

Optimization and Physico-Chemical Characterization of a Bacteriocin Produced By Marine *Lactobacillus Rhamnosus* L43

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Abstract

Objective: To optimize bacteriocin producing medium and their characterization.

Methods: *Lactobacillus* strain was isolated from marine water, Thirumullavaram beach, Kerala using MRS broth (Hi-Media, India) at 37°C for 48 hrs. The isolate was identified by 16S rRNA sequencing and phylogenetic analysis. Optimization of physiological parameters and carbon, nitrogen sources. Produced crude bacteriocin and antagonistic characteristics of bacteriocin against *Klebsiella pneumoniae* MTCC535 were studied by agar well diffusion method. Bacteriocin stability in different temperature and enzyme.

Result: *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* strain isolated from marine water. *Lactobacillus* isolate was sequenced which shown high similarity with reference strain *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* ZY Accession number KC012630.1. Bacteriocin produced at 30°C, pH 7, 18 hrs. incubation time with 2% inoculum size and 2% NaCl concentration. It produced in presence of lactose and peptone. All the data validated by statistical analysis using paired t-test by MINITAB 14. This bacteriocin was stable at 100°C for 20 min, and it is in proteinaceous nature. **Conclusion:** These results indicated the potent strain produce bacteriocin. Maximum bacteriocin production was observed at 30°C, 18 hrs. incubation, pH 7.0, 2% NaCl solution.

Keywords: antibacterial activity, bacteriocin, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Lactobacillus* sp.

I. Introduction

Bacteriocins differ from most therapeutic antibiotics in being proteinaceous agents that are rapidly digested by proteases in human digestive tract. A large no. of LAB bacteriocins have been identified and the list is still growing. They are ribosomally synthesized peptides and this facts creates the possibility of improving their characteristics to enhance their activity and spectra of action [1]. Bacteriocin from LAB are natural antimicrobial peptides or proteins with interesting potential applications in health care and food preservatives. Bacteriocins of Gram +ve bacteria are generally divided into four classes based on size, morphology, physical and chemical properties [2]. Class I bacteriocin are Lantibiotics, which are small peptides (<5 kda) [3] Class II bacteriocin are small heat stable peptides (<10kda) that are not post transcriptionally modified class III are generally large (>10kda), heat labile peptides and class IV are covalently bonded which have cyclic structure.

Lactic acid Bacteria is a rich source of variety of antibacterial compounds like organic acid, diacetyl, H₂O₂, reuterin, bacteriocin or other bactericidal proteins which were produced during lactic acid fermentation [4]. Hence it is important to optimise the process parameters to enhance the production of either of compound. In present paper we have focused on optimisation of physiological parameters to enhance the bacteriocin production and further characterisation to monitor its antimicrobial potential against known human pathogen *Klebsiella pneumoniae* MTCC 535.

II. Material And Methods:

2.1 Molecular identification of *Lactobacillus* sp.L43

Lactobacillus sp.L43 strain with potent inhibitory activity was characterized to the species level using 16S rRNA sequencing. The 16S rRNA gene of the isolate was sequenced (ABI 3100sequencer and genotyper; Genei) after the DNA isolation and PCR amplification. The sequence obtained was compared to the GenBank nucleotide database with BLAST [5] and phylogenetically analyzed using MEGA 5.03 software. (Xcelris Labs Ltd., Ahmedabad, India)

2.2 Process Optimisation

2.2.1 Optimization of Physiological parameters: De Man Rogosa Agar was used for bacteriocin production under various physiological conditions viz. pH (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10), temperature (20,25,30,37,40 °C), incubation period (6,12,18,24,30,36,42,48 hrs.), inoculum size (0.5,1,1.5,2,2.5,3,3.5,4,4.5,5 %), NaCl concentration-(0.5,1,1.5,2,2.5,3,3.5,4,4.5,5 %).

2.2.2 Effect of various carbon and nitrogen sources: Various carbon and nitrogen source used for production of bacteriocin, carbon source viz. glucose, sucrose, maltose, mannitol, lactose, starch, cellulose, ribose, xylose,

fructose and Nitrogen source viz. peptone, yeast extract, beef extract, meat extract, ammonium nitrate, ammonium chloride, casein, sodium nitrate.

2.3 Production of Crude bacteriocin: After termination of bacteriocin production the fermented liquor was separated from supernatant by centrifugation at 12,000 rpm for 10 minutes at 4°C. The cell free supernatant was neutralized to pH 7.0 using 0.1 N NaOH to inactivate the lactic acid released in fermented liquor.[6]. The crude prepared bacteriocin present in supernatant was filter sterilized by passage through a 0.22 µm pore size membrane filter and used for further studies.

2.4 Bacteriocin assay: Bacteriocin assay has been carried out to determine antibacterial activity of all crude bacteriocin produced during process optimisation against sensitive culture of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* MTCC 535 by well diffusion method suggested by [7]. Aliquots (100µl) of various dilutions of crude bacteriocin prepared in sterile MRS broth (2, 4, 6, 8, & 10 fold) were placed in 7mm diameter wells that had been cut in MH agar (Himedia lab. Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai, India) plates previously seeded with sensitive bacterium. After 24 hrs. of incubation at 37°C, the diameter of the zone of inhibition was measured. Antibacterial activity was expressed in arbitrary units (AU/ml). 1 AU was defined as the reciprocal of the highest level of dilution resulting in a clear zone of inhibition

2.5 Physico-Chemical Characterization of bacteriocin

2.5.1 Effect of Enzymes: Effect of various enzymes viz. Proteinase K, trypsin, pepsin, lysozyme, alpha amylase, RNase was determined in terms of its inhibitory effect towards antimicrobial activity of bacteriocin. The crude bacteriocin was treated with various enzymes at 1% level by incubating in presence of enzyme at 30°C for 2 hours. Then treated product was tested for its antibacterial activity.[8].

2.5.2 Heat Stability of bacteriocin: The crude bacteriocin was incubated at various temperatures viz. 30, 50, 70, 90, 100, 121°C for 20 minutes. Then treated product was tested for its antibacterial activity.[9]

2.6 Statistics analysis

Each experiment was repeated twice and each determination was done in duplicate. The data were examined by analysis of Paired t-test using MINITAB 14 at a level of significance of $p < 0.05$.

III. Result And Discussion:

3.1 Molecular identification of Lactobacillus sp.L43: The bacterial strain L43, isolated from Thirumullavaram beach, Kerala(water), this had the maximum inhibitory potential and was characterized by 16S rRNA sequencing. The L43 strain revealed 99% similarity with *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* strain ZY (Accession Number: KC012630.1) based on nucleotide homology and Phylogenetic analysis by Neighbour Joining method (Fig. 1) and hence designated as *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* L43.

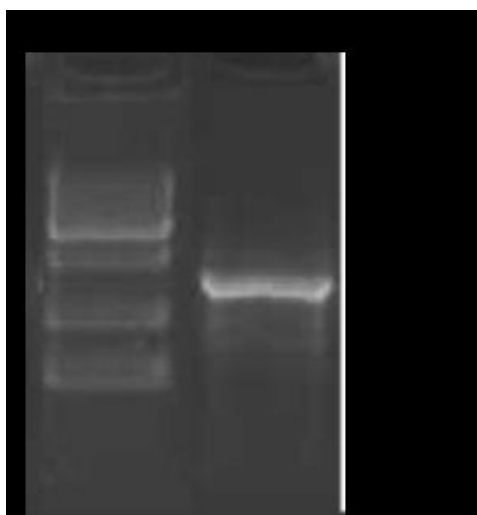


Figure 1: 0.8% Agarose gel showing single 1.5 kb of 16S rDNA amplicon. Lane 1: 1 Kb DNA ladder; Lane 2: 16S rDNA amplicon

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ACGCCGCGTGAGTGAAGAAGGCTTTCGGGTCGTAAACTCTGTTGTTGGAGAAGAATGGTCGGCAG
AGTAACTGTTGTCGGCGTGACGGTATCCAACCAGAAAGCCACGGCTAACTACGTGCCAGCAGCCG
CGGTAATACGTAGGTGGCAAGCGTTATCCGATTTATTGGGCGTAAAGCGAGCGCAGGCGGTTTTT
TTAAGTCTGATGTGAAAGCCCTCGGCTTAACCGAGGAAGTGCATCGGAAACTGGGAACTTGAGT
ACAGAAGAGGACAGTGGAACTCCATGTGTAGCGGTGAAATGCGTAGATATATGGAAGAACC
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AGTGGCGAAGGCGGCTGTCTGGTCTGTAACCTGACGCTGAGGCTCGAAAGCATGGGTAGCGAACAG
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 CAGTGCCGCAGCTAACGCATTAAGCATTCCGCCTGGGGAGTACGACCGCAAGGTTGAAACTCAA
 GGAATTGACGGGGGCCGCACAAGCGGTGGAGCATGTGGTTTAATTGCAAGCAACGCGAAGAACC
 TTACCAGGTCTTGACATCTTTTGATCACCTGAGAGATCAGGTTTCCCCTTCGGGGGCAAATG
 ACAGGTGGTGTATGGTTGTCGTCAGCTCGTGTGTCGTGAGATGTTGGGTTAAGTCCCAGCAACGAGCGC
 AACCTTATGACTAGTTGCCAGCATTTAGTTGGGCACTCTAGTAAGACTGCCGGTGACAAACCGGA
 GGAAGGTGGGGATGACGTCAAATCATCATGCCCTTATGACCTGGGCTACACACGTGTACAATG
 GATGGTACAACGAGTTGCGAGACCGCGAGGTCAAGCTAATCTCTAAGCCATTCTCAGTTCGGACTG
 TAGGCTGCAACTCGCTACACGAAGTCGGAATCGCTAGTAATCGCGGATCAGCACCCGGTGAAT
 ACGTTCCCGGCCTTGACACACCGCCCGTCACACCATGAGAGTTTGTAAACACCCGAAGCCGGTGG
 CGTAACCCTTTTAGGGAGCGAGCCGTCTAAGGTGGGACAAATGATTAGGGTGAAGTCGTAACAAG
 G

Figure 3: Consensus Sequence (1112bp)

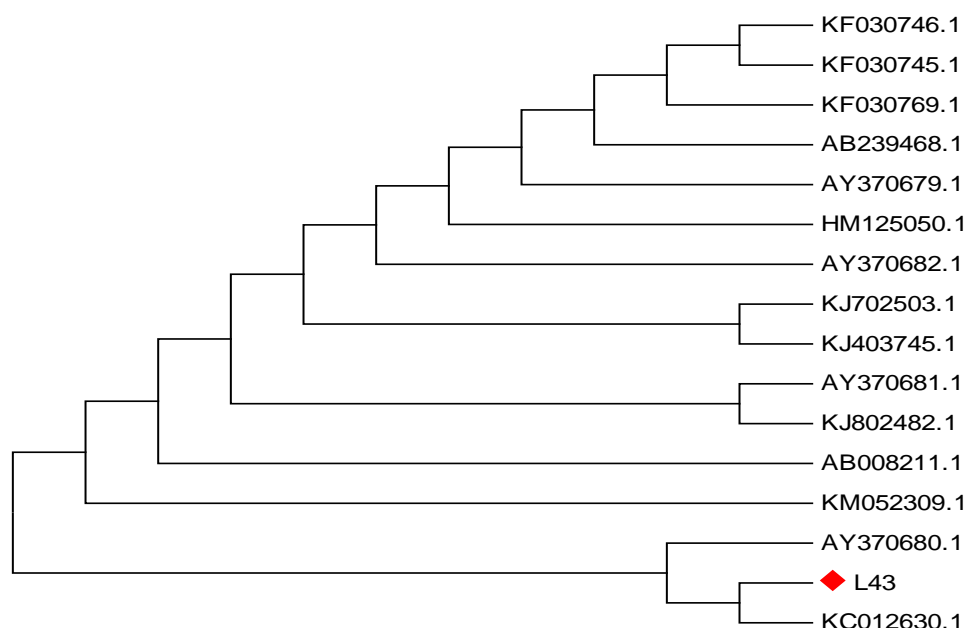


Figure 2: Phylogenetic tree

3.2 Optimization of Physiological parameters

3.2.1. Effect of temperature: The maximum arbitrary unit was measured as 1600AU/ml at 30°C and minimum level as 880AU/ml at 20°C (figure 4)

3.2.2. Effect of pH : Regarding pH the maximum arbitrary unit was measured as 1680AU/ml at pH 7.0 and minimum in 720AU/ml at pH 1 and 9. (figure 4)

3.2.3. Effect of incubation period: At various period of incubation maximum level as 1520AU/ml at 18 hrs. and minimum level as 720AU/ml at 54 hrs. (figure 5)

3.2.4. Effect of salt concentration: Various concentration of salt tested from 0.5 to 5% NaCl, The maximum production obtained as 1360 AU/ml at 2% and minimum in 720AU/ml at 0.5%. (figure 5)

3.2.5. Effect of inoculum size: The maximum production obtained as 1680 AU/ml at 2% inoculum and minimum in 800 AU/ml at 0.5%. Results showed that *L. acidophilus* and *L. Plantarum* produced bacteriocin in MRS broth[11]. The strain *L. plantarum* exhibited a good bacteriocin activity of 2242 AU/ml, at pH 6.0, sodium chloride 1.5% and 30 °C. The strain *L. acidophilus* exhibited a good bacteriocin activity of 2432 AU/ml, at pH 5.0, sodium chloride 1.5% and 25 °C. Bacteriocin production was strongly dependent on pH, nutrient source and temperature. Various physicochemical factors seemed to affect bacteriocin production as well as its activity [11]. Maximum activities were noted at pH 5.0 and pH 6.0, temperatures 25⁰C and 30⁰C and 1.5% NaCl. It was well known that NaCl is required by many bacteria, for Na⁺ is important to the osmotic pressure to the cells. But NaCl was not needed for other bacteriocin production [12]. In this study, NaCl played an important part to the growth of the bacteria.

3.2.6. Effect of carbon and nitrogen source: The maximum activity was observed as 1600AU/ml in presence of lactose and minimum activity was observed as 1000AU/ml in presence of ribose. The maximum production was obtained as 1600 AU/ml in peptone and minimum level 720 AU/ml with ammonium chloride. (figure 5). The optimal growth conditions for bacteriocin production were found to be glucose-1.0% as carbon source, 0.5% sodium nitrate as nitrogen source with 24hrs incubation [13].

3.3 Characterization of bacteriocin:

3.3.1 Effect of Enzymes: In presence of alpha amylase, RNase, lipase were positive effect of bacteriocin production. Protease-k, trypsin and pepsin were strongly inhibited bacteriocin production. Bacteriocin production from *L. fermentum* KN02 was influenced when incubated in proteolytic enzyme (papain) [8]. Bacteriocin activity was completely affected by the enzyme papain, as it also was the case with nisin, the only established bacteriocin for commercial use until date. So the results show that the antibacterial compounds produced are inactive by the proteolytic enzyme (papain), indicating that the inhibitory compound are proteinaceous nature, a general characteristic of bacteriocin [14].

3.3.2 Heat Stability of bacteriocin: Heat stability observed at 100°C treatment for 20 min. The bacteriocin GP1 produced by *Lb. rhamnosus* had a remarkable stability over heat treatment even at the autoclaving temperature for 20 min [9]. Heat stability of *Lactobacillus. plantarum* F12 at 100°C is important if the bacteriocin is used as a food preservative, because many procedures of food preparation involve a heating step.

3.4 Statistical analysis: Paired t-test for zone of inhibition with optimization had shown p-value <0.05.

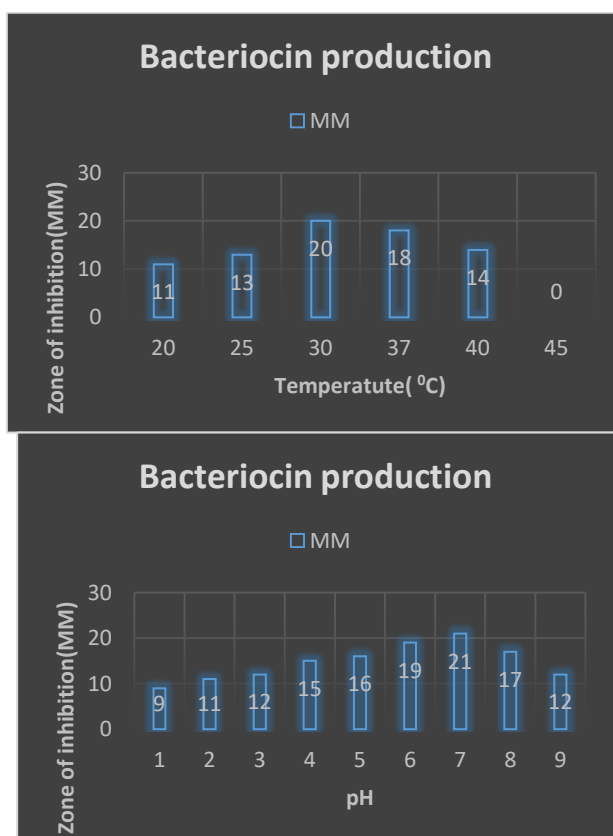


Figure 4: Effect of temperature and pH on bacteriocin production

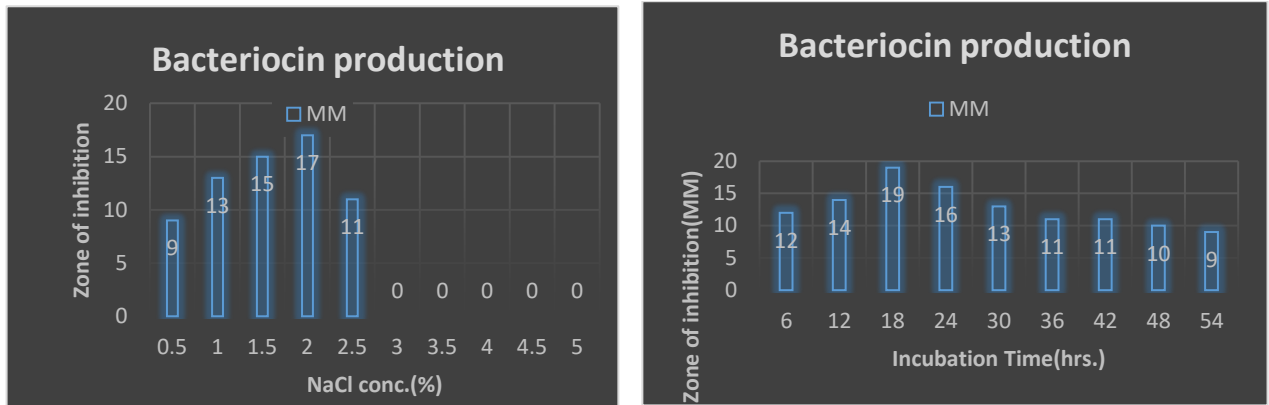


Figure 5: Effect of Incubation time and NaCl concentration on bacteriocin production

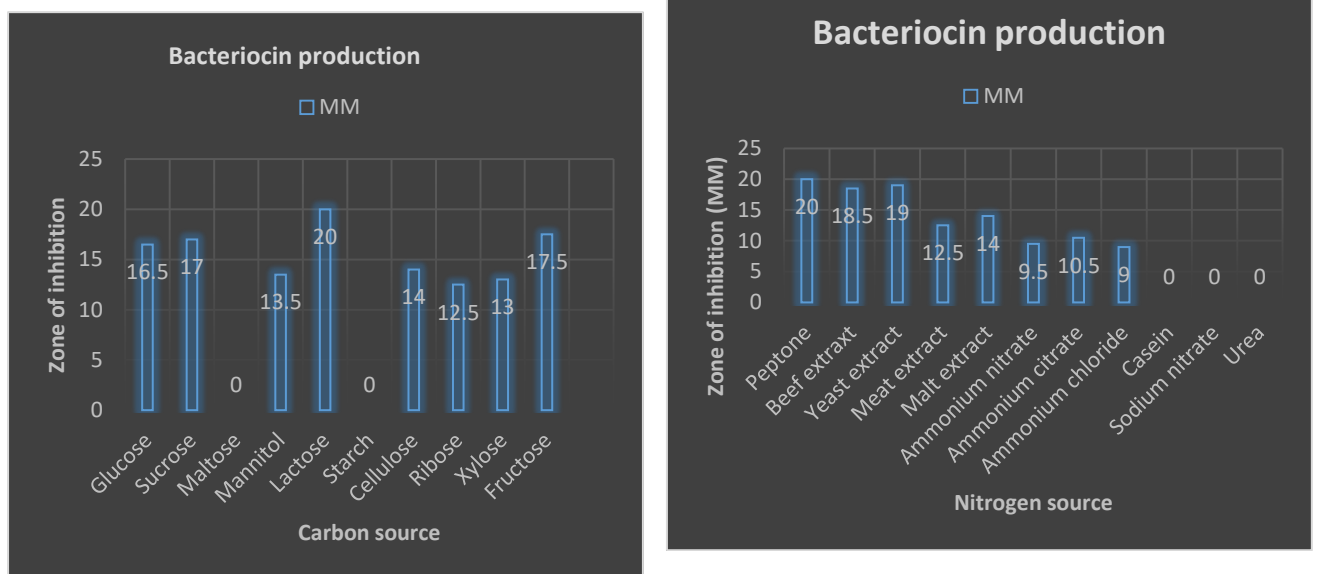
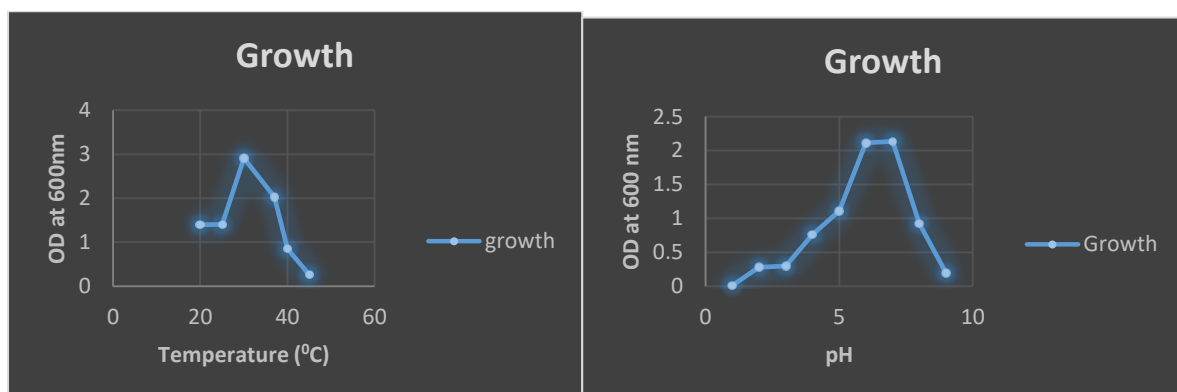


Figure 6: Effect of carbon and nitrogen source on production of bacteriocin



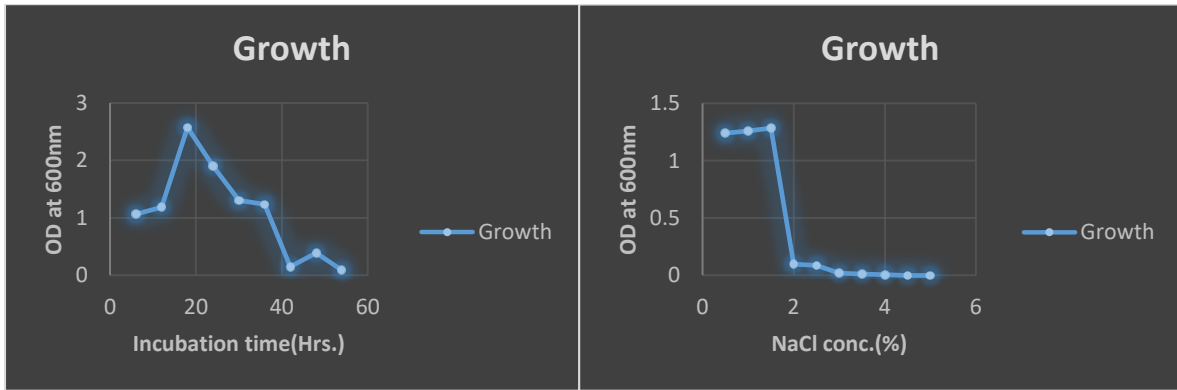


Figure 7: Growth kinetics of *lactobacillus rhamnosus* L43 At different condition

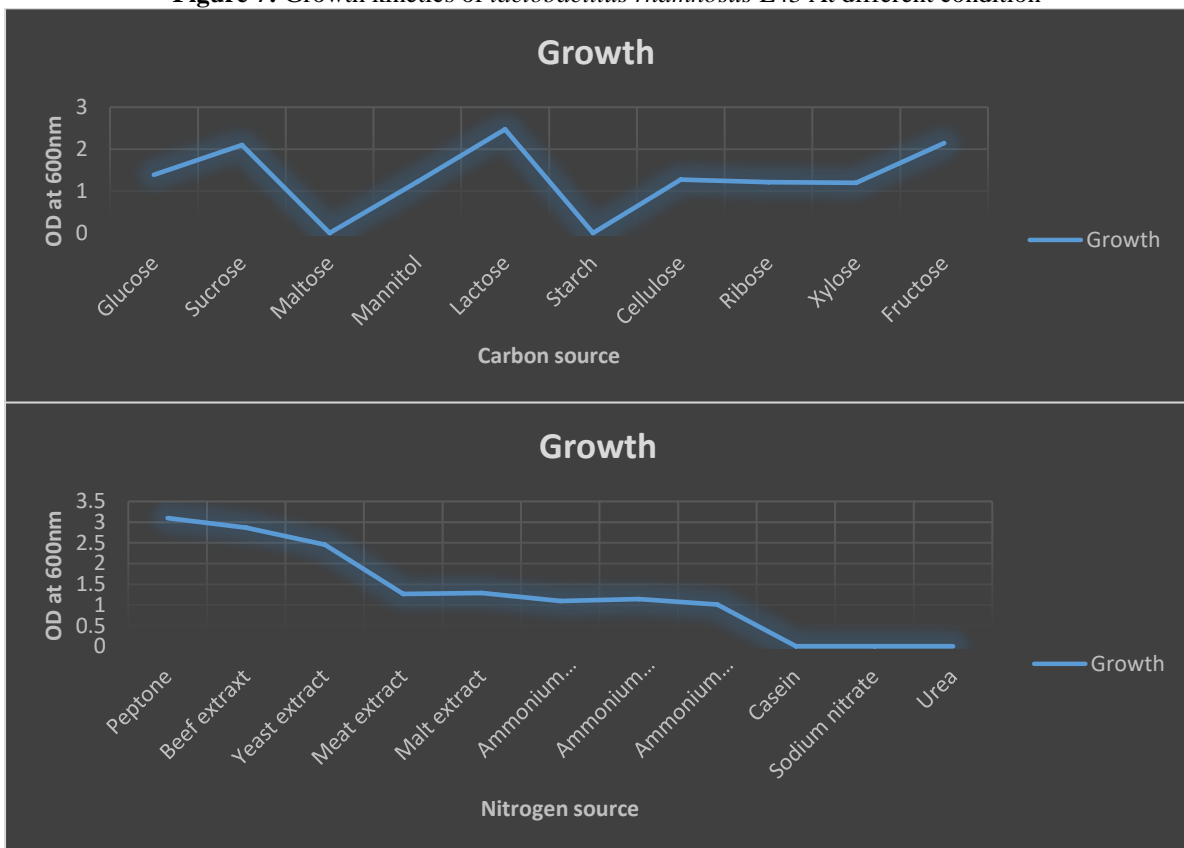
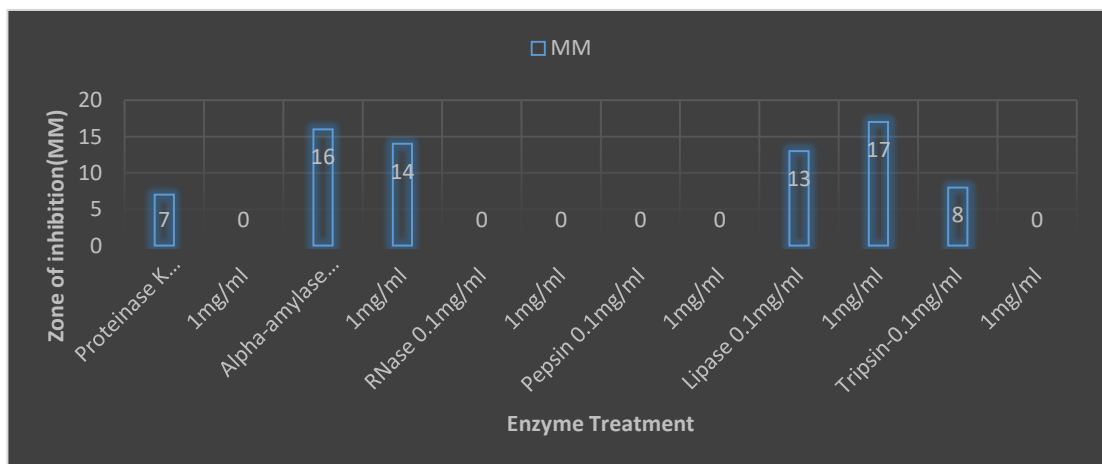


Figure 8: Growth kinetics of *lactobacillus rhamnosus* L43 at different carbon and nitrogen sources



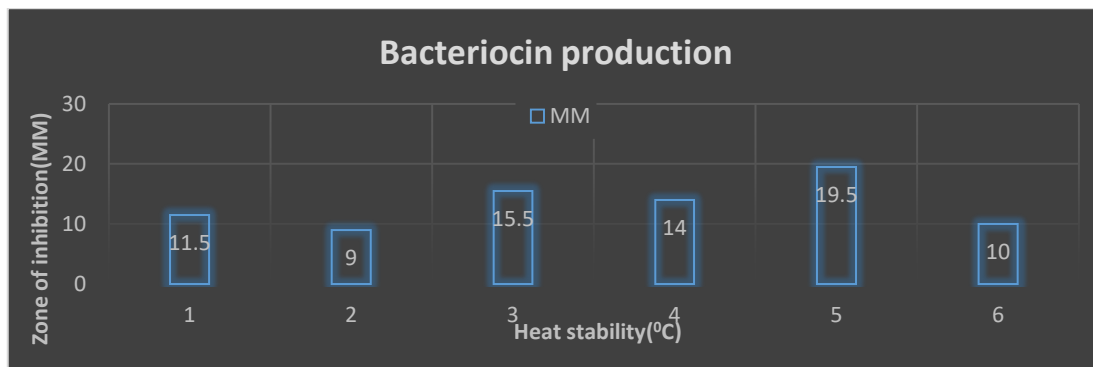


Figure 9: Characterization of crude bacteriocin- Heat stability, Enzyme treatment.

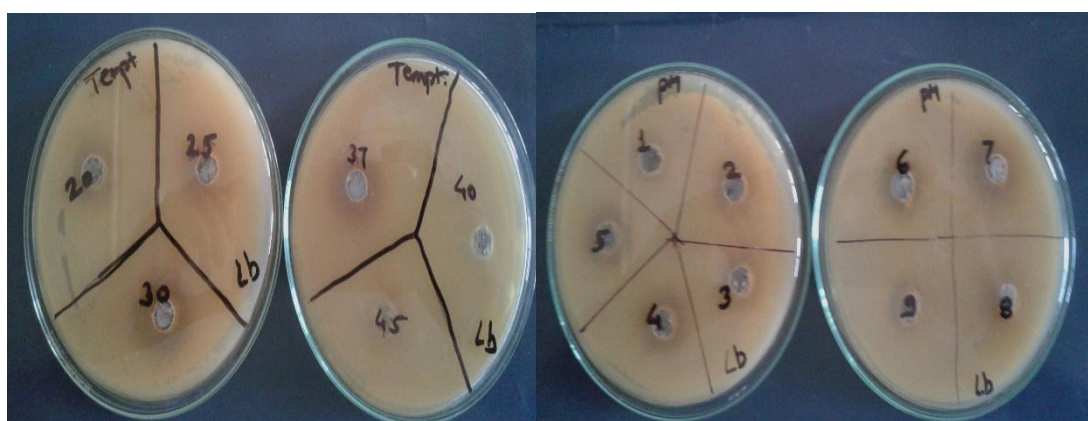


Figure 10: Effect of temperature and pH for production of bacteriocin

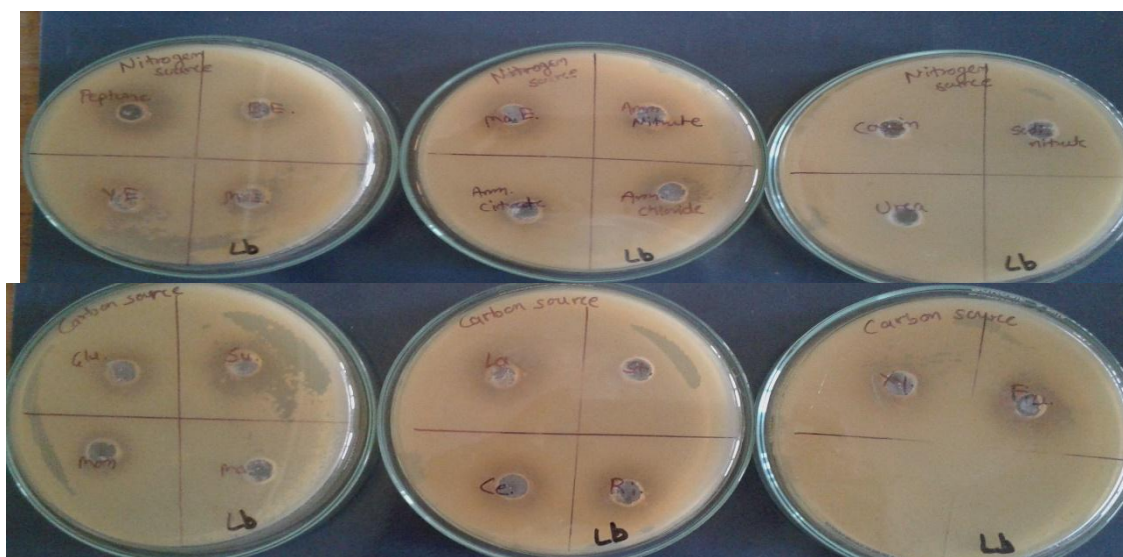


Figure 11: Effect of carbon and nitrogen source for bacteriocin production

IV. Conclusion:

Study reported on the biodiversity of Lactic acid bacteria (LAB) in the water and sediments in the coastal areas of India. The LAB isolates inhibited pathogenic and spoilage causing Gram positive and Gram negative strains and hence possessed a broad spectrum of activity. These results indicated the potent strain produce bacteriocin. Maximum bacteriocin production was observed at 30°C, 18 hrs. incubation, pH 7.0, 2% NaCl solution. In addition of enzymes, alpha amylase, RNase, lipase, were slightly positive effect bacteriocin production. Proteinase-k, pepsin, trypsin were strongly inhibited bacteriocin production. The activity of bacteriocin remained constant after heating at 100°C for 20 min. The isolation, characterization and optimization of the bacteriocin producing strain from the extreme environment like marine would provide lead to approaches like bio preservation.

Conflict of interest statement

We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

Acknowledgment

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