

Screening of Lactic Acid Bacteria from Effluent Samples of Jaipur Dairy

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Abstract

Probiotics are good or friendly bacteria that are essential for good health. Probiotic literally means “for life” as opposed to antibiotic meaning “against life.” Probiotics are single-celled lactic bacteria organisms occurring primarily singly or in pairs. Probiotics are live microbial food supplements or components of bacteria, which have been shown to have beneficial effects on human health. The most commonly used probiotic strains belong to genera *Lactobacillus sp.*, *Bifidobacterium* and *Saccharomyces sp.* taking into consideration, the above cited facts, and the present study was conducted to isolate and characterise probiotic strains from dairy waste water. Untreated and treated dairy waste water samples were collected from Jaipur dairy in accordance with standard procedures. Morphological and biochemical tests were conducted to identify the strains. The most common and predominant isolate was found to be associated with genera *Leuconostoc sp.*

Keywords: Dairy waste water; Jaipur dairy; *Lactobacillus*; Microbial feed supplements; Probiotics

Introduction

Agro-industrial residues are the most abundant and renewable resources on earth. Biomass accumulation in large quantities every year results not only in the deterioration of the environment, but it also causes loss of potentially valuable material which could be processed and converted into various different value-added products [1].

Dairy industry produces huge volumes of waste, both in solid and liquid forms. This waste aggravates disposal and pollution problems due to high biological oxygen demand (BOD) or chemical oxygen demand (COD) values and represents a loss of valuable biomass and nutrients. Despite of hazard aspects, in many cases dairy processing wastes have a good potential of getting converted into useful products of higher value as by- product, or even as raw material for other industries, thereby employing best out of waste strategy. Such wastes could be utilized as cheap sources of micro-organisms to produce intermediate volume of high value organic acids like lactic acid [2]. Lactic Acid is one such product which has found phenomenal importance in different industrial sectors as a preservative and acidifying agent in food and dairy industry; a monomer for biodegradable polylactic acid polymers (PLA) in the textile, medical and packaging industries; precursor and chemical feedstock for chemical, textile and leather industries [3,4]. Moreover, production of lactate esters (e.g. butyl lactate) is another growing application as environmentally friendly solvents [5]. In Indian scenario, the annual production capacity of lactic acid is reported to be 6000 tones and as a prediction, the estimated supply gap of 2300tones by 2015 needs to be furnished [6]. Current employability of lactic acid in multiple facets is represented in Figure 1.

Wastes generated from dairy plants may be regarded as a viable option for meeting this growing demand for lactic acid, if appropriate biotechnological interventions are used. The plausible role of indigenous microbes and that too Lactic Acid Bacteria (LAB) has been substantiated in near past. Lactic acid bacteria (LAB) are a heterogeneous group of Gram-positive bacteria consisting twelve different genera viz., *Lactobacillus*, *Lactococcus*, *Leuconostoc*, *Oenococcus*, *Pediococcus*, *Streptococcus*, *Tetragenococcus*, *Aerococcus*, *Carnobacterium*, *Enterococcus*, *Vagococcus* and *Weissella* [7].

They are non sporulating rods or cocci which produce lactic acid as the main fermentation product under suitable substrates. LAB ferment sugars via homo-, hetero-, or mixed acid fermentation. Homofermentative LAB produces lactic acid as main product from sugars, while hetero- or mixed acid fermentations produce also ethanol and/or acetic acid, formic acid and carbon dioxide. Their use as dairy starter cultures has become an industry during this century where they are mainly associated with manufacturing of fermented dairy products such as cheese, dahi, yoghurt, buttermilk, sour cream [8]. Dairy wastes can wastes can be exploited as inexpensive sources of new probiotic strains of LAB to produce value added products [7].

Materials and Methods

Sample collection

Dairy effluent samples were collected from Effluent treatment Plant of Jaipur dairy [9]. The samples were aseptically collected in pre-sterilized bottles and stored on ice until transported to the laboratory. The samples were refrigerated at 4°C and analysed within 24h of collection. The samples were indicated as IDWW (Inlet Dairy Waste Water) and ODWW (Outlet Dairy Waste Water) (Figures 2 and 3).

Isolation of lactic acid bacteria from dairy effluents

Effluent samples were serially diluted in 0.1% sterile peptone water. Different dilutions were quadrant streaked on MRS agar (de Man, Rogosa and Sharpe) media with the following composition (Tables 1 and 2).

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Received March 28, 2018; **Accepted** April 16, 2018; **Published** April 23, 2018

Citation: Sharma N, Yadav N, Bhagwani H, Chahar D, Singh B (2018) Screening of Lactic Acid Bacteria from Effluent Samples of Jaipur Dairy. Int J Waste Resour 8: 332. doi: [10.4172/2252-5211.1000332](https://doi.org/10.4172/2252-5211.1000332)

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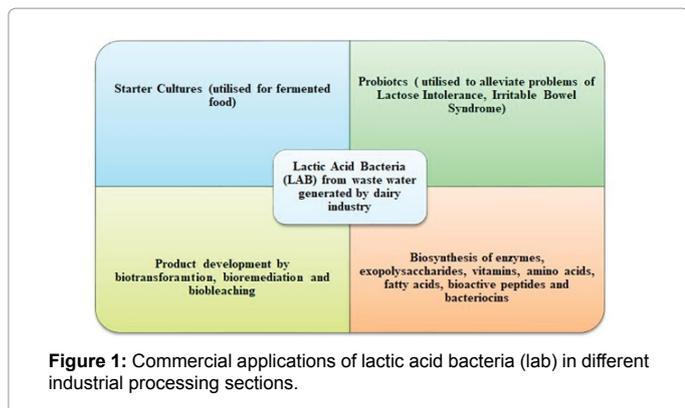


Figure 1: Commercial applications of lactic acid bacteria (lab) in different industrial processing sections.



Figure 2: IDWW (inlet dairy waste water).



Figure 3: ODWW (outlet dairy waste water).

Confirmation tests of LAB

Morphological and biochemical characterisation of screened isolates was carried out in accordance with standard procedures using culture dependent approach [10]. Different tests like gram staining, catalase, oxidase, sugar fermentation (arabinose, lactose, maltose, sucrose, ribose, rhamnose, mannitol and sorbitol), starch, lipid hydrolysis, oxygen requirement, and motility.

Evaluation of probiotic properties

Growth at different temperatures and NaCl concentrations: This experiment was conducted in accordance with the protocol devised [11]. Briefly, 5 ml of test MRS broth supplemented with bromo cresol purple indicator at a concentration of 0.12 g/l was dispensed into tubes. 0.1 ml of actively grown cultures inoculated into tubes at incubated for 4-6 days at varying temperatures at 4, 37 and 45°C. Qualitative colour change from purple to yellow was observed during incubation period. Likewise, the isolates were tested for tolerance to different NaCl concentrations (4% and 6.5% NaCl). The procedure of incubation was similar.

Resistance to low pH: The most important feature of probiotic properties is resistance to low pH. Overnight grown strains were sub cultured into 2 ml of fresh MRS broth and incubated for another 24 h

S.No	Contents	W/v
1	Peptone	1%
2	Beef Extract	1%
3	Yeast Extract	1%
4	Glucose	2%
5	Sodium acetate trihydrate	0.5%
6	Polysorbate 80	0.1%
7	Dipotassium hydrogen phosphate	0.2%
8	Triammonium citrate	0.2%
9	Magnesium sulphate heptahydrate	0.02%
10	Manganese sulfate tetrahydrate	0.05%
11	Agar	1%

Table 1: Composition of MRS media for isolation of LAB.

S.No	Contents	w/v
1	Peptone	1%
2	Beef Extract	1%
3	Yeast Extract	1%
4	Glucose	2%
5	Sodium acetate trihydrate	0.5%
6	Polysorbate 80	0.1%
7	Dipotassium hydrogen phosphate	0.2%
8	Triammonium citrate	0.2%
9	Magnesium sulphate heptahydrate	0.02%
10	Manganese sulfate tetrahydrate	0.05%
11	Sodium Azide	0.02%
12	Sucrose	0.02%
13	Bromo-cresol purple	0.012%
11	Agar	1%

Table 2: Composition of modified MRS media for isolation of LAB.

to reach the late exponential phase. The culture was then centrifuged at 8000 rpm for 10 min at 4°C and pellet was re suspended in 2 ml of MRS broth previously adjusted with HCl to a final pH value of 3. The culture was incubated at 37°C for up to 24 h. Samples were withdrawn at regular intervals of 0, 1, 2, 3 and 24 h from the onset of incubation to determine the survivability. 0.1 ml aliquot of the culture and its 10 fold serial dilutions were plated on MRS agar medium. Plates were

incubated at 37°C for 48h and the LAB counts were expressed in colony forming units per milliliter (cfu/ml). A positive control consisting of regular MRS broth inoculated with the culture was simultaneously set up.

Results and Discussion

Isolation and characterization of lactic acid bacteria from dairy effluents

Many white to cream colonies were readily observed on MRS agar plates within less than 24 h at 37°C. Colonies from MRS plates streaked onto modified MRS were unable to grow thereby confirming that the bacterium was a non-LAB. Bromocresol purple, which is a pH indicator that changes colour from purple around neutral pH to yellow below pH 5. It is a differential agent that allows discrimination of LAB from non-LAB [12]. Modified MRS agar also contains sodium azide, a selective agent, since it is a potent iron porphyrin inhibitor and is effective in inhibiting the growth of most non LAB and fungi on the modified MRS plates. Growth of LAB is not inhibited in the presence of sodium azide [12].

Confirmation tests of the LAB isolate

Genera of rod shaped LAB include *Lactobacillus*, *Bifidobacterium*, *Corynebacterium*, *Bacillus* and *Sporolactobacillus* while common coccus shaped LAB include *Lactococcus*, *Streptococcus*, *Enterococcus* and *Pediococcus*. Morphologically, leuconostocs generally appear as cocci similar in size and shape to lactococci (Table 3), however, some Leuconostocs tend to have a coccoid or coccobacillary morphology due to cell elongation [13]. In lieu of the microscopic investigation, the isolate presumably belonged to genera *Leuconostoc sp* (Figure 4). Catalase is an enzyme produced by many microorganisms that breaks down hydrogen peroxide into water and oxygen and causes gas bubble formation [8]. Given that Leuconostoc cells are catalase negative coccobacilli often associated with milk and dairy products [14].

With respect to incubation test in phenol red glucose broth, the isolate was found to produce gas at the top of the inverted Durham tube with a colour change from red to yellow. These observations indicate that the isolate is heterofermentative. i.e., is able to ferment glucose to produce D (-) lactic acid, ethanol and CO₂. Most leuconostocs are fermentative and are able to produce CO₂ from glucose. Benmechernen Z [15] showed that all 83 strains of *L. mesenteroides* isolated from 12

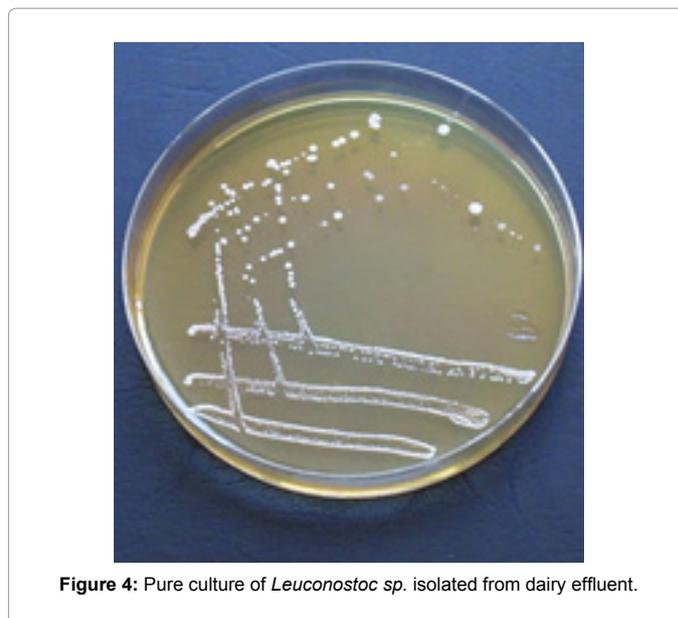


Figure 4: Pure culture of *Leuconostoc sp.* isolated from dairy effluent.

raw camel milk samples were able to produce carbon dioxide from glucose. The term "fermentation" is often used to describe the catalytic activity of a carbohydrate under anaerobic conditions. Bacteria capable of fermenting a carbohydrate are usually referred to as facultative anaerobes [16]. Different bacteria catabolize different energy sources in the medium depending on the specific enzymes synthesized. Most bacteria possess the enzyme systems required for the oxidation and utilization of the simple sugar, glucose.

Growth characteristics of the isolate

Another criterion for the evaluation of the probiotic trait of the isolate is the ability to grow at different temperatures. Our findings revealed that the isolate could not grow at 4°C or 45°C over the 7 day incubation period although it was able to grow at 37°C. Our findings were in harmony with [16] *Leuconostoc* strains isolated from raw camel milk were also classified as mesophiles as they were able to grow at 30 and 37°C but not at 4 and 45°C. Azadnia P [17] also reported that *Leuconostoc mesenteroides* was able to grow at 4% NaCl concentration but not at 6.5% NaCl concentration.

Resistance to low pH and bile salts

With respect to its acid tolerance, the isolate was found to survive in pH of 3.0 for >24 h at 37°C. Although there was a decrease in the population by ca. 3.6 log cfu/ml over the first 3 hours of exposure to high acidity, a surviving population of >5 log cfu/ml was observed. Resistance to low pH is one of the major selection criteria for probiotic strains [18]. Before reaching the intestinal tract, probiotic bacteria must first survive the acidity of the stomach [19]. Hence, the pH of the *in vitro* assay was adjusted to mimic the gastric pH. Since the bulk luminal pH of the stomach typically ranges from 1 to 3, a pH value of 3.0 was chosen since there is a significant decrease in the viability of strains at pH 2.0 or lower [11]. The exposure times to low pH were set for 1, 3, 4 and 24 h since the average residence time of food in the stomach is ca. 3 hours but can vary widely from person to person, either naturally or due to several factors. The population of the isolate declined rapidly by 3.6 log cfu/ml over the first 3 hours.

Similarly, Grosu-Tudor SS [20] observed high survival rates of *Leuconostoc citreum* 344 and *Leuconostoc mesenteroides* 348 of the

S.No	Characteristic	Appearance
1	Colony shape	Circular
2	Colony colour	Yellowish –orange
3	Colony pattern	Convex
4	Colony margin	Entire
5	Gram stain	Positive
6	Cell shape	Rod
7	Catalase	Negative
8	Glucose	Positive
9	Sucrose	Positive
10	Arabinose	Negative
11	Rhamnose	Negative
12	Maltose	Positive
13	Rhamnose	Negative
14	Ribose	Negative
15	Mannitol	Negative
16	Lactose	Positive

Table 3: Isolation and characterization of lactic acid bacteria from dairy effluents.

order of 10^8 cfu/ml, following a 3 fold exposure at pH 3. After 24 h of incubation at pH 3.0 however, the viability decreased to 10^4 CFU/ml. The usual tolerance of probiotic strains to low pH can be attributed to the physico- chemical characteristics of the source where they are isolated. Probiotic LAB isolated from dairy samples typically ferment milk sugar lactose into lactic acid. During acidification of milk, the pH decreases from 6.7 to 4.6. Therefore, it can be presumed that the pH of the dairy effluents is ≤ 4.6 [21]. Hence, it is possible that the isolate of this study was the dominating species in the dairy effluents, reflecting a possible adaptation to the specific environment [20]. Since probiotic LAB is known to exhibit high tolerance to bile in the human GI tract, the isolate was incubated in the presence of 0.3% bile salts for 4 h in an *in vitro* bile assay to simulate conditions of the human gastro intestinal tract.

Conclusion

A lactic acid bacterium was isolated from dairy effluents of Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) of Jaipur Dairy. To ascertain its probiotic potential, the isolate was subjected to different biochemical physiological, biochemical and viability tests. The isolate was found to be a catalase negative, hetero fermentative, gram positive coccus bacillus that was able to ferment glucose as well as disaccharides such as lactose, sucrose and maltose. The isolate was tolerant to low pH (pH=3), presence of bile salts (0.3%) as well as moderate concentrations of NaCl (4%). Furthermore, the studies are in progress in our laboratory to establish the bio-efficacy potential to produce lactic acid at pilot scale.

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