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Study of Physical and Cultural Parameters on the Bacteriocins Produced by Lactic Acid Bacteria Isolated from Traditional Indian Fermented Foods

Sourav Bhattacharya and Arijit Das

Abstract: Lactic Acid Bacteria (LAB) predominates the micro flora of fermented foods. They produce metabolites that inhibit the growth of food-borne pathogens and spoilage microorganisms. The objectives of the present study were isolation, identification and characterization of lactic acid bacteria from traditional Indian fermented foods and study of physical and cultural parameters of the isolates and bacteriocins produced by them. Seven isolates of bacteriocin producing LAB were isolated from curd, dosa batter and idli batter and were identified as species of *Lactobacillus*. The culture supernatants of the seven isolates were evaluated for their antimicrobial activity against pathogens like *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas* sp. The stability of bacteriocins was tested at different temperatures, pH, presence of bile salt like sodium deoxycholate and storage period at 4°C. The diameters of the inhibitory zones ranged between 9 and 12 mm for *Staphylococcus aureus*, with no effect on *Pseudomonas*. The bacteriocins produced by the isolates were stable at temperatures ranging between 4 to 80°C and over a wide range of pH from 2 to 10, with the highest activity at pH 6. It was found that the bacteriocins were stable at different concentrations of the bile salt. They remained active even after a storage period of 30 days at 4°C. Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoretic analysis of the partially purified bacteriocins showed their apparent molecular weights between 16.5 to 48 kDa. These bacteriocins may have potential use as food biopreservatives and may help in improving the gut environment by combating several pathogenic microorganisms.

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