TESTING OF ALT VALUES IN FLOUR AND STARCH OF KEPOK BANANA (Musa paradisiaca L.).

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ABSTRACT

Background: *This study aims to evaluate microbial contamination in Kepok Banana (Musa paradisiaca L.) flour and starch products produced by SIDOD UMKM in Sidodadi Village, Gedangan District, Malang Regency.* ***Objective:*** *The production process in UMKM is still carried out simply or traditionally which has the potential to be contaminated by microorganisms, therefore it is important to know the level of microbial contamination, especially based on the Total Plate Count (ALT) value.* ***Research Method:*** *This study uses a comparative method by comparing the ALT value between Kepok Banana flour and starch. The samples used were Kepok banana flour and starch produced in May 2024. Data were obtained through ALT testing using a multilevel dilution technique and Plate Count Agar (PCA) media.* ***Research Results:*** *The results showed that the average ALT value in Kepok Banana flour was 8.8 x 10^7 CFU/g, while Kepok Banana starch showed a higher value, namely 6.4 x 10^8 CFU/g. Both products exceed the maximum limit of microbial contamination permitted by the Regulation of the Head of the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency (BPOM) No. 13 of 2019 concerning the limit of microbial contamination in processed foods in the flour category, namely 1 x 10^6 CFU/g.* ***Conclusion:*** *This shows that Kepok Banana starch products are more susceptible to microbial contamination because there is a further processing process from flour to starch.*

Keywords: *Kepok Banana Flour, Kepok Banana Starch, Total Plate Count (ALT).*