

Study of Algae and Production of Biodiesel from Algae

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Date of Submission: 10-05-2024

Date of Acceptance: 20-05-2024

ABSTRACT

Microalgae have recently attracted considerable interest worldwide, due to their extensive application potential in the renewable energy, biopharmaceutical, and nutraceutical industries. Microalgae are renewable, sustainable, and economical sources of biofuels, bioactive medicinal products, and food ingredients. Because it is derived from renewable resources and has positive effects on the environment, biodiesel has gained popularity recently. The primary obstacle to the product's commercialization, however, is the expense of biodiesel. The main strategies to be taken into consideration to reduce the cost of biodiesel are the utilisation of spent cooking oils as raw material, adaptation of a continuous transesterification process, and recovery of high grade glycerol from biodiesel by-product (glycerol).

One of the greatest challenges of the 21st century is to obtain an ecological source of transport fuels. The production of biofuels based on feedstock obtained through the exploitation of arable land translates into an increase in food prices and progressive degradation of the environment. Unlike traditional agricultural raw materials, algae are a neutral alternative in many respects. They can even be obtained as waste from polluted water reservoirs. One of the manifestations of the deterioration of surface waters is the eutrophication of water reservoirs, which leads to an increase in the number of algae. Algae reaching the shores of water reservoirs can be used as a raw material for the production of biofuels, including biogas, bioethanol and biodiesel.

Key Word: Microalgae , renewable energy , biodiesel , bioethanol , Biogas.

I. INTRODUCTION OF MICROALGAE.

Algae are a group of unicellular and multicellular organisms defined using

morphological and ecological criteria and belong to the key producers in aquatic environments.^[1,2] Renewable biofuels are needed to displace petroleum-derived transport fuels, which contribute to global warming and are of limited availability. Biodiesel as well as bioethanol are the two potential renewable fuels that have attracted the most attention. As demonstrated here, biodiesel and bioethanol produced from agricultural crops using existing methods cannot sustainably replace fossil-based transport fuels, but there is an alternative. Biodiesel from microalgae seems to be the only renewable biofuel that has the potential to completely displace petroleum-derived transport fuels without adversely affecting supply of food and other crop products.³ Biodiesel, an alternative diesel fuel, is made from renewable biological sources such as vegetable oils and animal fats. It is biodegradable and nontoxic, has low emission profiles and so is environmentally beneficial⁴

The biodiesel produced from algal oil has physical and chemical properties similar to diesel from petroleum, to biodiesel produced from crops of 1st generation and compares favorably with the International Biodiesel Standard for Vehicle⁵ The nutrients for the cultivation of microalgae (mainly nitrogen and phosphorus) can be obtained from liquid effluent wastewater; therefore, besides providing its growth environment, there is the potential possibility of waste effluents treatment⁶ Algae are broadly classified as Rhodophyta (red algae), Phaeophyta (brown algae), and Chlorophyta (green algae) and classified by size as macroalgae or microalgae. Macroalgae (seaweed) are multicellular, large-size algae, visible with the naked eye, while microalgae are microscopic single cells and may be prokaryotic, similar to cyanobacteria (Chloroxybacteria), or eukaryotic, similar to green algae (Chlorophyta). Microalgae can be a rich source of carbon compounds, which can be utilized

in biofuels, health supplements, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetic⁷

The mechanism of photosynthesis in microalgae is similar to higher plants, with the difference that the conversion of solar energy is generally more efficient because of their simplified cellular structure and more efficient access to water, CO₂, and other nutrients. For these reasons, microalgae are capable of producing 30 times as much oil per unit of land area compared to terrestrial oilseed. In microalgae cultivation, carbon dioxide is fed constantly during daylight hours. Algae biodiesel production can potentially use some of the CO₂ that is released in power plants by burning fossil fuels. Ideally, microalgal biodiesel would be carbon neutral, as all the power needed for producing and processing the algae would come from biodiesel itself and from methane produced by anaerobic digestion of biomass residue left behind after the oils have been extracted. The production of biofuel from microalgae has gained considerable attention due to the fact that they can be converted into several different types of renewable biofuels such as green diesel, jet fuel, methane biogas, ethanol, and butano⁸

1)BIODIESEL RESOURCES:

Crop	Oil Yield(L/ha)
Corn	172
Soyabean	446
Canola	1190
Jatropha	1892
Coconu	2689
Oil palm	5950
Microalga	136900

Table 1. Comparison Of Some Sources Of Biodiesel⁹

1)ALGAE:

“Alga is a term that describes a large and incredibly diverse group of eukaryotic, photosynthetic lifeforms. These organisms do not share a common ancestor and hence, are not related to each other (polyphyletic).”¹⁰



FIG 1.ALGAE¹¹

❖ CHARACTERISTICS OF ALGAE:

- Algae are photosynthetic organisms
- Algae can be either unicellular or multicellular organisms
- Algae lack a well-defined body, so, structures like roots, stems or leaves are absent
- Algae are found where there is adequate moisture.
- Reproduction in algae occurs in both asexual and sexual forms. Asexual reproduction occurs by spore formation.
- Algae are free-living, although some can form a symbiotic relationship with other organisms.¹⁰

II. TYPE OF ALGAE.

1)Green Algae:

One lineage, the chlorophyte algae or Chlorophyta sensu stricto, comprises most of what are commonly called green algae and includes most members of the grade of putatively ancestral scaly flagellates in Prasinophyceae plus members of Ulvophyceae, Trebouxiophyceae, and Chlorophyceae¹²



Figure No 2 .Green Algae¹³

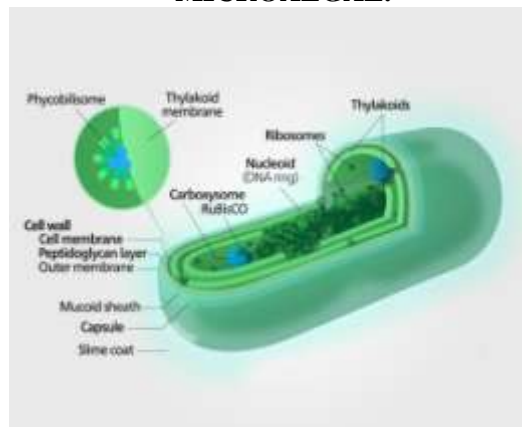
2) Red Algae:

The Rhodophyta comprises one of the largest phyla of algae, containing over 7,000 currently recognized species with taxonomic revisions ongoing.¹⁴ Red algae are abundant in marine habitats but relatively rare in freshwaters.¹⁵ The red algae form a distinct group characterized by having eukaryotic cells without flagella and centrioles, chloroplasts that lack external endoplasmic reticulum and contain unstacked (stroma) thylakoids, and use phycobiliproteins as accessory pigments, which give them their red color.¹⁶



Figure No 3. Red Algae¹⁷

III. INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF MICROALGAE.¹⁸



IV. MICROALGAE AND THEIR PRODUCT.

due to their high capacity to produce and accumulate various macromolecules (proteins, carbohydrates, and lipids) with several uses in the food and feed industry, and more recently, as a source of biodiesel.^{19,20} microalgae are a very important source of several high-added value products such as pigments, PUFAs (polyunsaturated fatty acids), peptides, exopolysaccharides, among others, with a clear benefit to human health and nutrition.^(21,22)

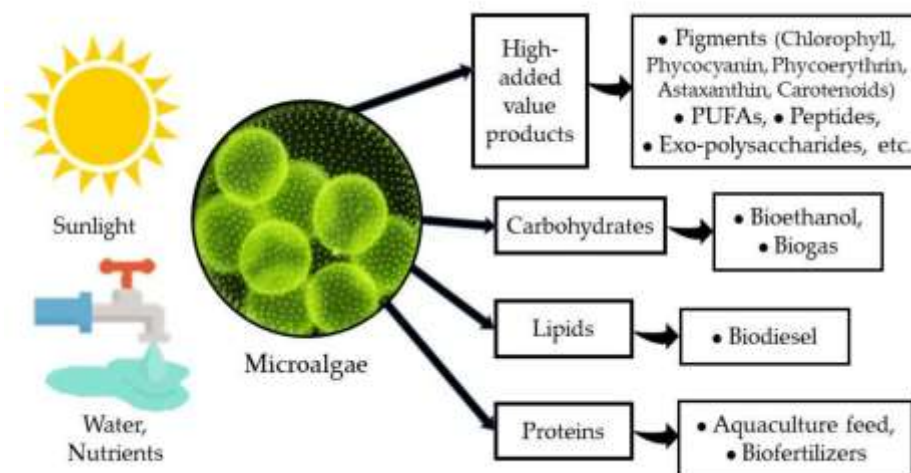


Figure No 4. Microalgae And Their Product²³

V. FACTORS INVOLVED IN THE GROWTH OF MICROALGAE.

To grow, microalgae have many needs; the most important physical factors are a source of

energy, usually light and an optimum temperature. There are also the chemical factors which are the available concentration of carbon dioxide and the contribution of macronutrient and trace elements.

Algal growth is affected by several parameters such as mixture and oxygen concentration

- **Light:**

Light is the most important factor for the photosynthetic growth of algae. It has an effect on the cellular composition of microalgae (photoadaptation or photoacclimatation)²⁴.

Compensation intensity (I_c) is the value of the luminous intensity before which there is no photosynthesis activity. Only cellular respiration activity is present. The intensity of compensation is the intensity where the photosynthesis just compensates for the respiration. The luminous intensity of saturation (I_s) is the intensity where the efficacy of photosynthesis (or photosynthesis rate) is maximal (photolimitation). The luminous intensity of inhibition (I_{pi}) is the intensity or activity of photosynthesis is inhibited by light. According to Barbosa et al., the photoinhibition becomes pronounced for a luminous intensity greater than $1200 \mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$.²⁵

- **Temperature:**

Temperature is one of the most important physical factors influencing the growth of microalgae. For each temperature there is a specific luminous intensity to achieve the maximum photosynthesis rate. The optimum temperature increases therefore with the increase of the luminous intensity. There is also an optimum temperature for maximum biomass production, but the temperature variation also acts on the cell composition. The decrease in temperature increases the degree of lipid unsaturation and the increase in temperature results in increased concentrations of the pigments but also an increase in the concentration of oxygen radicals. If microalgae do not grow at optimum temperature, the need for carbon and nutrients to achieve the same growth rate is more important.²⁶

- **Ph:**

The pH of the culture medium is one of the important factors in algal cultivation. pH of medium for algae growth is usually neutral or slightly acidic, mainly to avoid precipitation of several major elements. The algae exhibit a clear dependency on pH of the growth medium and different species vary greatly in their response to Ph²⁷

- **Nutrients:**

Nutrients are inorganic or organic compounds other than carbon dioxide and water, used for growth whose presence in the cell is necessary for cellular function. Some algae require specific organic compounds synthesized by other organisms. However, many algae require only inorganic nutrients, and it is likely that these algae could be used as feedstock for biomass fuel production. Limiting nutrients to algae are nitrogen, phosphorus, silica (for diatoms) and iron.²⁸

- **Mixing:**

Mixing and aerating provide uniform distribution of nutrients, air, and CO₂ in microalgae culture. They also enable the penetration and uniform distribution of light inside the culture and prevent the biomass from settling and causing aggregation⁴⁹.

If all the other requirements are met but there is no mixing, biomass productivity will be lowered significantly. Thus, microalgae cultures must be continuously mixed to keep all cells in suspension with free access to light. A proper mixing system in a photo-bioreactor not only enables nutrient dissolution and light penetration into the culture but also provides for efficient gaseous exchange⁵⁰.

➤ **Algae Have Numerous Advantages Over Terrestrial Plants:**

- They use solar energy with efficiencies 10 times higher compared with terrestrial plants, fixing higher quantities of CO₂.
- 2. They can grow in fresh, salty waters and even in wastewaters.
- 3. They can be used as metal absorbers (Cu, Cd) in wastewater treatments.
- 4. Algae harvesting can be acted following a few days once the culture has began, which does not happen with crops.
- 5. Flue gases from power plants can be directly used in algae culture recovering carbon and nitrogen dioxides.
- 6. Algae production systems can be installed in surfaces next to industries and in non-cultivable surfaces, avoiding competition for the lands²⁹

Table NO 2. Lipid Content Of Different Microalgae. ^(30,31,32)

Microalgae	Oil content(%dry weight)
Botryococcusbraunii.	25-28
Chorellaprotothecoides.	23-30
Chlorella vulgaris.	14-40
Crpythecodiniumcohnii.	20
Cylinderdrotheca sp.	16-37
Nitzschia.	45-47
Phaeodactylumtricornutum.	20-30
Schizochytrium sp.	50-77
Spirulina maxima.	4-9
Neochlorisoleoabundans.	35-65
Crpythecodiniumcohnii.	20

VI. LITRATURE REVIEW

1)EZGI SUHELAKTAS ET.AL. (2017)

Detail. As a result of the rapidly growing population and the developing industry, energy resources are becoming exhausted and therefore it is becoming increasingly necessary to find alternative energy sources. In this study, after giving general information about biodiesel and its sources, production methods are discussed in A sample study on the treatment of wastewater generated during the production of biodiesel is also included.

2)AGATA JABLO NSKA-TRYPY ET.AL. (2023)

The production of biofuels based on feedstock obtained through the exploitation of arable land translates into an increase in food prices and progressive degradation of the environment. One of the manifestations of the deterioration of surface waters is the eutrophication of water reservoirs, which leads to an increase in the number of algae. Algae are a group of unicellular and multicellular organisms defined using morphological and ecological criteria and belong to the key producers in aquatic

environment. When it comes to carbohydrates, the main group of compounds is polysaccharides, which perform reserve and structural functions in algae cells. Starch and glycogen are stored in plastids as storage components, while cellulose is the main structural component of the cell wall, as are sulfated polysaccharides.

3)MICHAEL KROGER ET.AL. (2014)

One of the future-generation biofuel options that has recently received increased attention is the production of biofuels from microalgae. Besides the use of algae oil for physicochemical biodiesel production, biochemical and thermochemical pathways are possible. Although there is still a need to research algae production systems, downstream processing (e.g., biofuel production) needs to be researched in parallel. As there are several methods to produce biofuel from algae, different possible production processes are reviewed. By investigating the different steps of each of the processes and highlighting the challenges and risks that can occur, it is possible to make a decision regarding which

pathway might be feasible for algal resources in the future.

4) NAZIA HOSSAIN ET.AL. (2019)

The main objective of this study was to delineate the synergistic impact of microalgal biofuel integrated with nano-additive applications. Numerous nano-additives such as nano-fibres, nano-particles, nano-tubes, nanosheets, nano-droplets, and other nano-structures' applications have been reviewed in this study to facilitate micro algae growth to biofuel utilization. The present paper was intended to comprehensively review the nano-particles preparing techniques for microalgae cultivation and harvesting, biofuel extraction, and application of microalgae-biofuel nano-particles blends. Prospects of solid nano-additives and nano-fluid applications in the future on microalgae production, microalgae biomass conversion to biofuels as well as enhancement of biofuel combustion for revolution ary advancement in biofuel technology have been demonstrated elaborately by this review. This study also high lighted the potential biofuels from microalgae, numerous technologies, and conversion processes. Along with that, the study recounted suitability of potential microalgae candidates with an integrated design generating value-added co-products besides biofuel production.

5) SHIQIU ZHANG ET.AL.(2022)

Microalgae are the important part of carbon cycle in the nature, and they could utilize the carbon resource in water and soil efficiently. The abilities of microalgae to mitigate CO₂ emission and produce oil with a high productivity have been proven. Hence, this third-generation biodiesel should be popularized. This review firstly introduce the basic characteristics and application fields of microalgae. Then, the influencing parameters and recent advanced technologies for the microalgae biodiesel production have been discussed. In influencing parameters for biodiesel production section, the factors of microalgae cultivation, lipid accumulation, microalgae harvesting, and lipid extraction have been summarized. In recent advanced technologies for biodiesel production section, the microalgae cultivation systems, lipid induction technologies, microalgae harvesting technologies, and lipid extraction technologies have been reviewed. This review aims to provide useful information to help future development of efficient and commercially

viable technology for microalgae-based biodiesel production.⁴⁴

6) DAVID A. WOOD ET.AL.(2021)

Microalgae with potentially high lipid yields of certain strains and relatively small environmental footprints offer a medium to long term biodiesel supply. Substantial challenges need to be resolved before they can be developed commercially on a large scale. There have been some significant technological breakthroughs made in recent years that offer the potential to achieve this. The ability to genetically engineer algal strains more efficiently and precisely to stabilize their growth and improve lipid yield is one approach. Others include one-step harvesting and lipid extraction from wet biomass, filtering incident light to focus on red photons, combining solar photovoltaics with high-rate algal ponds, and using wastewater and effluent to provide the ideal nutrient mix to promote algal growth and lipid yield. Additionally, microalgal extracts offer some value-added, high-margin co-products, such as poly-unsaturated fatty acids and nutrient-rich biofertilizers. Multi-product integrated biorefineries embracing offer the best route to large-scale, eco-friendly biodiesel commercialization.⁴⁵

7) MILFORD A. HANNA ET.AL (1999)

Biodiesel has become more attractive recently because of its environmental benefits and the fact that it is made from renewable resources. The cost of biodiesel, however, is the main hurdle to commercialization of the product. The used cooking oils are used as raw material, adaption of continuous transesterification process and recovery of high quality glycerol from biodiesel by-product (glycerol) are primary options to be considered to lower the cost of biodiesel. There are four primary ways to make biodiesel, direct use and blending, microemulsions, thermal cracking (pyrolysis) and transesterification. The most commonly used method is transesterification of vegetable oils and animal fats. The transesterification reaction is affected by molar ratio of glycerides to alcohol, catalysts, reaction temperature, reaction time and free fatty acids and water content of oils or fats. The mechanism and kinetics of the transesterification show how the reaction occurs and progresses. The processes of transesterification and its downstream operations are also addressed.

8) BODJUI OLIVIER ABO ET.AL (2019)

Algae are increasingly emerging as one of the most promising sustainable and long-term sources of biomass and oils for fuel, feed food and other co-products. What makes them so attractive are the large number and wide variety of benefits associated with how and where they grow. This review presents added values and recent developments in resource recovery from microalgae. The main focus was in the cultivation and application of microalgae on biofuel recovery. Nearly all these benefits stem from the fact that these plants have evolved over billions of years to produce and store energy in the form of oil, and they do this more efficiently than any other known natural or engineered process. The results show that the investment in a microalgae biomass project can be associated with various processes, which include: growth of microalgae, harvesting, dehydration and extraction of oils. In addition, there are always project costs, which include engineering, infrastructure, installation and integration and contract fees.

9) MUHAMMAD IMRAN KHAN ET.AL (2018)

Microalgae have recently attracted considerable interest worldwide, due to their

extensive application potential in the renewable energy, biopharmaceutical, and nutraceutical industries. Microalgae are renewable, sustainable, and economical sources of biofuels, bioactive medicinal products, and food ingredients. Several microalgae species have been investigated for their potential as value-added products with remarkable pharmacological and biological qualities. As biofuels, they are a perfect substitute to liquid fossil fuels with respect to cost, renewability, and environmental concerns. Microalgae have a significant ability to convert atmospheric CO₂ to useful products such as carbohydrates, lipids, and other bioactive metabolites. Although microalgae are feasible sources for bioenergy and biopharmaceuticals in general, some limitations and challenges remain, which must be overcome to upgrade the technology from pilot-phase to industrial level. The most challenging and crucial issues are enhancing microalgae growth rate and product synthesis, dewatering algae culture for biomass production, pretreating biomass, and optimizing the fermentation process in case of algal bioethanol production. The present review describes the advantages of microalgae for the production of biofuels and various bioactive compounds and discusses culturing parameters

VII. PLAN OF WORK.

1) Cultivation Techniques



2)Collection Of Microalgae



3)Algae oil extraction techniques



4)Microalgae for Biodiesel Product



5) Material And Method

CULTIVATION TECHNIQUES:

Microalgae are the fastest growing species. The growing microalgae requires light, water, nutrients, CO₂. Growing space temperature 20 °C -30°C. Microalgae capture CO₂ and convert it to fuel by photosynthesis. They can capture CO₂ from three different sources namely, atmosphere, waste gas from heavy industry and soluble carbonates. A lot of efforts have been made to enhance the productivity and the lipid content of some microalgae species by changing the growing.³³

Two main cultivation systems are open system and closed system. The open system is normally a pond system, where the algae can grow naturally.³⁴ Microalgae are capable to grow rapidly. Their high photosynthesis efficiency coupled with the ability to accumulate a large amount of bioproducts within their cells make them a suitable candidate to serve as industrial raw material³⁵. Besides, cultivation of microalgae does not require fertile land, a large quantity of freshwater, and herbicides and pesticide when compared to the other crops and thus will not be competing for resources³⁶

A) Open Air System/Open Pond :

Open pond cultivation has been one of the oldest and simplest ways to cultivate microalgae in large scale. Open pond is widely used in the industry due to its relatively cheaper construction, maintenance and operation cost. Other advantages of using open pond system include simplistic operation and maintenance, low energy demand, and ease to scale up³⁷. Open-air systems, also known as open raceway ponds systems, are made of closed-loop recirculation channels, with a typical depth range of 10–50 cm. The ponds are kept shallow specifically to allow adequate solar penetration for efficient photosynthesis of the algal medium. These ponds incorporate paddle wheels, with daylong continuous operation to prevent settling, for effective gas circulation and liquid mixing. It is open to the surroundings, which

enables liquid evaporation and temperature regulation of the process.³⁸

Raceway pond is one of the most frequently used open pond types for the cultivation of microalgae. It consists of a series of closed loop channel around 30-cm deep and paddlewheel which enable recirculation of microalgae biomass to ensure equal distribution of nutrients and prevent sedimentation of microalgae biomass. Raceway pond has been perceived as one of the best open pond cultivation design available due to its energy efficiency, as a single paddlewheel is sufficient enough to properly agitate a 5-hectare raceway pond³⁹



Figure No 5. Open Air System/Open Pond.

B) Closed Photobioreactor System:

Photobioreactor is a bioreactor system used to culture phototrophs such as microalgae in an enclosed system which does not allow direct exchange of material between the culture and environment. Photobioreactor is able to overcome several constraints faced commonly by open pond culture design. First, the size of bioreactor is more compact compared to open pond, therefore providing more efficient land usage. Second, the system provides a closed and highly controlled growth condition for the culture, thus able to produce a contamination free, single strain microalgae culture.⁴⁰

COLLECTION OF MICROALGAE.

One of the major problems is algae collection because algae are mixed with water. The first step is to separate the biomass. After that, techniques of collection are used, in order to increase the concentration.⁴¹

➤ There Are Several Types In Which The Collection Of Microalgae Is Performed:

- 1) Filtration
- 2) Centrifugation
- 3) Flotation
- 4) Flocculation

ALGAE OIL EXTRACTION TECHNIQUES.

A) Mechanical Method:

- 1) Extraction expeller press.
- 2) Ultrasonic assisted extraction.

B) Chemical method:

- 1) Hexane solvent.
- 2) Soxhlet extraction.
- 3) Isopropyl alcohol and petroleum ether.

Microalgae for Biodiesel Product.

Biodiesel is a mixture of fatty acid alkyl esters obtained by transesterification (of vegetable oils or animal fats. These lipids feedstocks are included by 90–98% (weight) of triglycerides also small measures of mono as well as diglycerides, free fatty acids (1–5%), also residual measures of phospholipids, phosphatides, carotenes, tocopherols, sulphur compounds, and traces of water.^(42,43)

Transesterification is a multiple step reaction, composing three reversible categories in series, where triglycerides are altered to diglycerides, following diglycerides are altered to monoglycerides, and monoglycerides are then converted to esters (biodiesel) and glycerol (by-product).^{46,47}

Transesterification reaction can be catalysed both homogenous and heterogenous cataly⁴⁸.

Material And Method.

Apparatus:

Grinder, funnel, beaker, filter paper, conical flask, separating funnel, stand, simple distillation apparatus.

Chemical:

Petroleum ether, Isopropyl alcohol.

Procedure:

- 1) Firstly Collection Of Algae

- 2) Grinding The Microalgae By Mixture And Adding Some Amount Of Water.
- 3) After The Grinding This Microalgae Are Filtered Using A Whatman Filter Paper.
- 4) Collect 500 ML Filtrate
- 5) This Filtrate Are Transferred In To The Separating Funnel And Add The 125 ML Of Petroleum Ether And 125 ML Of Isopropyl Alcohol And Stir
- 6) This Separating Funnel Are Stabled In The 4 days
- 7) After 4 Days 3 Layer Are Observed .1st Layer Contain Pure Biodiesel 2nd Layer Contain Microalgae Impure Biodiesel And 3rd Layer Is Waste Material.
- 8) 1st Layer Is Pure Biodiesel Are Collected 2nd Layer Impure Biodiesel Are Purified Using A Simple Distillation
- 9) Simple Distillation Method: The Unpure Biodiesel Are Placed In To The Round Bottomed Condenser And Receiver Are Joined Together.
- 10) When Heating Is Apply On RBF The Unpure Biodiesel Is Boil And Converted Into The Vapor.
- 11) The Vapor Get Into The Condenser And Converted Into The Pure Biodiesel.
- 12) The Biodiesel Are Collected This Biodiesel Are Volatile In Nature Therefore They Are Store In Well Close Container.

Step:

- 1) Algae:



Figure No 6. Grinding Algae

2) Separation.



Figure No 8. Separating funnel.

3) Impure Biodiesel.



Figure No 9. Impure Biodiesel.

4) Simple Distillation.



Figure No 10. Simple Distillation

5) Pure Biodiesel.



Figure No 11. Pure Biodiesel

Identification Test:

1) Lipid Test/ Sudan III Test:

A sample of biodiesel is mixed with sudan III dye solution if lipid is present they will form distinct red colouration in the mixture this indicates the presence of unsaturated fats or oil.



VIII. RESULT.

The below figure shows the two layers:

- 1) Unpure Biodiesel
- 2) pure biodiesel.

1) unpure biodiesel:



Figure no 13 .Unpuredbiodiseal.

2) puredBiodiseal /Purification :

The UnpuredBiodisel can purified by using the Simple Distillation Method After purification the pure biodiesel obtained.



Figure No 14 .Pure Biodiesel After Purification

IX. CONCLUSION

Many companies and researchers have developed microalgae to biofuel systems, but as of yet there have not been any breakthroughs into commercial success. Many of the limitations are due to technological advancements in cultivation and harvesting, as well as in determining the optimal growth conditions for the microalgae.

According to U.S. Department of Energy, current research into efficient algal oil production is being done in the private sector but if predictions from small scale production experiments show promise then using algae to produce biodiesel may be the only viable method by which to produce enough automotive fuel to replace current world gasoline usage.

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