vaccine from GF cell (*grunt fin*) on red sea bream (*Pagrus major*) which was formalin inactivated for 12 days at 4°C and obtain 72% of relative percent survival (RPS). The type of adjuvant used is *Complete Freund's Adjuvant* (CFA) and *Incomplete Freund's Adjuvant* (IFA). According to Aucoeur *et al.* (2001), IFA is a water in oil (W/O) emulsion, which is able to improve and stabilize the

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antibody titer. The purpose of this study was to determine the potency and efficacy of inactivated vaccine against KHV combine with adjuvant which produced from KF-1 cell cultures.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Procurement Fish and Virus Isolates

Three hundred of koi fish (*Cyprinus carpio*) used in this study (average weight of  $10.38 \pm 1.25$  g) were obtained from a private farm in Sukabumi, West Java which provides the SPF (Specific Pathogen Free) KHV through previous PCR test. Virus strain was namely BJMN-2, which was a collection of Research Station for Fish Disease Control, Depok, Indonesia.

### Cell Culture and KHV Virus

KF-1 cells were used in this study. KF-1 cells were grown in T-flasks at 25°C to confluence in Leibovitz's media (L-15 : Gibco) supplemented with 20% FBS (Fetal Bovine Serum : Gibco). The monolayers of KF-1 cells were inoculated with KHV inoculum then supplemented with 2% FBS, respectively. Infected cells were incubated at 25°C. Cytopathic effect (CPE) was daily observed under a light microscopy.

The viral cultured was harvested when *cytopathic effect* (CPE) had reached  $\pm 80\%$ . Supernatant was taken and stored at -80°C until ready to use and mostly used for the measurement of TCID<sub>50</sub>.

### TCID<sub>50</sub>

Determination of tissue culture infective dose (TCID<sub>50</sub>) was performed to quantify how much infectious virus was in a vaccine preparation. TCID<sub>50</sub> calculation was based on the method of Reed & Muench (1938):

$$TCID_{50} = \left( \frac{50\% - a}{b - a} \right)$$

Where: a = % positive at dilution below 50%  
b = % positive at dilution above 50%

### Production of Vaccines

The harvested virus was inactivated refers to Yasumoto *et al.* (2006) with minor modifications. Unlike what did Yasumoto in common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) where the KHV vaccines produced from KF-1 cell is inactivated with 0.3% formalin and stored for 48 hours at a temperature of 24°C before use.

The vaccine in this study are inactivated with formalin 0.1% of the KHV virus then filtered using a 450 nm millipore and directly used for the test.

Adjuvants was substances added to vaccines to stimulate the immune response. Differences between CFA and IFA contained in the composition of the constituent material which was in 1 mL CFA consisted of 1 mg of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in the form of heat-killed/dried; 0.85 mL of *paraffin oil*; and 0.15 mL *mannide monooleate*. However *M. tuberculosis* not contained in the IFA.

The comparison between either complete or incomplete adjuvant and vaccine solution were 0.25/0.75 (v/v). The composition of adjuvant and vaccine was obtained from Agar Gel Precipitation Test (AGPT) which carried out previously.

### Vaccination

Vaccination was performed by the method of intramuscularly injection with a volume of 0.1 mL/fish. The experimental design was Completely Randomized Design with five treatments and four replications as follows: treatment A: vaccines; treatment B: vaccine + *Complete Freund's Adjuvant*; treatment C: vaccine + *Incomplete Freund's Adjuvant*; K+: positive control (injected with PBS, tested challenged); K-: negative control (injected with PBS, challenged not tested).

Fish were reared in plastic container sized 60 cm x 70 cm x 40 cm with stocking density of 15 fish container<sup>-1</sup>. Water temperature was range at 24°C-25°C and fed with a pellet twice a day *at satiation*. The fourth replications in each treatment used for blood and serum sampling.

### Challenge Test

Challenge test was performed on day 21 after vaccination and maintenance carried out for 14 days post challenge test. The fish were injected intramuscularly with 0.1 mL of virus inocula/fish. Virus was diluted up to 100 times ( $10^{-2}$ ) of TCID<sub>50</sub>/mL have been done previously. TCID<sub>50</sub> already used to obtain Lethal Dose 50 (LD<sub>50</sub>) from the Koch's postulates. Koch postulate test was done with serial dilutions using TCID<sub>50</sub> dose without dilution, TCID<sub>50</sub> dilution 10 times, TCID<sub>50</sub> dilution 100 times, TCID<sub>50</sub> dilution 1,000 times and TCID<sub>50</sub> dilution 10,000 times. Koch's postulates test showed that the LD<sub>50</sub> was obtained on TCID<sub>50</sub> dilution 100 times. Dose of 100 times of virus dilution then was used for a challenge test by injecting 0.1 mL each fish.

### Measurement of Immunological Parameters

Measurement parameters of the immunological system consists of antibody titer by ELISA, hematocrit, and lysozyme activity.

Preparation of antigen for the ELISA test conducted prior to the KHV virus purification process according to Ronen *et al.* (2003). Purified protein of KHV antigen was measured by the method of Bradford. Antigen was coated 10 ug/mL in each well and incubated at 4°C overnight. Directly plate was blocked using 200 µL of PBS-BSA 1% and incubated at 22°C for one hour. Plate was washed three times with 400 µL of PBS-T. Serum samples were then added to each well of 200 µL (Duplo) and incubated at a temperature of 22°C for three hours. Plate was washed three times with 400 µL of PBS-T. Koi carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) IgM monoclonal antibody (AQUATIC Diagnostics Ltd.) added about 100 µL in each well and incubated at 22°C for one hour. Plate was washed three times with 400 µL of PBS-T. Anti-mouse IgG-peroxidase antibody produced in rabbit (SIGMA-ALDRICH) was added to each well of 100 µL and incubated at 22°C for one hour. Plate was washed three times with 400 µL of PBS-T. One-Step Ultra TMB-ELISA was further added to each well of 100 µL and let stand for 10 minutes. The reaction was stopped by adding 50 µL H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> 2M and do the reading optical density (OD) at 450 nm. The cut of value (CV) in this test was obtained by the equation:

$$CV = \text{Mean negative control} + (2 \times \text{standard deviation})$$

Hematocrit measurement is done by comparing a part of blood that settles (a) to all parts of the blood contained in the microhematocrit tube (b), hematocrit levels expressed as % volume solid blood cells were calculated by using the equation of:

$$He = \frac{a}{b} \times 100\%$$

Measurement of lysozyme was conducted according the method of Kafilzadeh (2013) which 10 µL of plasma added into 190 µL liquid suspension of *Micrococcus lysodeicticus* (Sigma) at 25°C. The lysozyme activity can be formulated as follows:

$$\text{Lysozyme activity (UI/mL/minute)} = \frac{[(OD\ 30s - OD\ 30m) \times 1,000]}{(t \times p)}$$

where: 1,000 was conversion of the absorbance (OD) into international units (UI), t was time (minute), p was plasma volume (mL), OD 30s is optical density readings on 30 seconds, OD 30m is optical density readings on 30 minutes

#### Survival Rate (SR)

$$SR (\%) = \frac{N_t}{N_o} \times 100\%$$

where: N<sub>t</sub> was the number of live koi at the end of the observation, N<sub>o</sub> was the number of koi in the initial observation

#### Relative Percent Survival (RPS)

$$RPS = \left( 1 - \frac{\% \text{ fish mortality of vaccinated}}{\% \text{ Fish mortality of control}} \right) \times 100$$

#### Statistical Analysis

Results are presented as Means ± SD (standard deviation of means) and homogenic data was perform before analysis. The SPSS (Version, 20.0) programs were used for the statistical analyses. One-way analysis of variance (One-way ANOVA) was used to determine whether there were any significant differences between treatments. If so, all treatments were further tested by Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT). All test were performed at the 95% confidence interval (P ≤ 0.05)

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

#### Survival Rate

Survival of fish among treatments were significantly different (P<0.05). All fish in K- treatment (negative control) survived until the end of the study. This was in contrast with the treatment of K+ (positive control) where at the end of the study fish alive only 15.55%. Fish in treatment A (vaccine), B (vaccine + CFA), and C (vaccine + IFA) successively survival of 68.88%, 82.22%, and 60.00%. The highest survival was achieved by treatment B. Value of survival and relative survival were shown in Table 1.

#### Relative Percent Survival

While relative survival of both treatment A and C are not significantly different, but A and C significantly different with B (P<0.05). The highest relative survival was achieved by treatment B, its the same thing with the achievements of the percentage of survival.

The survival of control fish were significantly different (P<0.05) compared with other treatments (Table 1). It indicates that vaccination improved survival of fish. All fish in the negative control alive from the beginning to the end of the study, and unlike the case with the positive control, in which the remaining fish was only 15.55 ± 3.84%. The highest survival was achieved by treatment vaccination with the addition of *Complete Freund's Adjuvant*/CFA (treatment B), followed by vaccine treatment (treatment A) and then treated with additional vaccinations *In-*

Table 1. Survival rate (SR) and relative percent survival (RPS) of fish during the study period of adjuvant and formalin inactivated vaccine against KHV in koi

Parameter	Treatments				
	K+	K-	A	B	C
SR (%)	15.55 ± 3.84 <sup>a</sup>	100.00 ± 0.00 <sup>e</sup>	68.88 ± 3.84 <sup>c</sup>	82.22 ± 3.84 <sup>d</sup>	60.00 ± 6.66 <sup>b</sup>
RPS (%)	0 <sup>a</sup>	100 ± 0.00 <sup>e</sup>	63.15 ± 4.53 <sup>c</sup>	78.94 ± 4.55 <sup>d</sup>	52.63 ± 7.89 <sup>e</sup>

Description: no vaccinated, + challenged (K+), no vaccinated, + no challenged (K-), KHV vaccines (A), KHV vaccine with the addition of *Complete Freund's Adjuvant* (B), KHV vaccine with the addition of *Incomplete Freund's Adjuvant* (C). Different superscript in the same row indicate significantly different (P<0.05). Data is expressed as Mean ± SD

complete Freund's Adjuvant / IFA (treatment C). The addition of the adjuvant vaccine was found to further increase the survival of fish than just vaccine only. It is shown that B was significantly different (P<0.05) with A and in accordance with the opinion of Kuby (2007), that the adjuvant is a substance when mixed with antigen then injected together will work to improve the immunogenicity of the antigen.

While the effectiveness of the vaccine protection can also be seen from the relative survival in Table 1. The highest survival was achieved by treatment B followed treatment A and C. The treatments A was significantly different (P<0.05) with C. RPS were obtained in the treatment of vaccination meet the range for effective protection in the process of

vaccination unless treatment C (52.63 ± 7.89%). This is in line with Amend (1981) that for effective protection RPS suggested value of more than 60%. Based on the results of this study it is not advisable to use C treatment because C does not meet the minimum limit the effectiveness of vaccine protection.

**ELISA Assay**

Vaccination aims to induce long-term immunity by stimulating specific components of the immune response is an antibody by inducing the formation of specific antibody. Figure 1 shows absorbance of vaccinated koi higher than the control. Before vaccination antibody titers tend to be similar and not significantly different (P>0.05) among treatments. The

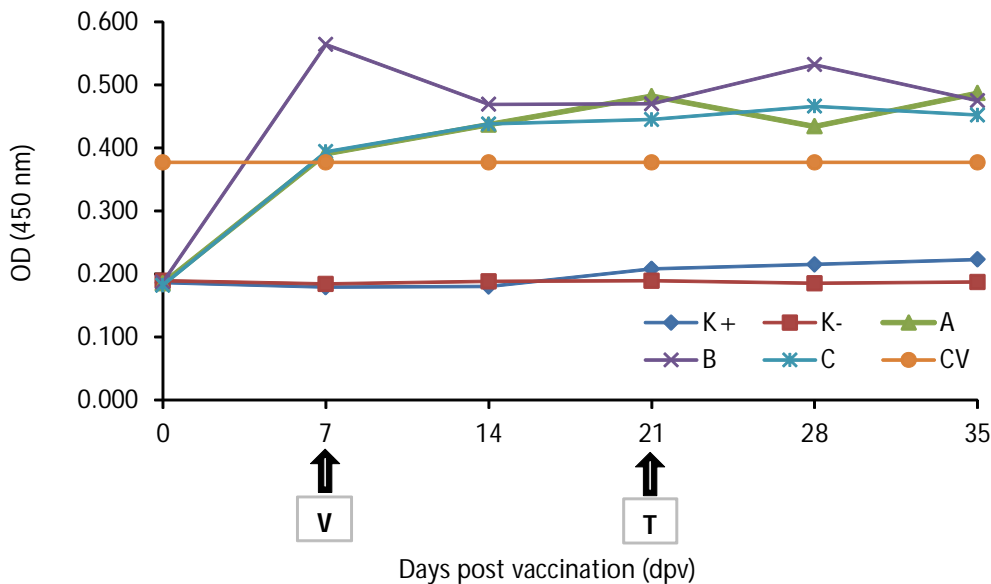


Figure 1. ELISA absorbances during the study period of adjuvant and formalin inactivated vaccine against KHV in koi. This test had been carried out using a monoclonal antibody. Description: no vaccinated, challenged (K+), no vaccinated, no challenged (K-), vaccines (A), *Complete Freund's Adjuvant* vaccinated (B), *Incomplete Freund's Adjuvant* vaccinated (C), cut off value (CV), vaccination (V), challenge test (T)

cut off value (CV) or borderline positive value indicates the formation of protective antibodies against KHV obtained in this study at 0.377 nm. Absorbance values of K+ and K- during the study were below the CV, indicates that no protective antibodies against KHV.

Positive anti-KHV antibodies formed in all treatments vaccination from 14 to 35 dpv. Anti-KHV antibodies begin to form at 7 dpv namely in treatment A and C as indicated by intersect to the line CV (Figure 1). While on treatment B had positive antibodies directly even reach the top of the formation of antibodies. This is presumably due to the effect of the vaccine and the addition of adjuvants in vaccines. Antibody formation is influenced by several factors such as temperature, dose of the vaccine, vaccine administration, the age, and weight of fish as well as the nature of the antigen (Ellis, 1988). The use of adjuvants capable of increasing the titer two times higher than without adjuvant (De Jong *et al.*, 2003). In addition, adjuvants are also able to create a balance of humoral antibody response (Hunter, 2002). It shows that the inserted antigen be antigenic as capable of inducing an immune response to an increase in the value of antibody titers at vaccination treatment.

### Hematocrit Level

Hematocrit level can be seen in Figure 2. Prior to vaccination and one week after vaccination there was no significant difference among treatments ( $P > 0.05$ ). At 14 dpv, there are significant differences ( $P < 0.05$ ) between K+, K-, C with A and B. The highest hematocrit levels achieved on day 21 dpv in treatment B and significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) with other treatments. At 28 dpv and 35 dpv hematocrit levels decreased but treatment B was the highest and significantly different with other treatments ( $P < 0.05$ ).

Hematocrit is the percentage ratio between the solid red blood cells and plasma in the blood. Generally hematocrit before vaccination and one week after vaccination tend to be low and stable (Figure 2). Entering the second week (14 dpv) hematocrit of treatment A and B slightly higher and significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) with the control and C. While the hematocrit reached the highest peak in the third week (21 dpv) is achieved by B. In normal conditions, hematocrit levels of carp ranged from 32% to 43.8% (Radu, 2009). Shortly after the challenge test, hematocrit levels increased and then begin to decline until the end of the maintenance period. Decrease in hematocrit levels after challenge test showed that KHV infection that attacks fish is quite serious. Factors

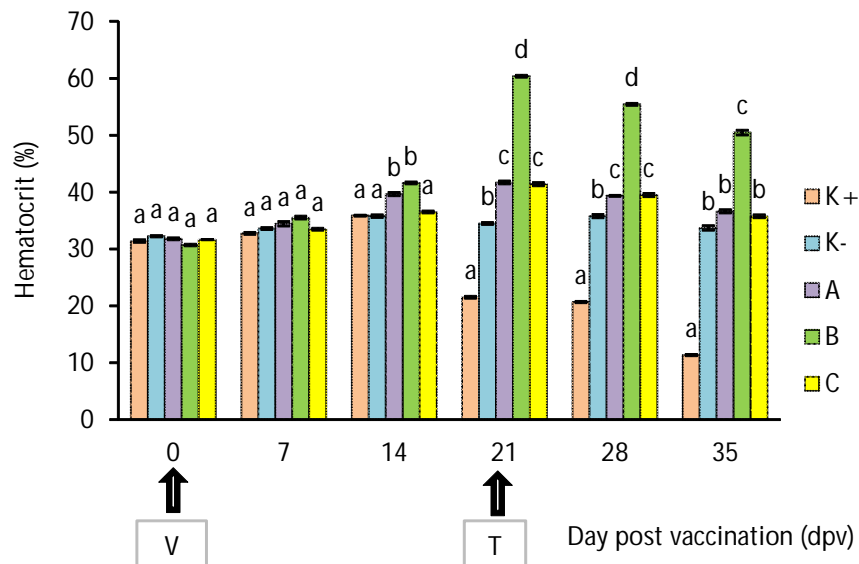


Figure 2. Hematocrit levels during the study period of adjuvant and formalin inactivated vaccine against KHV in koi. Description: no vaccinated, challenged (K+), no vaccinated, no challenged (K-), vaccines (A), Complete Freund's Adjuvant vaccinated (B), Incomplete Freund's Adjuvant vaccinated (C), vaccination (V), challenge test (T). Different superscript in the same group time indicate significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ). Data are expressed as Mean  $\pm$  SD

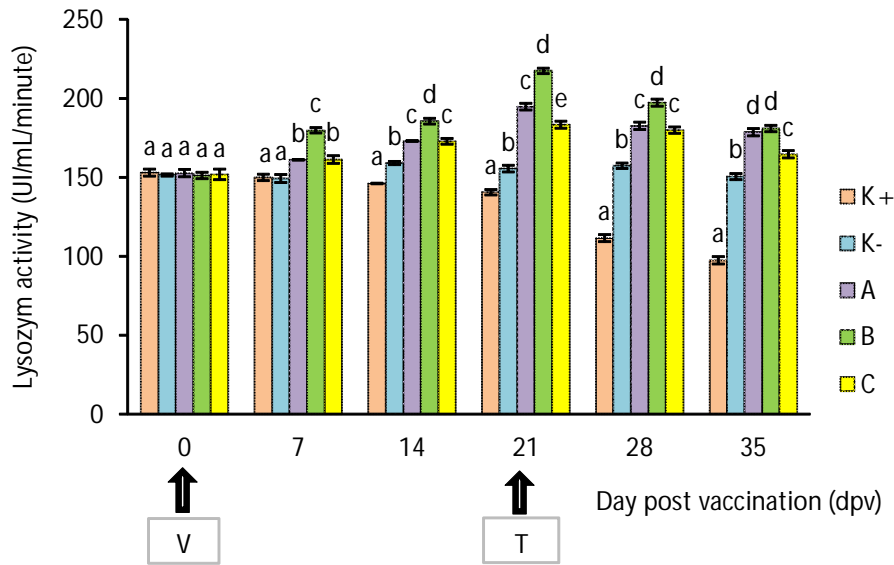


Figure 3. The activity of lysozyme during the study period of adjuvant and formalin inactivated vaccine against KHV in koi. Description: no vaccinated, challenged (K+), no vaccinated, no challenged (K-), vaccines (A), Complete Freund's Adjuvant vaccinated (B) + Incomplete Freund's Adjuvant vaccinated (C), vaccination (V), challenge test (T). Different superscript in the same group time indicate significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ). Data are expressed as Mean  $\pm$  SD

causing the decrease in hematocrit allegedly associated with a decrease in hemoglobin due KHV infection. This decrease was associated with hemorrhage in the base of the fin and bleeding in the brain.

### Lysozyme Activity

Figure 3 shows lysozyme activity of fish. Before vaccination, the amount of lysozyme activity was not significantly different among treatments ( $P > 0.05$ ). Lysozyme value of K+ and K- is significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) with A and C and also significantly different with the treatment B on the 7 dpv. At 14 dpv treatment K+ and K- significantly different compared 21 dpv the activity of lysozyme reached the highest peak in treatment B and significantly different from other treatments. A week after the challenge test (28 dpv) each lysozyme activity decreased and continue to decrease till 35 dpv. Treatment B still shows higher but not significantly different with treatment A ( $P > 0.05$ ) and significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) with K+, K-, and C.

Lysozyme is an important component in the defence system against pathogens. Lysozyme in fish can be detected from the serum, mucus, plasma, and

organs such as gills and liver. Figure 3 shows the activity of lysozyme in general tends to increase after vaccination and tends to decrease after challenge test. Vaccination treatment can increase the activity of lysozyme and significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) with the controls. Increased activity of this enzyme is also obtained in tilapia injected ECP *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (Attia *et al.*, 2012). According Saurabh & Sahoo (2008) lysozyme is a distributed hydrolase, and plays an important role in the biological defense system. This enzyme has antiviral, antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties. In addition, increase lysozyme activity closely associated with humoral factors that can increase phagocytic activity in fish (Veersamy *et al.*, 2014).

On the positive control (K+) is very clearly visible decrease in the activity of lysozyme after challenge test. Lysozyme in fish is an indicator of non-specific immune response to the invasion of antigens. Lysozyme is the first layer of defense mechanism that is very important for fish to fight pathogens (Saurabh & Sahoo, 2008). Lysozyme can increase phagocytic activity is as opsonin or directly activate neutrophils and macrophages (Bhagwat *et al.*, 2010).

## CONCLUSION

The application of inactivated vaccine with the addition of *Complete Freund's Adjuvant* resulted the highest survival and enhancement of the immune response in koi (*C. carpio*) against KHV infection.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Thanks to the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Republic of Indonesia for providing partial funding of the study, thanks to Research and Development Institute for Ornamental Fish Culture, Depok for supporting research, and also thanks to Research Station for Fish Disease Control for allowing to work in the laboratory.

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