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# Synthesis and Characterization of Hydroxyapatite Derived from Milkfish Bone by Simple Heat Treatments

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**Abstract:** The present study aimed to synthesize hydroxyapatite (HAp) from milkfish (*Chanos chanos*) bone by simple heat treatments ranging from 600 to 800 °C. The yield and color of synthesized powders before and after heat treatment were analyzed. The synthesized powders were characterized using Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) to identify the functional groups and X-ray diffraction (XRD) was employed to identify phase and crystallinity properties. This study found that the yield percentages were found to be approximately 50%. The FTIR characteristics exhibited the phosphate and carbonate groups at high temperatures ( $\geq 600$  °C). In general, this study confirmed that the well-crystallized HAp can be synthesized by thermal treatment at a temperature of 160 °C for 48 h.

**Keywords:** hydroxyapatite; biomaterial; milkfish.

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## 1. Introduction

An increase in biomaterial need leads to the development of various alternative biomaterial [1-4]. Bio-ceramics are safe, have no toxicity, and have superior compatibility [5-8]. Furthermore, it was used for a composite component amplifier. One of the most widely recognized bio-ceramics is hydroxyapatite (HAp). Milkfish is easy to find in Indonesia. In 2014, the total production of milkfish in Indonesia was 631125 tons, or 14.74% of total cultivated fish production [9]. The high cultivated production can be proportional to its waste. Milkfish bone waste can be produced up to 15 kg or approximately 5.4 tons per year. Bone waste contains high calcium compounds because the main elements of fish bones are calcium, phosphorus, and carbonate [10].

Calcium and phosphorus are the main constituents of HAp [9]. Therefore, milkfish bones can be used as raw material in HAp synthesis. HAp is calcium phosphate-containing hydroxide and has a hexagonal structure with 200, 111, 002, 102, 210, 211, 112, 300, and 202 crystallographic planes at 22.01°, 23.02°, 26.06°, 28.51°, 29.22°, 31.79°, 32.32°, 32.88°, and 34.55° peaks, respectively [11,12]. HAp in fishbone can be utilized for bone regeneration, repair, fill, expansion, and reconstruction of bone tissue. HAp is a bioactive mineral apatite compound that has the potential to be used as a coating and implantation of composites. It has a similar structure and composition with inorganic components in hard tissues, such as bone

and tooth structure minerals. Clinically, HAp had been used in the last 20 years ago because of its excellent properties.

HAp can be derived either from natural sources or by synthetic methods [13-16]. The synthetic methods include hydrothermal, liquid emulsion in membranes, precipitation, sol-gel and polymerization. However, these methods are complicated and have the side effect of ammonia. In addition, chemical methods require toxic chemicals and the reaction conditions have to be controlled. Microstructural HAp has been obtained from fish bones by thermal treatment [17], thermal decomposition [18], hydrothermal treatment [19], supercritical water processing of bovine bone, pork teeth and bones, extraction of human and squid teeth. For instance, Shi, Liu [20] had evaluated the effect of temperature on the isolation and characterization of HAp from fish bones.

The characteristics of HAp are bioactive, biocompatible, osteoconductive, non-toxic and non-immunogenic [21-25]. Several characterizations of HAP have been obtained, such as the chemical-physical characteristics of porous ceramic HAp [26], the electrical characteristics of ceramic-based HAp [27], and the mechanical characteristics of bioceramic-based porous HAp due to the influence of shape and pores [28]. In addition, HAp can also be used as an adsorbent to remove environmental pollution [29]. Considering this topic's significance, the current study proposed synthesizing HAp from milkfish bones using simple heat treatments.

## **2. Materials and Methods**

### *2.1. Material.*

The material used in this study is milkfish bones obtained from milkfish waste. Acetone ( $\text{CH}_3\text{COCH}_3$ ) and distilled water were used in the preparation of fishbone samples. In addition, 100 mesh sieves, drying oven (Model YNC-OVYENACO, China), digital balance (Type PW-24, Adam Equipment, USA), mechanical milling (Model MDY-1000, FOMAC, China) and furnace were employed in this study.

### *2.2. Fishbone preparation.*

First, the milkfish bones are boiled to remove the remaining sticky meat. The boiling was carried out at 80 °C for 2 h. Then, the fishbone was cleaned and washed using distilled water. Furthermore, the fish bones were soaked in acetone solution for one h. Next, the prepared milkfish bones were dried at 160 °C for 48 h.

### *2.3. HAp synthesis.*

The dried milkfish bones were ground into particles. The extraction technique was carried out by heating at high temperatures). The sintering temperature variations were 600 °C, 700 °C, and 800 °C for 5 h. The sintering process began with weighing 7 g of milkfish bone powder into a porcelain dish, then heating it in a furnace with an increase in heating of 20 °C per min. After achieving sintering temperature heating, the material was allowed to stand until the temperature drops back to room temperature. HAp powder product from milkfish bones has been obtained. It was packed in plastic and stored at room temperature before characterization.

#### 2.4. Characterization.

The functional groups of the HAp were investigated by Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR). The spectra were recorded under a nitrogen atmosphere from 400 to 4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  with a resolution of 4  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  using an IFS 66 FTIR spectrometer (Bruker, Billerica, MA, USA). The X-ray diffraction (XRD) was analyzed using Bruker D8 X-ray diffractometer with Cu target and  $\text{K}\alpha$  radiation source ( $\lambda = 1.540598 \text{ \AA}$ ). Each sample was scanned in the range of 5 to 70° (40 kV, 30 mA).

The yield and color of milkfish bone HAp powder were analyzed according to the study by Venkatesan and Kim [30]. The yield of milkfish bone HAp powder is the relative weight of fishbone powder before and after the thermal treatment and can be estimated as follows:

$$\gamma = \frac{W_f}{W_i} \times 100\% \tag{1}$$

with  $\gamma$  is the yield of HAp powder (%),  $W_f$  is the final weight (g), and  $W_i$  is the initial weight (g).

The color of the milkfish bone HAp powder was identified visually by comparing the fishbone powder samples before and after the sintering process.

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1. Yield percentage.

HAp is extracted from milkfish bones and the yield results are tabulated in Table 1. The study found that the higher the sintering temperature produced, the smaller the yield. The decrease in yield during the sintering process is probably due to the loss of water content and organic matter in the fishbone powder. According to Venkatesan and Kim [30], two inflection points in fishbone powder were at a temperature of 100.5 °C and 365.6 °C. This indicates the point of loss of water and organic matter. Similar results were shown by Pallela, Venkatesan [31], who stated that the inflection point can be observed at a temperature of 365.6 °C. The study indicated a loss of collagen and other organic matter.

**Table 1.** Yield percentage and color of HAp from sintering process of *Chanos chanos* bone

Sample	Sintering Temperature (°C)	Weight Before Treatment (g)	Weight After Treatment (g)	Yield (%)	Color
A	Without sintering	-	-	-	Yellow
B	600	7.00	3.8505	55.00	Grey
C	700	7.02	3.7216	53.17	White
D	800	7.01	3.6708	52.44	White

At temperatures 200-300 °C, the weight of the combined components of water and organic matter decreases slightly. Nevertheless, at a sintering temperature of 300-500 °C, weight loss would be drastic due to the decomposition of organic materials, such as collagen, fat, and protein related to other bone components. At 600 °C sintering temperature, the only compound remaining was calcium phosphate. The reduction in sample weight at sintering temperature 600-800 °C ranged from 30-40%. It was caused by the attachment between the collagen components, fat tissue, and protein.

Before the sintering process, the color of the fishbone powder was yellow. HAp is classified as an organic matter [31]. The yellow color can be turned black, brown, smelly, and

white as the temperature increase. Figure 1 displayed that the bone powder is gray at 600 °C of sintering temperature and the fishbone powder is white at 700 °C and 800 °C. The remaining organic compounds caused the gray color at low sintering temperatures (600 °C) in the form of carbon found in the fish bones. Fish had 30% organic components and 60-70% calcium phosphate and HAp components [32].

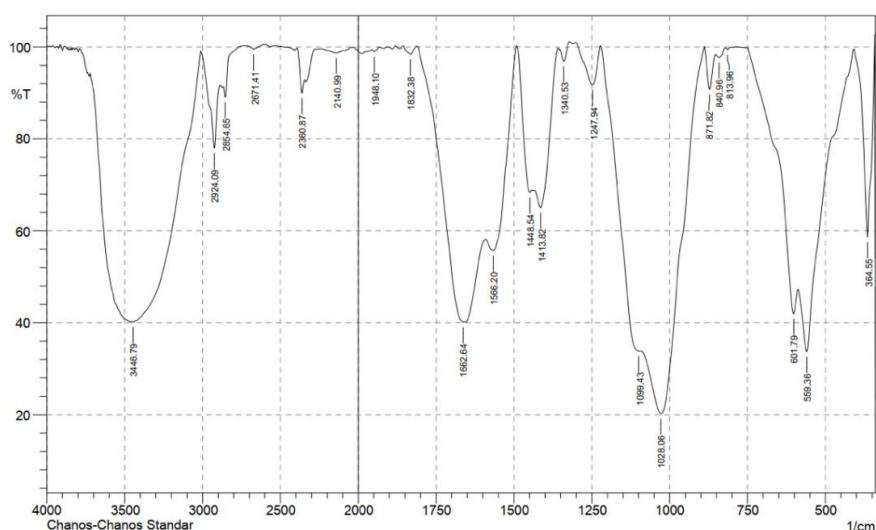


**Figure 1.** Fishbone powder color after the sintering process: (a) 600 °C; (b) 700 °C; (c) 800 °C; and (d) before the sintering process.

Ozawa and Suzuki [33] exhibited white samples at high temperatures (700-1000) °C. It specified that the organic material was not degraded. In addition, the yield after sintering designated that HAp had a high level of purity. Similar studies demonstrated that yield values in the range of 60% or less were white, indicating purer HAp [30].

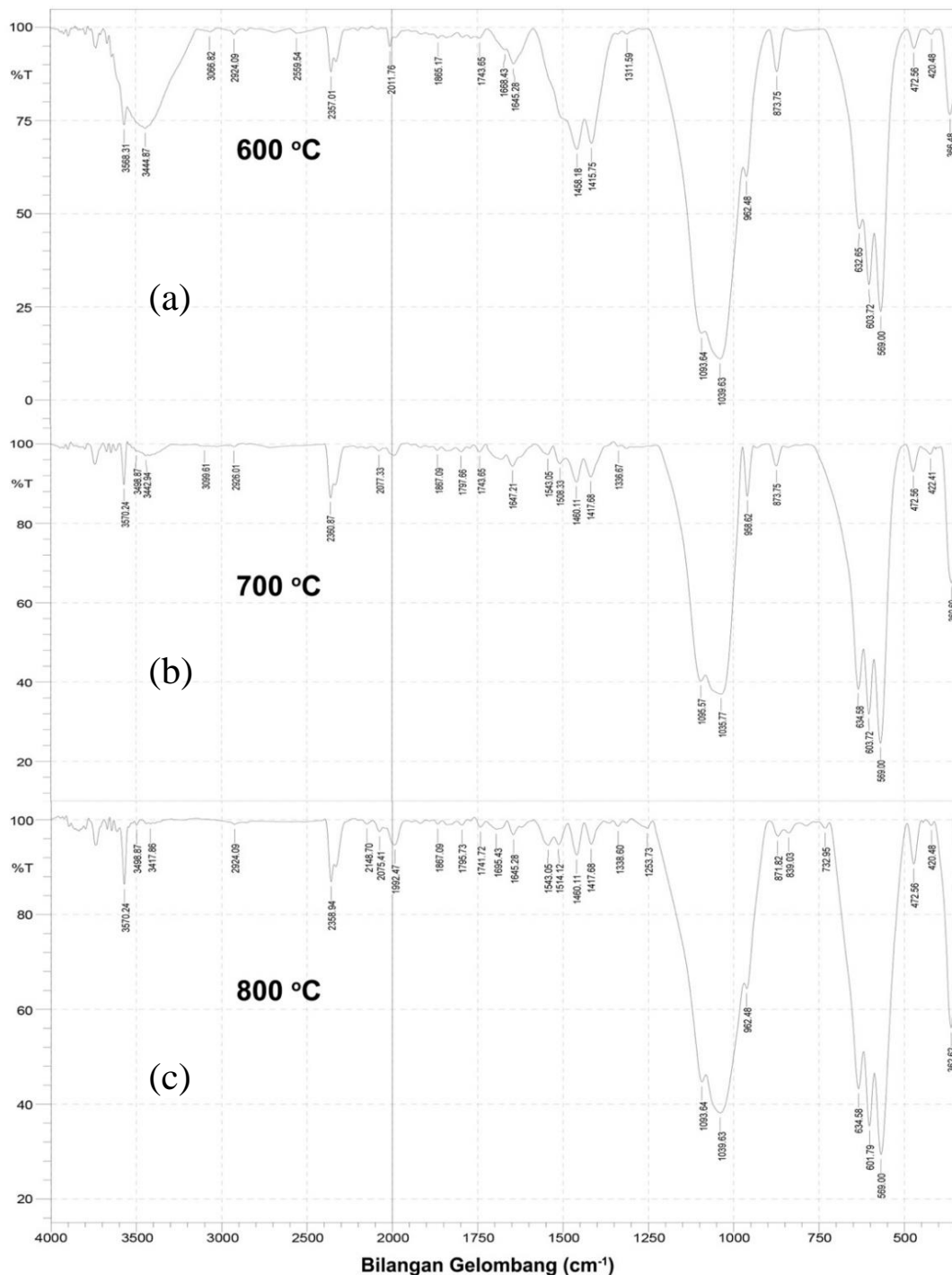
### 3.2. Functional group of Hap.

The functional group is a qualitative analysis to identify the constituent elements of milkfish bones through transmission absorption produced by FTIR. FTIR identification is based on changes in molecular vibrations caused by electrostatic modification of valence in alkanes, alkenes, arenas, amines, carboxyl and hydroxyl bonds [34]. The functional group of milkfish bones generally consists of two constituent elements, such as organic and inorganic. Each molecule has a certain energy in vibration. It depends on the atoms and the bonding strength connecting them. FTIR characterization is carried out to obtain valid information regarding the vibrations of phosphate, carbonate, and amide compounds to ensure the preparation of HAp compounds without the association of organic groups. HAp has OH<sup>-</sup>, CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, and PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> groups [35,36]. Figure 2 shows the functional group characteristics of Hap without the sintering process.



**Figure 2.** FTIR spectra of *Chanos chanos* without sintering process.

The spectrum for samples with various sintering temperature variations, as shown in Figure 3, shows the presence of an O-H group absorption band at wave number  $3446\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Mondal, Mondal [37] represented that the O-H group was detected in the wavenumber range of  $3497\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Venkatesan and Kim [30] reported that the peaks detected at wavenumbers  $3300\text{--}3600\text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicated the presence of a hydroxyl group. HAp contains an O-H group, a  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  group and a  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$  group.



**Figure 3.** FTIR spectra of HAp at different sintering temperatures of (a)  $600\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; (b)  $700\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; (c)  $800\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Without the sintering process, HAp has a phosphate group absorption band ( $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ ) which vibrates asymmetric stretching at wavenumbers  $1028\text{--}1099\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and vibrates bending at wavenumbers  $559\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $601\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . At  $600\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  sintering temperature, the absorption band of  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$  groups vibrates stretching asymmetry at wave number  $1039\text{--}1093\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and vibrates

bending at wave number 569-632  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . At 700 °C sintering temperature, the  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$  group absorption band vibrates asymmetry stretching at a wavenumber 1035-1095  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . At 800 °C sintering temperature, the absorption band of the  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$  group vibrates asymmetry stretching at the wave number 1039-1093  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Meanwhile, the absorption band of the phosphate group at sintering temperatures of 700 °C and 800 °C had a bending vibration at wave number 569-634  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The phosphate absorption band formed is asymmetrical, indicating that the HAp in the sample is crystalline [38].

Mondal, Mondal [37] mentioned that the first indication of the formation of HAp compounds is the formation of a complex at wave number 1000-1100  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , vibrating stretching asymmetry for the phosphate group and vibrating bending symmetry at wave number 576.30  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . In Figure 3, it can also be seen that the peak of the carbonate group has decreased with increasing sintering temperature. Similar results, Prabakaran and Rajeswari [35] showed that the decrease in the peak of the carbonate group ion occurs along with the increase in temperature used. For the synthesis results without sintering, the carbonate absorption band ( $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ ) vibrated asymmetric stretching at wavenumbers 1413  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 1448  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . At a temperature of 600 °C, carbonate absorption bands were detected at wavenumbers 1415  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 1458  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , while temperatures of 700 °C and 800 °C were detected at wavenumbers 1417  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 1460  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Venkatesan and Kim [30] also know about the effect of temperature on the isolation and characterization of HAp from tuna bones. The study showed that the absorption bands of carbonate groups were detected at wavenumbers 1414  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 1457  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . High sintering temperature results in high transmittance values.

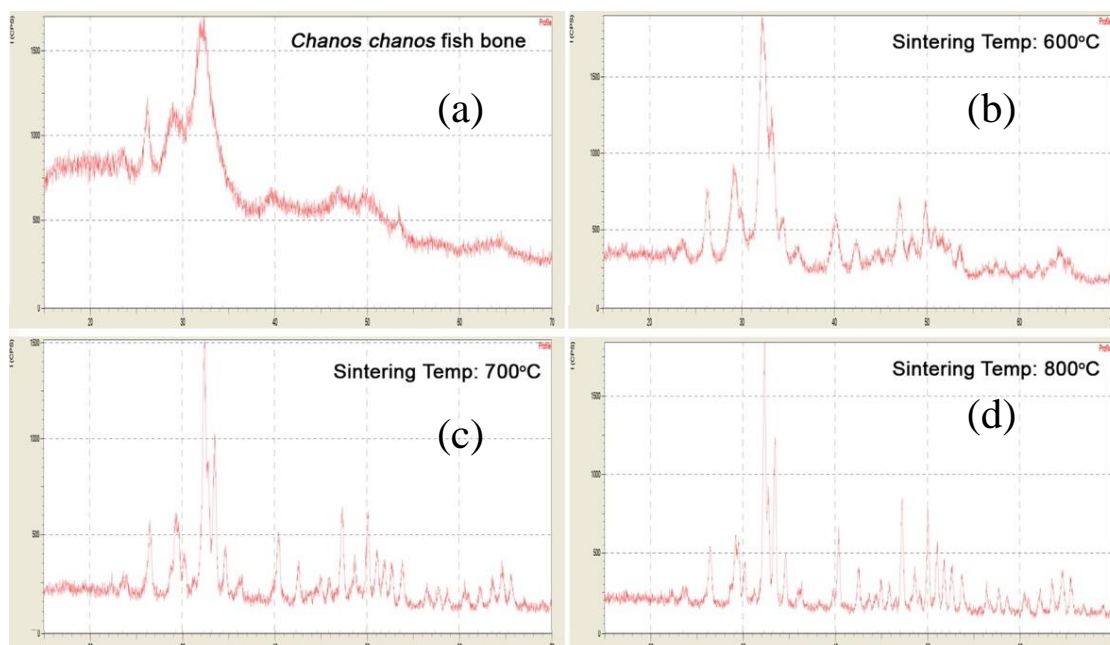
Increasing the temperature could increase the intensity of the sharp peaks and could reduce the width of the peaks that indicated the removal organic matter process. Fishbones without heating process produced wide peaks with low intensity due to the extracellular matrix and protein fibers. The intensity of the infrared spectrum depended on the temperature during the sintering process [39]. Figure 3 presented that the increase in sintering temperature tended to increase the concentration of phosphate formed. It can be seen from the longer and steeper the phosphate groups on the FTIR results. The appearance of a phosphate group indicated that HAp in the sample had been formed [40]. High sintering temperature results in high transmittance values. Sample with a sintering temperature of 800 °C had a higher transmittance value compared to temperatures of 600 °C and 700 °C.

### 3.3. Phase and crystallinity of HAp.

Analysis using the XRD instrument aims to determine the phase and crystallinity. Several HAPs were analyzed, such as HAp without sintering and with sintering 600 °C – 800 °C. The phase analysis aimed to determine the phase of milkfish bones and the shift in the peak of the HAp. Crystallinity analysis aims to determine the effect of sintering temperature on crystallinity. Crystallinity indicates the amount of crystal content in a material by comparing the area of the crystal with the total area of amorphous and crystalline crystals. The XRD diffraction pattern, as shown in Figure 4 showed that the hydroxyapatite phase dominated the peaks of the XRD pattern. Based on JCPDS no. 09-0432 HAp phase has 4 typical peaks, such as in the region of 31.77°, 32.19°, 32.90° and 34.05° [41].

There are four phases contained in fish bones, such as apatite carbonate type A (AKA) with the molecular formula  $(\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{CO}_3)_2)$ , apatite carbonate type B (AKB) with the molecular formula  $(\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_3(\text{CO}_3)_3(\text{OH})_2)$ , tricalcium phosphate (TKF) with the molecular formula  $(\text{Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2)$  and octa calcium phosphate (OKF) with the molecular formula

( $\text{Ca}_8\text{H}_2(\text{PO}_4)_6 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) [33]. The synthesis of calcium phosphate compounds can be analyzed using XRD, while the determination of the emerging phase refers to (Joint Committee on Powder Diffraction Standards) (JCPDS) data. The X-ray diffraction pattern of milkfish bone powder at sintering temperature can be comprehensively seen in Figure 4.



**Figure 4.** The x-ray diffraction pattern of HAp at different sintering temperatures of (a) without sintering; (b) 600 °C; (c) 700 °C; (d) 800 °C.

HAp products with high crystallinity properties were formed at the sintering temperature. According to Askari, Yousefpour [42], the HAp phase was characterized at high intensity at 2 theta values, such as 31.773°, 32.196°, 32.902° and 34.048°. XRD analysis exposed that there was a change in the intensity of the peaks on the diffractogram. The effect of temperature is closely related to the level of crystallinity of the sample. Each temperature has different peaks of crystallinity intensity. Rodríguez-Lugo, Karthik [43] mentioned that the crystallinity was higher by increasing the temperature of the sintering process. In general, this paper enhances the knowledge on the exploration of natural resources or wastes for various future engineering applications [44-50].

#### 4. Conclusions

This study aimed to propose the synthesis of HAp from milkfish bones by using simple heat treatments. Well-crystallized HAp can be synthesized by thermal treatment at 160 °C for 48 h. This study also found that the yield percentages were more than 50%. The crystallinity of HAp powder can be improved by increasing the temperature of the sintering process.

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## Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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