

# Impact of Lapindo Hot Mud Flowing on Macrozoobenthos Communities in Estuary Porong, East Java

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**Abstract**— Estuary Porong is part of the east coast of Sidoarjo, East Java, which receives the Lapindo mudflow. Lapindo mudflow into the sea through the Porong river has caused sedimentation and changed the Porong river base substrate morphology so that it affects the organism that live in the estuary, especially macrozoobenthos because of their habitat on the bottom substrate. This study aims to identify the types of macrozoobenthos that live in the waters of Estuary Porong after the Lapindo mudflow. This research was conducted by observation method with sampling at 7 stations in Estuary Porong, Sidoarjo with purposive sampling method. Data collection was carried out at the end of the dry season using the Petersen grab sediment-taking tool. Identification of the types of macrozoobenthos is carried out in the Laboratory of Ecology, Department of Biology FMIPA Universitas Negeri Surabaya to species level. The research parameters measured included water quality, types of macrozoobenthos, Pb metal content in water and macrozoobenthos. Data were analyzed descriptively quantitative and qualitative. The results showed that in Porong estuary, 22 species of macrozoobenthos were found. The dominant and adaptive species to conditions covered by Lapindo mud are *Potamocorbula faba*, *Chironomus sp.*, *Varuna yui*, and *Mictyris platycheles*. There is a relationship between Pb levels in water and Pb levels in macrozoobenthos.

**Keywords**—Porong estuary; biodiversity; makrozoobentos; lapindo mud

## I. INTRODUCTION

Estuary Porong is part of the eastern coastal region of Sidoarjo Regency, East Java. The characteristics of the Porong estuary, namely the land surface height is almost the same as the average sea level with an elevation of 1–1.5 meters. The topography of the sloping and shoreline is lower than the tide surface, causing the movement of river water at high tides and even tends to move ashore to fill the area of farms and rice fields. In addition, the movement of parallel longshore

currents from west to east, wave height between 0.5-2 meters, plays a role in transporting sediment [1]. Substrate estuary

Porong is generally sedimentary mud and overgrown with mangroves. Land is used as a farming land by the community.

The waters of these estuaries are rich in nutrients and micro-organisms as natural food, so this area is usually a nursery area and an area for feeding ground for various types of marine organism [2]. The supply of organic material from the river flow and nutrients from the wave movement from the sea makes the estuary of the fertile area [3]. Thus estuary is an aquatic ecosystem that has a very good carrying capacity for marine life and river life. Therefore, it has greater biodiversity compared to the sea and rivers [4].

Benthos is an organism that lives on the surface of the waters and or in aquatic sediments [5]. One of the functions of benthos in the aquatic food chain is as detritus feeder. Thus the absence of benthos in an aquatic ecosystem will be rooted in the flow of energy and the material cycle in estuaries, rivers and seas [4]. Because of its low mobility or sessile ability, benthos cannot avoid the negative effects of its environment, such as heavy metals. Benthic organism can be used as bioindicators of the quality of polluted waters because their benthic are settled or attached to the bottom of the waters so that they can be used to describe the condition of a waters [6].

Based on the results of an analysis at the Mineral and Coal Chemical Testing Laboratory, Center for Geological Resources, Bandung [7], Lapindo mud water contains various heavy metals. Of the 12 types of metals in Lapindo mud water whose levels are above the threshold value of the quality standard [8] [9], namely cadmium (Cd), lead (Pb), Mangan (Mn) and Ferum (Fe), while in sediments, from 14 types of metal, the levels above the threshold value of the quality

standard are 10 types, namely Cd, Cu, Pb, Hg, Se, Cr, Zn, Mn, Ag, and Sb.

Lapindo mud contains heavy metals because of the high temperature of mud due to the influence of geothermal activity, it can dissolve the trace elements hydrothermal solution. Trace elements commonly contained in hydrothermal solutions are Cu, Pb, Zn, Mn, Fe, Cd, As, Sb, Au, Hg, Tl, and Se [7]. If these metals are present in nature, the potential to enter the food chain system is difficult to avoid [10]. One of the most dangerous heavy metals in lapindo mud is lead (Pb), because it is very toxic, especially in the nervous system, hemetologic, hemetotoxic and affect kidney performance. In humans the main source of lead is food and drinks that contain lead. Weekly consumption of this element is recommended by WHO for its tolerance for adults 50 µg/kg of body weight and for infants or children 25 µg/kg of body weight [11].

The drainage of lapindo mud into the Madura Strait through the Porong River has caused sedimentation changes in the Porong river and estuary Porong [12]. Thus it is necessary to assess the impact on the macrozoobenthos community in the estuary and east coast of Sidoarjo. The purpose of this study was to determine the impact of Lapindo mud on macrozoobenthos diversity in Estuary Porong Sidoarjo Regency, East Java.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Porong estuary at the end of the dry season, in August. Sampling was carried out at 10.00-11.30 PM when the coastal water receded the furthest, which was -120 cm. Macrozoobenthos samples were taken at 7 (seven) stations which were determined purposively, namely station 1 (07° 32' 29.0"LS, 112° 50' 26.0" BT), station 2 (07° 33' 32.2"LS, 112° 51' 21.6"BT), station 3 (07° 32' 01.3" LS, 112° 51' 07.6"BT), station 4 (07°33'53,9" LS, 112° 52' 05, 5"BT) station 5 (07° 32 '05.5" LS, 112° 52' 13.9 "BT), station 6 (07° 32 '10.5" LS, 112° 52' 23.9 "BT), and station 7 (07° 32 '21.5 "LS, 112° 52' 43.7" BT). Macrozoobenthos identification was conducted at the Biology Department's Taxonomy Laboratory, Surabaya State University. Taking macrozoobenthos samples using Petersen grab measuring 20 x 20 cm weight 20 kg, collection bottles, plastic bags, label paper, 0.5 mm mess sieve; while the material used is 70% alcohol. Macrozoobenthos were taken by dredging the base substrate using Petersen grab, sludge and macrozoobenthos taken by subsample by 0.25 Petersen grab [6]. After that the macrozoobenthos are cleaned, by means of sludge and macrozoobenthos which are taken into a bucket in which a 0.5 mm filter cloth is doused with water several times until clean. Macrozoobenthos collected in a filter cloth are taken with tweezers and put into a collection bottle containing 70% alcohol. Macrozoobentos is identified based on [13] [14].

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Macrozoobenthos Community of Estuary Porong

Based on the results of the identification, macrozoobenthos found in Estuary Porong Sidoarjo consisted of 22 species distributed at 7 stations as in Table 1.

TABLE I. MACROZOOBENTHOS DIVERSITY AND DENSITY IN ESTUARY PORONG AFTER LAPINDO MUDFLOW

Species	Amount species at station							Ind.
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	
<i>Littorina scraba</i>	9				6	11	14	40
<i>Littorina melanostoma</i>		2	14	9	11	6		40
<i>Littoraria articulate</i>			7		8			15
<i>Mictyris platycheles</i>	17	2				6	19	44
<i>Varuna yui</i>	6	6	7		27	7	7	60
<i>Episesarma palawanense</i>	6			7			6	19
<i>Episesarma mederi</i>	6					7	7	20
<i>Episesarma versicolor</i>		5				6	6	17
<i>Metaplex elegans</i>	7	6			7	7	6	33
<i>Ocypode cordimanus</i>	5		6		7		6	24
<i>Merapenaeus affinis</i>	6						7	13
<i>Uca tetragonon</i>		5				6		11
<i>Theora lata</i>		6		5		7		18
<i>Chironomus</i> sp	3	11	21		23	13	4	75
<i>Nereis</i> sp	1	6		7		7	5	26
<i>Natica sertata</i>		7		15		6	2	30
<i>Nassarius leptospirus</i>				7				7
<i>Heliacis variegates</i>			6		7		1	14
<i>Fissilabia</i> sp.			7		7			14
<i>Nerita albicilla</i>			5		6		4	15
<i>Potamocorbula faba</i>		2		31	30	8	5	76
<i>Mactra queenslandica</i>			2	6		4	2	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	

Of the 22 macrozoobenthos species found in Porong estuary, the highest density were *Potamocorbula faba* (76), *Chironomus* sp., (75) *varuna yui* (60), *Mictyris platycheles* (44), *Littorina scraba* (40), and *Littorina melanostoma* (40). This shows that sucked species are able to live in sedimentary conditions from lapindo mud deposits. Differences in diversity and density of macrozoobenthos are also seen between stations. Of the 7 data collection stations, the least members of the macrozoobenthic community were at station 4 (8 species with 87 individual densities), namely *Littorina melanostoma*, *Potamocorbula faba*, *Natica sertata*, *Nereis* sp., *Mactra queenslandica*, *Theora lata*, *Nassarius leptospirus*, and *Episesarma palawanense*. This is possible because station 1 is the main one getting Lapindo mudflow. While the most abundant is at station 7 (16 species with 99 individual densities), because this station is the furthest from the mouth of the Porong estuary as input for the entry of lapindo mud into the sea waters in the Madura strait [15]. The difference in macrozoobenthic community structure in the Porong estuary was also influenced by the quality of estuary waters [16] as shown in Tables 2 and 3.

## 2. Water Quality of Estuary Porong, Eastern Coastal Sidoarjo

TABLE II. VALUE OF THE PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PARAMETERS OF WATERS IN ESTUARY PORONG

Parameter	Station and value							QS [8]
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Salinity (‰)	25	25	29	28	23	23	23	0,5
Temperature	29,6	31	31,3	32	29,7	29	29	Dev. 3
pH	7,5	7,6	7,6	7,6	7,1	7,4	7,4	6 – 9
DO (ppm)	1,2	1,1	1,3	1,8	2,4	2,5	2,5	3
CO <sub>2</sub> (ppm)	20,0	22,1	20,2	20,1	19,3	18,6	17,8	33**

Note: QS=Quality standard

## 3. Water Quality of Porong River

TABLE III. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PORONG RIVER PHYSICOCHEMICAL PARAMETERS AFTER THE LAPINDO MUDFLOW

Parameter	Station and value			Quality of Standard [8]
	1	2	3	
Salinity (‰)	0.06	20	20	0
Temperature(°C)	27.6	32	30	Dev. 3
pH	7.6	8.4	8.3	7.7
DO (ppm)	1.32	0.00	0.36	5
CO <sub>2</sub> (ppm)	12.90	24.67	28.15	0.75

Note: Station 1: Village Manggung, 2: Village Pejarakan, 3: Village Bangun Sari.

Table 1-3 above shows that there have been changes in the physical-chemical parameters of the waters on the east coast of Sidoarjo, especially water salinity. Water salinity indicates the characteristics of marine waters (salinity > 0.5‰), whereas this estuary area is a brackish water ecosystem. This happened because of the entry of Lapindo mud water with high maternity (32-40‰) [12]. As a result of the mud flow containing various organic materials and heavy metals, the temperature and pH of the water is high, but the dissolved oxygen is low.

The decline in water quality due to contamination with Lapindo mud has caused degradation of aquatic organism composition [12]. This is because Lapindo mud contains various elements that are harmful to aquatic organism, including high salinity and heavy metals. This difference is due to changes in the base substrate and the high turbidity of the water. The high sedimentation and turbidity of the water, causing changes in benthic microhabitat [17] [18]. The most striking change is the base substrate which was originally gravel and sand textured, after the entry of the mud turns into mud and sand which tend to be anaerobic [19].

## 4. Lead (Pb) Levels in Macrozoobenthos

One of the elements contained in Lapindo mud is heavy metal [20]. Among the heavy metals contained in Lapindo mud the highest levels [21]. Therefore, the entry of Lapindo mud into Porong estuary will cause contamination of estuary water by heavy metals which will eventually be accumulated by macrozoobenthos (Figure 1).

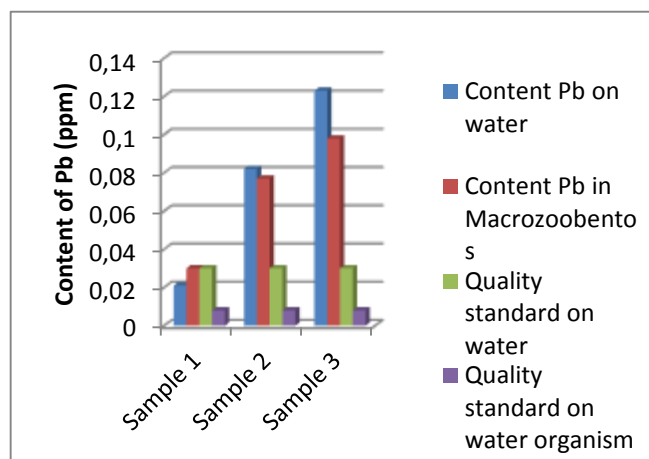


Fig 1. Histogram content of lead (ppm) in water, macrozoobenthos Porong estuary and quality standards after the Lapindo mudflow

The measurement results show that there is a correlation between the levels of lead (Pb) in estuary Porong river with lead levels in macrozoobenthos, ie the higher the Pb level in water the higher the level in macrozoobenthos (Figure 2). Thus heavy metal lead has the potential to enter the estuary and sea food chains on the east coast of Sidoarjo [20].

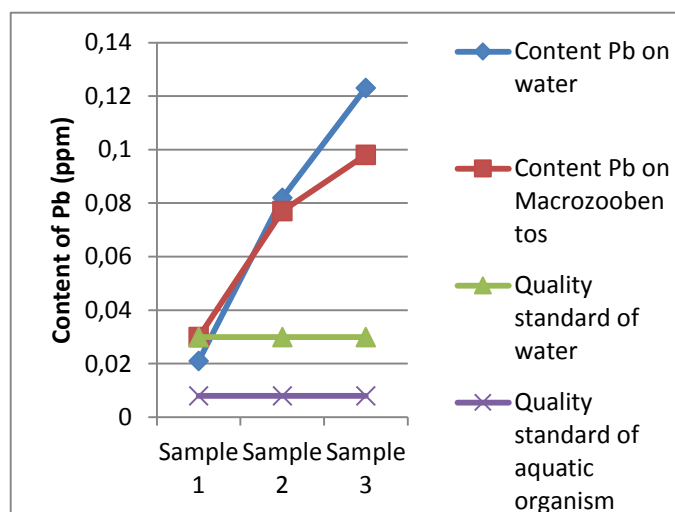


Fig 2. The relationship between lead levels (ppm) in water Porong estuary and the lead levels macrozoobenthos after Lapindo mudflow

Based on the results of research conducted, macrozoobenthos were found in the estuary Porong, Sidoarjo on 7 stations consists of 22 species, the *Littorina scraba*, *Varuna yui*, *Episesarma Palawanense*, *Episesarma mederi*, *Mictyris platychele*, *Metaplex elegans*, *Ocypode cordimanus*, *Merapenaeus affinis*, *Episesarma versicolor*, *Uca tetragon*, *Theora lata*, *Chironomus sp.*, *Nereis sp*, *Natica sertata*, *Littorina melanostoma*, *Littoraria Articulata*, *Heliacus variegated*, *Fissilabia sp.*, *Nerita albicilla*, *Potamocorbula faba*, *Macra queenlandica*, and *Nassarius leptospirus*.

At station 1 the most dominant species is *Mictyris platycheles*. *Mictyris* is the only genus in the Mictiridae Family in the western Pacific, Indonesia and Australia.

*Mictyris platycheles* dominate in the area of Victoria Australia, this species congregate in large numbers on the surface of the water when the sand at low tide [22]. Research conducted Warwick *et al.*, [23] in Eaglehawk Neck, Tasman Peninsula, Tasmania showed that the activities of eating and revolving committed by *Mictyris platycheles* interrupt habitat meiobenthic in it because of the substrate which is occupied *Mictyris platycheles* be different from the substrate that does not exist *Mictyris platycheles* in which the substrate with no *Mictyris platycheles* is finer.

At station 2 and station 3, the dominant species are *Chironomus* sp. found in the larval phase. Sastrawijaya [24] states that *Chironomus* sp. is an invertebrate macro animal which is an indicator of organic pollution in the category of aggressively heavily polluted. The existence of *Chironomus* sp. signify various activities for internal activities by the surrounding community. *Chironomus* sp. looks tolerant and has good osmoregulation capabilities, these entities can adjust to the extreme conditions that surround them [25].

At stations 4 and 5, *Potamocorbula faba* is the most dominant species. Research conducted by Ambarwati and Trijoko [26] on the coastal coast of Sidoarjo shows that during the sampling period, *Potamocorbula faba* is the only shellfish that can be found in very high densities, namely 3,549-10,000 individuals m<sup>-2</sup>. Several factors can cause this condition to be wrong because the estuary area of the Kepetingan River is in an unharmonious condition from organic and inorganic pollution. In polluted environments, only resistant groups can survive and multiply. Unique morphological characters *Potamocorbula faba* supports critical life in extreme environments [27]. Spotted forms with tightly closed connections, can protect themselves during extreme conditions such as extreme salinity. These shells have gill eulamelibrancia also support suspension feeders. The existence of sucking retractile and supports developing activities.

At stations 6 and 7 the most dominant is *Littorina scraba* this is possible because at this time there are a lot of organic material sourced from the flow of the Porong river that enters the waters of the Madura Strait. Given that macrozoobenthos are detritus decomposers that inhabit estuaries.

The entry of Lapindo mud into Porong estuary has caused contamination of estuary water by heavy metals which can be terminated by macrozoobenthos (Figure 1). There is truth between the levels of lead (Pb) in estuary Porong river with lead levels in macrozoobenthic, ie the higher the Pb level in water the higher the macrozoobenthic (Figure 2). The entry of heavy metals into the estuary and sea food chains on the east coast of Sidoarjo is very potential [28]. This is what will be a threat to food security in the eastern region of Sidoarjo [20].

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study showed that the Lapindo mudflow to the sea through Porong river has reduced water quality, especially salinity, DO, and CO<sub>2</sub>, which has a

negative impact on macrozoobenthos diversity and density in Porong Estuary. In the Porong estuary, only 22 macrozoobenthos species were dominated by *Potamocorbula faba*, *Chironomus* sp., *Varuna yui*, and *Mictyris platycheles*. The farther from the mud flow the macrozoobenthos density is higher. Macrozoobenthos have been contaminated with lead, the indication of lead content in macrozoobenthos has exceeded the quality standard threshold.

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