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Biochemical, antimicrobial and molecular characterization of a noncytotoxic bacteriocin produced by selected Lactic acid bacteria with antiviral activity

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It is well known that many lactic acid bacteria (LAB) are capable of producing a variety of antimicrobial compounds, which may contribute to their colonization of habitats and their competitive advantage over other bacteria. Besides production of lactic acid, which causes a drop in pH enough to inhibit certain strains, as its non-dissociated form triggers a lowering of the internal pH in sensitive bacteria that causes a collapse in the electrochemical proton gradient resulting in a bacteriostatic or bactericidal effect, LAB can produce other organic acids, diacetyl, hydrogen peroxide, and bacteriocins. In addition to effect on closely related species, some bacteriocins may present an unusual activity against some Gram-negative bacteria, yeast, *Micobacterium* spp, and even viruses.

Bacteriocins, produced by *Lactobacillus plantarum*, *Enterococcus mundtii*, *Ent. faecium* have been investigated for their ability to reduce the multiplication of herpes simplex viruses HSV-1 (strain F) and HSV-2 (strain G), a polio virus (PV3, strain Sabin) and a measles virus (strain MV/BRAZIL/001/91, an attenuated strain of MV). This antimicrobial peptide presented various degrees in viral inactivation. Bacteriocin produced by *Ent. mundtii* ST4V was able to inactivate the herpes simplex viruses HSV-1 and HSV-2, a polio virus PV3 and a measles virus strain MV/BRAZIL/001/91, an attenuated strain of MV. MV, HSV-1 and HSV-2 were 95.5%–99.9% inactivated by peptide ST4V at 400 µg/ml. Monkey kidney Vero cells were not inactivated, even at four times the level peptide ST4V displayed antiviral activity, indicating that the effect was not due to cytotoxicity. In similar manners have been studied bacteriocins produced by *L. plantarum* ST4V or *En. faecium* ST5Ha.

Taking in consideration that LAB normally have well accepted GRAS status and some of them are potential probiotics, this gives a new ideas and opportunities for control of viral infections.

Biography

Svetoslav Todorov has completed his Ph.D at ENITIAA, Nantes, France and Sofia University, Sofia, Bulgaria and postdoctoral studies from Stellenbosch University, South Africa and visiting professor at Sao Paulo University, Brazil. He has published more than 100 papers in reputed journals and serving as a member of the editorial board. He is reviewer for more than 80 international journals. He has also delivered various keynotes and plenary lectures both nationally and internationally.

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