


Alleviation of Selected Environmental Waste through Biodegradation by Black Soldier Fly (*Hermetia illucens*) Larvae: A Meta-Analysis

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Abstract: Alleviation of environmental waste is a significant challenge, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions and wasting valuable resources. To address this issue sustainably, valorization techniques are being explored to convert environmental waste into valuable bio-based products. Additionally, the use of black soldier fly (*Hermetia illucens*) larvae has emerged as a potential solution to degrade environmental waste and produce biomass. This study aimed to quantify the waste reduction index (WRI) of environmental waste through biodegradation by black soldier fly (BSF) larvae. A meta-analysis method was employed, involving a comprehensive search in the Scopus database for analysis. A total of 45 articles were analyzed and the results indicate that kitchen waste and fruit and vegetable wastes have a positive effect on WRI and other variables. The WRI of kitchen waste and fruit and vegetable wastes is 4.77 ± 2.98 g/day and 2.72 ± 2.14 g/day, respectively. Fecal waste results in a lower WRI than those of other waste categories, i.e., 2.22 ± 1.29 g/day. Overall, the BSF larvae effectively reduce organic environmental wastes and convert them into their body mass, which is rich in protein. This study contributes to a deeper understanding of the potential of BSF in waste management, offering insights into sustainable waste reduction strategies.

Keywords: waste reduction; waste management; waste reduction index; valorization; Scopus



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1. Introduction

Humans sometimes undertake environmentally detrimental actions to meet energy needs, such as emitting greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming or generating air pollution that damages air quality [1]. The population segment that produces household food waste is very high, with only 6.2% showing concern about food waste and the environment [2].

In 2019, food waste reached 931 million tons worldwide, with retailers and households being the largest contributors, at 61% and 13%, respectively, exacerbating economic, environmental, and societal issues by squandering valuable resources and money and emitting greenhouse gases [3]. The food system was responsible for emitting approximately 16 CO₂eq per year in 2018, which accounted for around one-third of the total global anthropogenic emissions [4]. Households are the largest generators of food waste in industrialized nations. To support sustainable development, it is therefore crucial to reduce food loss [5].

Food waste valorization techniques contribute to sustainable economic growth and reduce the environmental impact of food waste by employing methods such as ultrasound-assisted extraction, microwave-assisted extraction, bioreactors, enzyme-immobilization-assisted extraction (including immobilized enzyme and bioconversion processes), and

sub-zero-level decomposition to produce bio-based products like biofuel and bioplastics [6]. Food waste valorization can be achieved using various biological processes such as acidogenesis, fermentation, methanogenesis, solventogenesis, photosynthesis, oleaginous process, bio-electrogenesis, and others, which can yield a variety of bio-based products including biofuel, platform chemicals, bioelectricity, biomaterial, biofertilizer, animal feed, and more [7]. Utilizing food waste as a sustainable feedstock for microbial fermentation, extracting valuable bioactive compounds from food processing and agricultural wastes, producing biogas, biodiesel/biofuel, and biochar, and employing immobilized enzymatic bioconversion are some innovative approaches that have emerged to produce various high-value bioproducts from food waste [8].

BSFs can address the negative environmental impacts caused by food waste while simultaneously providing a sustainable protein source to meet the increasing global protein demand. They can digest food waste and convert it into biomass, offering opportunities for value-added products, including a new food source for humans [9]. Black soldier fly larvae (BSFL) can be effectively utilized in the bioconversion process of rice waste and chicken manure, with more than half of the raw materials estimated to be consumed by BSFL within 9 days of treatment [10].

The use of BSF larvae for food waste not only provides a solution for waste management but also produces insect biomass, organic fertilizer as a value-added byproduct [11], protein resources for animal feed such as ruminants [12] and alternative fish nutrition [13], as well as reducing methane emission [14]. A BSF larvae meal diet for quails can decrease the cholesterol content of their eggs [15].

Research is essential to integrate and quantify the WRI of BSFs for various environmental wastes. By conducting this research, we can understand the extent to which BSFs can contribute to effectively reducing environmental waste. The novelty of this study lies in its exploration of using BSFs as a waste reduction agent for different types of waste, aiming to integrate and quantify the WRI. This research contributes to a better understanding of how BSFs can effectively reduce environmental waste and offers new perspectives in addressing environmental waste challenges sustainably. This study aims to quantify the WRI of environmental waste through biodegradation by BSF larvae. This is essential as a foundation for implementing more targeted and effective waste management actions. Furthermore, it is important to understand the positive impacts of using BSFs to address waste problems on human life and the environment.

2. Results

The meta-database of this research was obtained from 45 articles comprising 520 experiments, as shown in Table 1. The substrate data in each article were categorized into three subgroups: kitchen waste, fruit and vegetable wastes, and fecal waste. From these data, information regarding the utilization of BSFs was gathered, including the conversion performance of BSF larvae, the growth of BSF larvae, and the composition of BSF larvae after the conversion process.

Table 1. The articles used to investigate the utilization of BSFs.

Study	Substrate	Subgroup	Reference	Author
1	Pig manure	Fecal waste	[16]	Lalander et al., 2013
2	Chicken/swine manure	Fecal waste	[17]	Zhou et al., 2013
3	Feces	Fecal waste	[18]	Banks et al., 2014
4	Restaurant waste	Kitchen waste	[19]	Nyakeri et al., 2017
	Banana peel	Fruit and vegetable wastes		
	Fecal sludge	Fecal waste		
5	Dairy/chicken manure	Fecal waste	[20]	Rehman et al., 2017
6	Soybean curd residue	Fruit and vegetable wastes	[21]	Rehman et al., 2017
7	Pig manure	Fecal waste	[22]	Liu et al., 2018
8	Fruit waste	Fruit and vegetable wastes	[23]	Meneguz et al., 2018
9	Chicken manure	Fecal waste	[24]	Xiao et al., 2018

Table 1. Cont.

Study	Substrate	Subgroup	Reference	Author
10	Restaurant waste	Kitchen waste	[25]	Cai et al., 2019
11	Vegetable waste	Fruit and vegetable wastes	[26]	Cappellozza et al., 2019
12	Canteen waste	Kitchen waste	[27]	Ermolaev et al., 2019
13	Cow/guinea fowl manure	Fecal waste	[28]	Ganda et al., 2019
	Chicken/pig manure	Fecal waste		
	Sheep/goat manure	Fecal waste		
14	Dairy manure	Fecal waste	[29]	Miranda et al., 2019
	Poultry/swine manure	Fecal waste		
15	Restaurant waste	Kitchen waste	[30]	Nyakeri et al., 2019
16	Dairy/chicken manure	Fecal waste	[31]	Rehman et al., 2019
17	Soybean curd residues	Fruit and vegetable wastes	[32]	Somroo et al., 2019
18	Restaurant/canteen waste	Kitchen waste	[33]	Gold et al., 2020
	Vegetable waste	Fruit and vegetable wastes		
	Cow manure	Fecal waste		
	Human feces	Fecal waste		
19	Household waste	Kitchen waste	[34]	Lalander et al., 2020
20	Reclaimed bread	Kitchen waste	[35]	Lopes et al., 2020
21	Chicken manure	Fecal waste	[36]	Mazza et al., 2020
22	Coconut endosperm waste	Fruit and vegetable wastes	[37]	Wong et al., 2020
23	Household/restaurant waste	Kitchen waste	[38]	Broeckx et al., 2021
	Apple pulp, fruit puree	Fruit and vegetable wastes		
	Vegetable overproduction	Fruit and vegetable wastes		
	Chicken manure	Fecal waste		
24	Fruit waste	Fruit and vegetable wastes	[39]	Dzepe et al., 2021
	Chicken manure	Fecal waste		
25	White wine pomace	Fruit and vegetable wastes	[40]	Gold et al., 2021
	Tomato pomace	Fruit and vegetable wastes		
26	Canteen waste	Kitchen waste	[41]	Klammsteiner et al., 2021
27	Restaurant waste	Kitchen waste	[42]	Lalander et al., 2021
	Fruit and vegetable wastes	Fruit and vegetable wastes		
	Human feces	Fecal waste		
	Poultry manure	Fecal waste		
28	Coconut endosperm waste	Fruit and vegetable wastes	[43]	Pliantiangtam et al., 2021
	Soybean curd residue	Fruit and vegetable wastes		
29	Spent coffee, bread dough	Kitchen waste	[44]	Romano et al., 2021
30	Restaurant waste	Kitchen waste	[45]	Singh et al., 2021
	Fruit and vegetable wastes	Fruit and vegetable wastes		
31	Coconut endosperm waste	Fruit and vegetable wastes	[46]	Taufek et al., 2021
32	Swill	Kitchen waste	[47]	Veldkamp et al., 2021
	Pig manure	Fecal waste		
33	Coconut endosperm waste	Fruit and vegetable wastes	[48]	Wong et al., 2021
34	Mixed fruits and vegetables	Kitchen waste	[49]	Arabzadeh et al., 2022
	Bakery waste			
35	Household waste	Kitchen waste	[50]	Bohm et al., 2022
36	Mature/fresh dairy manure	Fecal waste	[51]	Franco et al., 2022
37	Dining hall waste	Kitchen waste	[11]	Fu et al., 2022
38	Market waste	Fruit and vegetable wastes	[52]	Holeh et al., 2022
39	Fruit–vegetable pulp	Fruit and vegetable wastes	[53]	Khaekratoke et al., 2022
40	Household waste	Kitchen waste	[54]	Lindberg et al., 2022
	Broccoli/cauliflower waste	Fruit and vegetable wastes		
	Orange peel	Fruit and vegetable wastes		
41	Soybean dregs	Fruit and vegetable wastes	[55]	Qin et al., 2022
42	Leftover boneless chicken	Kitchen waste	[56]	Rasdi et al., 2022
	Overnight rice	Kitchen waste		
	Rotten banana	Fruit and vegetable wastes		
43	Strawberry, tangerine, orange waste	Fruit and vegetable wastes	[57]	Scieuzo et al., 2022
44	Fish, food waste	Kitchen waste	[58]	Yuan and Hasan, 2022
45	Soybean curd residue	Fruit and vegetable wastes	[59]	Muin et al., 2023

Table 2 presents data on the conversion performance of BSF larvae obtained from 246 experiments. From the data, it can be observed that variables such as WRI, SRR, BR, and FCR are significantly influenced by the type of waste (p -value < 0.05). Overall and subgroup analyses of kitchen waste, fruit and vegetable wastes, and fecal waste significantly affect WRI, with p -values < 0.05 . The overall and fecal waste subgroups significantly affect SRR, with p -values < 0.001 . BR and FCR are also significantly influenced by the overall and fecal waste subgroups, with a p value < 0.001 . However, variables such as WRR and MRR are not significantly affected by any type of waste. Nevertheless, there is significant heterogeneity between studies for WRI, with a Q value of 375.841 and an I^2 value of 85.898, and the same applies to other variables, showing high Q and I^2 values.

Table 2. The variables related to the conversion performance.

No.	Variables	N	Subgroup	SMD (95% CI)			Std. Error	p -Value	Tau ²	Q	Het. p -Value	I^2
				Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound						
1	WRI	54	Overall	0.944	0.063	1.826	0.450	0.036	8.069	375.841	<0.001	85.898
			Fecal waste	−4.057	−5.910	−2.204	0.945	<0.001				
			Fruit and vegetable wastes	1.250	0.415	2.085	0.426	0.003				
			Kitchen waste	6.624	4.060	9.187	1.308	<0.001				
2	WRR	19	Overall	−0.218	−1.447	1.011	0.627	0.728	5.894	189.412	<0.001	90.497
			Fecal waste	−1.400	−2.930	0.130	0.781	0.073				
			Fruit and vegetable wastes	0.104	−2.224	2.431	1.188	0.930				
			Kitchen waste	1.047	−2.360	4.454	1.738	0.547				
3	MRR	33	Overall	0.782	−0.584	2.148	0.697	0.262	11.747	235.849	<0.001	86.432
			Fecal waste	−0.667	−2.401	1.067	0.885	0.451				
			Fruit and vegetable wastes	3.434	−1.579	8.447	2.558	0.179				
			Kitchen waste	1.481	−0.691	3.653	1.108	0.181				
4	SRR	41	Overall	−1.560	−2.514	−0.606	0.487	0.001	6.805	239.026	<0.001	83.265
			Fecal waste	−3.412	−4.527	−2.296	0.569	<0.001				
			Fruit and vegetable wastes	0.722	−0.477	1.921	0.612	0.238				
			Kitchen waste	3.083	−2.256	8.421	2.724	0.258				
5	BR	71	Overall	1.227	0.476	1.978	0.383	0.001	7.106	482.254	<0.001	85.485
			Fecal waste	2.445	1.227	3.663	0.621	<0.001				
			Fruit and vegetable wastes	−0.762	−2.058	0.534	0.661	0.249				
			Kitchen waste	1.162	−0.174	2.497	0.681	0.088				
6	FCR	28	Overall	−2.543	−3.598	−1.488	0.538	<0.001	6.096	155.783	<0.001	82.668
			Fecal waste	−3.859	−4.934	−2.784	0.549	<0.001				
			Fruit and vegetable wastes	0.703	−1.868	3.275	1.312	0.592				
			Kitchen waste	−1.015	−3.072	1.041	1.049	0.333				

Table 3 presents the growth rates of BSF larvae obtained from 183 experiments. From the data, it can be observed that all variables such as GR, LW, SR, and TD are significantly influenced by the type of waste (p -value < 0.05). GR is significantly influenced by the overall and fruit and vegetable wastes subgroups, with a p -value of 0.012 and 0.002. LW is significantly affected by the overall, fecal waste, and kitchen waste subgroups, with a p -value of <0.001 , <0.001 , and 0.006. LW, SR, and TD are also significantly influenced by the overall and fecal waste subgroups, with a p -value of 0.08. SR is significantly influenced by the overall and fecal waste subgroups, with a p -value of 0.08 and <0.001 . Meanwhile, TD is also significantly affected by the overall and fecal waste subgroups, with a p -value of 0.017 and <0.001 . Regarding heterogeneity, all variables also exhibit heterogeneity between studies, with high I^2 values.

Table 3. Variables related to the growth of BSF larvae.

SMD (95% CI)												
No.	Variables	N	Subgroup	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Std. Error	p-Value	Tau ²	Q	Het. p-Value	I ²
1	GR	25	Overall	1.457	0.315	2.600	0.583	0.012	5.605	123.305	<0.001	80.536
			Fecal waste	−4.844	−15.697	6.010	5.538	0.382				
			Fruit and vegetable wastes	1.839	0.703	2.974	0.579	0.002				
			Kitchen waste	2.352	−2.003	6.707	2.222	0.290				
2	LW	91	Overall	1.194	0.508	1.880	0.350	<0.001	8.583	845.774	<0.001	89.359
			Fecal waste	4.153	2.329	5.976	0.930	<0.001				
			Fruit and vegetable wastes	−0.659	−1.397	0.079	0.376	0.080				
			Kitchen waste	1.372	0.393	2.350	0.499	0.006				
3	SR	43	Overall	0.870	0.226	1.513	0.328	0.008	3.171	187.269	<0.001	77.572
			Fecal waste	1.798	0.833	2.763	0.492	<0.001				
			Fruit and vegetable wastes	−0.088	−1.141	0.965	0.537	0.870				
			Kitchen waste	0.405	−0.765	1.574	0.597	0.498				
4	TD	24	Overall	−1.098	−1.998	−0.199	0.459	0.017	3.512	105.669	<0.001	78.234
			Fecal waste	−2.077	−3.083	−1.071	0.513	<0.001				
			Fruit and vegetable wastes	1.091	−0.404	2.586	0.763	0.153				
			Kitchen waste	−1.876	−4.683	0.930	1.432	0.190				

Table 4 displays the composition of BSF larvae after the conversion process, synthesized from 42 experiments. From the data, it can be observed that the variable of protein is significantly influenced by the overall waste, with a *p*-value of 0.009. Dry matter is not significantly influenced by all types of waste. Regarding heterogeneity, all variables also exhibit heterogeneity between studies, with high *I*² values.

Table 4. Variables of BSF composition.

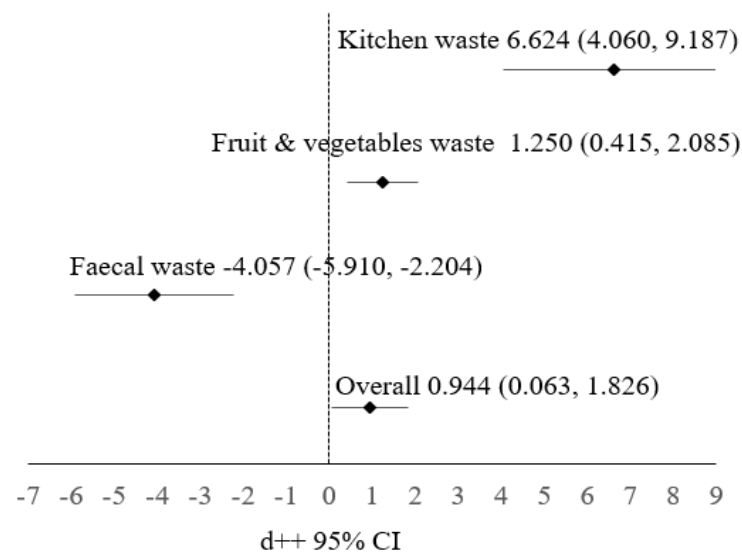
SMD (95% CI)												
No.	Variables	N	Subgroup	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Std. Error	p-Value	Tau ²	Q	Het. p-Value	I ²
1	Dry matter	15	Overall	−0.707	−2.421	1.007	0.875	0.419	9.866	178.267	<0.001	92.147
			Fecal waste	−2.230	−4.644	0.183	1.231	0.070				
			Fruit and vegetable wastes	0.036	−2.804	2.876	1.449	0.980				
			Kitchen waste	3.387	1.614	5.159	0.904	<0.001				
2	Protein	27	Overall	−1.226	−2.149	−0.303	0.471	0.009	4.202	174.585	<0.001	85.108
			Fecal waste	−0.831	−1.793	0.131	0.491	0.090				
			Fruit and vegetable wastes	−1.866	−6.276	2.545	2.250	0.407				
			Kitchen waste	−1.511	−3.733	0.712	1.134	0.183				

Table 5 presents the descriptive statistical data of WRI. The overall average WRI value from the experiments is 3.03 g/day, with a standard deviation of 2.34. The WRI values range from 0.18 g/day to 10.6 g/day. For the fecal waste subgroup, the average WRI value is 2.22 g/day, with a standard deviation of 1.29. The WRI values for the fecal waste subgroup range from 0.18 g/day to 5.4 g/day. Meanwhile, for the kitchen waste subgroup, the average WRI value is 4.47 g/day, with a standard deviation of 2.98. The WRI values for the kitchen waste subgroup range from 1.92 g/day to 10.6 g/day.

Table 5. Descriptive statistics of WRI.

Variable	Subgroup	NC	Control				Experiment			
			Mean	Min	Max	SD	Mean	Min	Max	SD
WRI (g/day)	All	54	2.94	0.23	8.90	1.91	3.03	0.18	10.60	2.34
	Fecal waste	11	3.50	0.51	4.50	1.09	2.22	0.18	5.40	1.29
	Fruit and vegetable wastes	32	2.65	0.23	8.90	2.05	2.72	0.33	9.53	2.14
	Kitchen waste	11	3.23	1.55	7.35	2.12	4.77	1.92	10.60	2.98

Figure 1 presents a forest plot of the WRI variables with a 95% confidence interval (CI). The plot indicates that the kitchen waste and fruit and vegetable wastes subgroups have a positive effect on the control group, while the fecal waste subgroup has a negative effect. Overall, the experimental application of waste also shows a positive effect.

**Figure 1.** Forest plot of the cumulative effect of WRI with 95% confidence interval.

3. Discussion

3.1. The Impact of Environmental Waste on the Conversion Performance of BSF Larvae

In this study, all types of waste have significant effects on WRI. The overall WRI estimation is roughly 0.944. The 95% confidence interval represents a range of values within which we can be 95% confident that the actual WRI value falls. In this instance, the interval spans from 0.063 to 1.826. An approximate standard error of 0.450 signifies a reasonably strong degree of precision for the estimated WRI. The fruit and vegetable and kitchen waste subgroups have positive effects on WRI. This suggests that BSF larvae have demonstrated effective decomposition capabilities for both types of waste. More specifically, they excel in breaking down kitchen waste compared to fruit and vegetable wastes. This promising outcome raises expectations regarding the potential of BSF larvae to efficiently manage kitchen-waste-related challenges. On the other hand, the negative estimation value associated with fecal waste implies that BSF larvae may not be as proficient in decomposing fecal waste.

According to a previous study, managing food waste (kitchen waste) using BSF larvae achieved high levels of waste reduction [60]. In another study, restaurant waste (kitchen waste) had the highest WRI [61]. This is also consistent with another study stating that food waste (kitchen waste) has the best WRI [62–64].

This is consistent with previous research, which found that organic waste, including fruit and vegetable wastes, resulted in better WRI [65]. In another study, vegetable wastes

were more effectively managed using BSF larvae [66]. Meanwhile, fruit waste feeding had the highest WRI [64].

This study highlights that overall waste has a significant effect on WRI. WRI is an important metric that quantifies the effectiveness of BSF larvae in converting waste into biomass. The fact that overall waste has a substantial impact implies that the quantity and composition of waste fed to the larvae directly influence their growth and performance. This study also highlights the positive impact of the kitchen waste and fruit and vegetable wastes subgroups on other performance variables of BSF larvae. Feeding larvae with kitchen waste leads to higher waste reduction, faster waste conversion, and improved overall performance. Utilizing BSF larvae for the management of kitchen waste and fruit and vegetable wastes could be a promising and sustainable solution to address waste reduction challenges and contribute to a more circular and eco-friendly approach to waste management. Further research and implementation of such waste management systems could have significant environmental and economic benefits in the long term.

3.2. The Impact of Environmental Waste on the Growth Performance of BSF Larvae

In this study, all types of waste significantly affect the variables of GR, LW, and SR in a positive way. This means that providing all types of waste has a positive impact on the growth of BSF larvae. The subgroup of kitchen waste has a significant positive impact on LW. This is consistent with previous research, which stated that feeding food waste (kitchen waste) to BSF larvae resulted in a continuous increasing trend in LW [64,65,67]. Among the various waste types tested, kitchen waste showed the most significant daily reduction rate and resulted in the heaviest BSFs [68]. The increase in protein and carbohydrate content positively correlated with larval growth, resulting in greater larval weight gain as the composition of food waste (kitchen waste) in the substrate increased [63]. The fruit and vegetable wastes subgroup has a positive impact on GR. This is consistent with a previous study in which larvae raised on an apple-based diet had a fat content that was 50% higher than those that were fed a combination of fruit and spent grain [69].

The findings of this study highlight the positive impact of providing kitchen waste and fruit and vegetable wastes on the growth and performance of BSF larvae. Feeding larvae with kitchen waste and fruit and vegetable wastes leads to increased larval weight. This suggests that utilizing kitchen waste and fruit and vegetable wastes as feed sources for BSF larvae could be a viable and sustainable approach to improve waste reduction.

3.3. The Impact of Environmental Waste on the Composition of BSF Larvae

Overall, the provision of waste has a significant effect on the composition of BSF larvae after the conversion process, especially the protein variable, with a p -value of 0.009. The subgroup kitchen waste has a positive influence on the dry matter variable. In a previous study, the dry matter composition in BSFs fed on food waste and tofu (kitchen waste) was better than that of another waste type; $40.99 \pm 1.56\%$ and $42.94 \pm 1.48\%$, respectively [69].

This study demonstrates that feeding BSF larvae with kitchen waste significantly impacts the composition of the larvae after the conversion process, especially dry matter, which shows significant changes, suggesting that these waste sources have notable effects on the nutrient profile of the larvae. Understanding these compositional changes can help in developing efficient waste management strategies and utilizing BSF larvae as a sustainable solution for waste conversion and biomass production. Further research in this area can contribute to maximizing the potential of BSF larvae in waste reduction and resource recovery efforts.

3.4. Quantifying the WRI for Environmental Waste

Overall, waste has a positive impact on WRI. The subgroups of kitchen waste and fruit and vegetable wastes show a positive effect on WRI, while the faecal waste subgroup has a negative effect. For kitchen waste, the average WRI value is 4.77 ± 2.98 g/day. The WRI

values for the kitchen waste subgroup range from 1.92 g/day to 10.60 g/day. This range of WRI values for restaurant waste (kitchen waste) similar with previous study [59,64].

Meanwhile, for the fruit and vegetable wastes subgroup, the average WRI value is 2.72 ± 2.14 g/day. The WRI values for the fruit and vegetable wastes subgroup range from 0.33 g/day to 9.53 g/day. This WRI for fruit and vegetable wastes is similar with previous study [64,70].

Overall, this study demonstrates the diversity of studies conducted on the utilization of BSFs in waste management. Further research is needed to obtain more robust results. Nevertheless, this study provides a deeper understanding of the performance of BSFs in processing environmental waste. It offers comprehensive and relevant insights into utilizing BSFs as an effective and sustainable solution for waste management.

4. Materials and Methods

4.1. Database Development

This study utilized a meta-analysis method involving several sequential steps. Figure 2 illustrates the process of article selection for analysis. In the first step, relevant research publications were identified by conducting a comprehensive search in the Scopus database using the keywords “black soldier fly” and “waste reduction” or “bioconversion” or “waste management”, resulting in 131 articles. Seven articles were excluded as they were review articles, correction journals, or articles not published in English. The second step involved screening the remaining 124 articles based on title, abstract, and method evaluation. A total of 45 duplicate and irrelevant articles were excluded, resulting in a smaller set of 69 articles. Subsequently, in the third step, a thorough evaluation of the full-text articles was conducted. Articles lacking control groups and replication were excluded, leaving 45 eligible articles for further analysis. These 45 articles formed the basis of the final database for the meta-analysis.

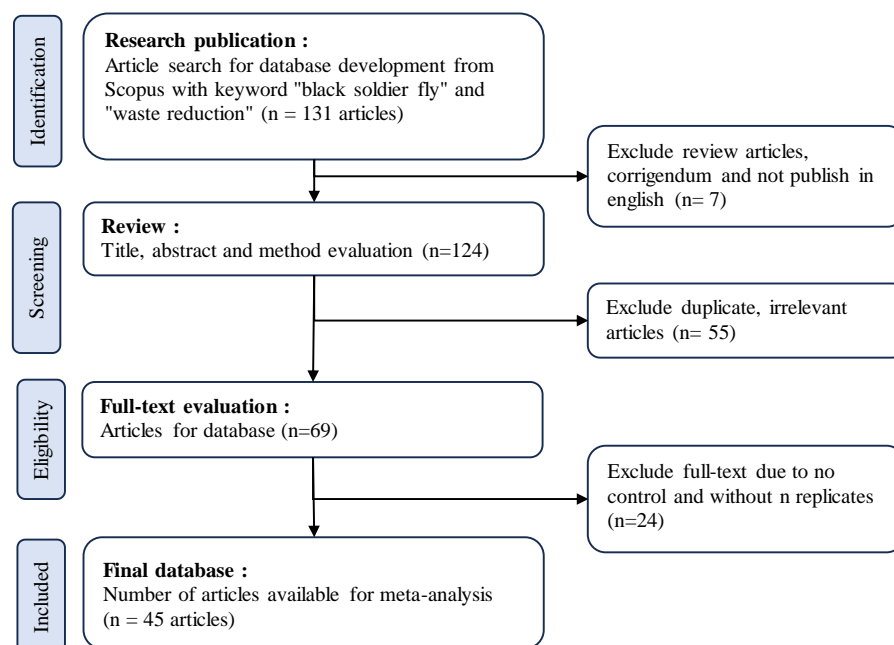


Figure 2. The literature selection process of the articles using the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) protocol.

The next step involved data extraction from each article, including information about the types of waste used. The waste type data from all articles were categorized into kitchen waste, fruit and vegetable wastes, and fecal waste. The data from the 45 articles were synthesized to obtain data on waste management using BSFs. The collected data included performance parameters of BSF larvae conversion, such as BSF larvae conversion

rate, BSF larvae growth performance, and post-bioconversion composition of BSF larvae. Performance parameters related to waste conversion included WRI, waste reduction rate (WRR), material reduction rate (MRR), substrate reduction rate (SRR), bioconversion rate (BR), and feed conversion rate (FCR). BSF growth parameters included growth rate (GR), larval weight (LW), survival rate (SR), and time development (TD). Parameters related to the composition of residual waste after conversion included dry matter and protein.

WRR was calculated based on substrate dry weight, while WRI factored in both material reduction and the time required by larvae to achieve waste reduction, with higher WRI values signifying greater efficiency in reduction [16]. The formulae of WRR, WRI, SR, and BR are as follows [39]:

$$WRR(\%) = \left(1 - \frac{\text{Substrate residue}}{\text{Substrate added}}\right) \times 100$$

$$WRI(\text{g/day}) = \frac{WRR}{\text{Duration}} \times 100$$

$$SR(\%) = \frac{\text{Number of larvae harvested}}{\text{Number of larvae added}} \times 100$$

$$BR(\%) = \frac{\text{Weight of harvested larvae}}{\text{Initial weight of substrate added}} \times 100$$

The formulae of TD and FCR are as follows [32]:

$$TD = \text{larval age at the terminations} - \text{larval age at the start of the experiment}$$

$$FCR(\%) = \frac{\text{Feed intake}}{\text{Gained weight}}$$

The formulae of GR and SRR are as follows [23]:

$$GR(\text{g/day}) = \frac{\text{larva average final body weight(g)} - \text{larva initial body weight(g)}}{\text{rearing duration}}$$

$$SRR(\%) = \frac{\text{distributed substrate(g)} - \text{residual substrate(g)}}{\text{distributed substrate(g)}} \times 100$$

4.2. Data Analysis

The data were analyzed using a random effects meta-analysis method [71]. The calculation of effect size (d) was based on the standardized mean difference using Hedges' d [72,73] as follows:

$$d = \frac{(\bar{X}^E - \bar{X}^C)}{S} J \quad (1)$$

where \bar{X}^E is the mean of the experimental group, \bar{X}^C is the mean of the control group, and S is the standard deviation. The value of S can be described as follows:

$$S = \sqrt{\frac{(N^E - 1)(S^E)^2 + (N^C - 1)(S^C)^2}{(N^E + N^C - 2)}} \quad (2)$$

J is a correction factor for small sample size, and it can be described as follows:

$$J = 1 - \frac{3}{(4(N^C + N^E - 2) - 1)} \quad (3)$$

where N^E is the sample size of the experimental group, N^C is the sample size of the control group, S^E is the standard deviation of the experimental group, and S^C is the standard

deviation of the control group. A one-way random effects model is used in the data analysis with the following formula:

$$y_i = \theta + v_i + \varepsilon_i \quad (4)$$

where the effect size value (in Hedges' d) for the i -th observation is represented by y_i , the overall common effect size parameter is θ , the variation of the actual effect sizes is v_i , and the error of the i -th observation is ε_i . The estimated variation between studies (τ^2) is measured using the DerSimonian and Laird method [74] with the following formula:

$$\tau^2 = \frac{Q - df}{CI} \quad (5)$$

where Q is the weighted sum of squares, degrees of freedom is df , and CI is the value of the confidence interval. The meta-analysis software used in this study is the OpenMEE version 2015 platform (<http://www.cebm.brown.edu/openmee/> accessed on 1 September 2023) for cumulative meta-analysis and subgroup meta-analysis.

5. Conclusions

Kitchen waste and fruit and vegetable wastes play a significant role in maximizing the utilization of BSFs, benefiting conversion performance, larval growth, and nutritional content after the conversion process. Quantifying the WRI is crucial for environmental waste reduction efforts. This presents a valuable opportunity for employing BSFs in managing organic waste, especially kitchen waste and fruit and vegetable wastes, which is currently a global challenge in waste management. Moreover, considering the nutritional content of BSF larvae, they can be effectively utilized for various agricultural products, including animal feed and organic fertilizers. By considering the distinct characteristics of various environmental waste, more efficient and sustainable strategies for waste management can be developed. To ensure the successful implementation of BSF utilization for waste management, further research is necessary to explore sustainability aspects, encompassing economic, social, and environmental factors. Understanding and addressing these aspects will pave the way for a more comprehensive and holistic approach towards organic waste management, contributing to a greener and more sustainable future.

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