

Enhanced cultivation technology for lacto- and bifidobacteria

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The aim of this work was to improve a cultivation technology of lactobacteria and bifidobacteria based on the optimal growth substrate, which ensures a preservation of basic biological properties of microorganisms. Seven variants of experimental nutrient media were prepared for cultivation of lactic acid bacteria. The growth properties of experimental nutrient media were studied using following strains: *Lactobacillus plantarum* 7, *L. casei* 27, *L. plantarum* 7-317, *Bifidobacterium adolescentis* 17 and *B. adolescentis* 17-316. The number of living microbial cells was determined by serial dilution methods. The composition of nutrient media for cultivation of lactobacteria, bifidobacteria and technological parameters of their cultivation were determined by the temperature of $37 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$. Acidity of a nutrient medium has pH value ranges from 6.5 to 7.5. A nutrient medium for cultivation of lactobacteria is proposed. Composition of new nutrient medium: lactose – 10.0-15.0%, sucrose – 5.0-10.0%, cystine – 0.01%, skim milk – up to 100.0%. It was established that the optimal nutrient medium for bifidobacteria accumulation composed of the following components (ratio of components, mass %): peptone – 7.0 ± 0.01 , yeast autolysate – 4.0 ± 0.01 , glucose – 1.5 ± 0.02 , sucrose – 1.5 ± 0.01 , cystine – 0.03 ± 0.01 , ammonium citrate – 0.4 ± 0.03 , potassium phosphate monosubstituted – 0.4 ± 0.02 , MgSO_4 – 0.04 ± 0.002 , MnSO_4 – 0.007 ± 0.002 , sodium phosphate disubstituted – 0.4 ± 0.02 , microbiological agar – 2.5 ± 0.04 , sodium citrate – 0.8 ± 0.05 , distilled water – up to 100%.

Key words: Cultivation technology; Animals; Biological studies

Introduction

Livestock farms implement drugs with probiotic cultures in schemes of prevention and treatment of animals within connection with the increasing needs of population in high-quality and safe food products of animal origin. Today, lactic acid cultures are essential components for the production of probiotics, as their positive effects have been repeatedly proven (Bermudez-Brito et al., 2012; Yirga, 2015). Probiotics have a positive effect on intestinal flora of animals (Markowiak & Ślizewska, 2018). It also reduces a risk of gastrointestinal disease in animals and increases their productivity (Chaucheyras-Durand & Durand, 2010). This statement refers to antibiotics, which are used for therapeutic purposes. An antibiotic resistance of many microorganisms is found to antibiotics (Hossain et al., 2017; Hadzevych et al., 2019). Biotechnological advancement has made it possible to create a complex probiotic additives consisting of several different strains and types of microorganisms (Zhu et al., 2018). This trend becomes very promising, since these strains complement each other and exhibit a more effective synergistic, prophylactic and metabolic effect in comparison with monotherapy (Gadde et al., 2017). Current requirements of the European regulatory legislation in the field of probiotics provide the need for comprehensive studies of biological activity of individual probiotic cultures and their combinations. These studies has to be implemented for creating probiotic additives based on monocultures of lactobacteria and bifidobacteria or their various combinations (Alayande et al., 2020). Study of biological properties of lactobacteria and bifidobacteria, as well as other microorganisms, requires an appropriate skill in long-term storage and cultivation of cultures (Gujvinska et al., 2018). This is necessary both for a maintaining collections of lactic acid bacteria in a highly active state and for a manufacture and storage of probiotic drugs (Herawati et al., 2020). Conducted biological studies have allowed to isolate a significant spectrum of bacteria, such as: *Lactobacillus* spp., *Bifidobacterium* spp. and *Lactococcus* spp. These isolates can be used in the development of probiotic drugs for farm animals (Chiang et al., 2015; Gujvinska & Paliy, 2018b; Paliy et al., 2020). Great attention in the biotechnological process of creating therapeutic and prophylactic probiotics is given to two main factors. These factors are an achievement of a maximum level of biomass yield of viable bacterial cells and a biologically active substances synthesized by them (Parvez et al., 2006). It is important to consider adaptability under production conditions and stability of strains during cultivation, as well as taking into

account its probiotic properties preservation during selection (Ozen & Dinleyici, 2015). These indicators determine the productivity, competitiveness and profitability of technological process (Gujvinska & Paliy, 2018a).

Lactic acid bacteria and bifidobacteria are introduced into the composition of probiotics, dietary supplements and functional foods. They are widely used in the prevention and treatment of many animal dysfunctions (Patel et al., 2012; Celiberto et al., 2017). In recent years, attention is paid to the use of lactic acid bacteria growth promoters for increase the effectiveness of probiotics (Uzunova-Donova & Donev, 2005). Separate data are presented regarding the effect of lactulose, inulin and aerosil on the growth of lactobacteria. However, there is no evidence about an effect of phytocompositions on the biological properties of lactic acid bacteria. A study of these issues is relevant because it reveals another page of biotechnology of an important group of microorganisms known as lactobacteria and bifidobacteria (Ben Salah et al., 2012; Chiu et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2015).

These circumstances call for finding a new composition of nutrient medium based on components from domestic raw materials. This will reduce a cost of the nutrient medium and increase its elective properties, accelerate the growth of lactobacilli and bifidobacteria in general, and the accumulation of their bacterial mass in particular.

The aim of this work was to improve a cultivation technology of lactobacteria and bifidobacteria based on the optimal growth substrate.

Materials and Methods

A work for improvement of cultivation technology of lactobacteria and bifidobacteria based on optimal growth substrate was performed in the Laboratory of Veterinary Sanitation and Parasitology of the National Scientific Center "Institute of Experimental and Clinical Veterinary Medicine". Seven variants of experimental nutrient media were prepared for cultivation of lactobacteria and bifidobacteria for the research study. Lactose, sucrose, cystine, and skim milk were used to design the medium for lactobacteria. Peptone, yeast autolysate, glucose, sucrose, cystine, ammonium citrate, potassium phosphate monosubstituted, magnesium sulfate, manganese sulfate, sodium phosphate disubstituted, sodium citrate, microbiological agar, distilled water were used in a medium for cultivation of bifidobacteria. The MRS medium was used as a control of growth properties of probiotic cultures (Nwamaioha & Ibrahim, 2018).

Selection and optimization of nutrient media were carried out according to the following criteria: pH of a medium, temperature, a number of microbial cells after incubation (Yang et al., 2018). Cultures of lactobacteria (*Lactobacillus plantarum* 7, *L. casei* 27, *L. plantarum* 7-317) and bifidobacteria (*Bifidobacterium adolescentis* 17, *B. adolescentis* 17-316) have been a subject of the research study. The abovementioned cultures are isolated, selected and stored in the Laboratory of Veterinary Sanitation and Parasitology of the NSC "IECVM". The number of live microbial cells assessed the growth properties of bifidobacteria. The number of live microbial cells was determined by the method of serial dilutions of a resulting suspension in saline. Subsequently, bacterial cultures were inoculated on nutrient media in a volume 0.1 cm³ of the 10⁻⁶ dilution (Süle et al., 2014; Senz et al., 2015). The optimal conditions (pH, temperature) of cultivation of lactic acid bacteria were determined (Kneifel, 2000).

All studies were performed in triplicate. Statistical processing of the results was carried out using traditional methods of variation statistics using the "Microsoft Excel" and "Statistica 10" programs. A significant difference between obtained results was considered at p-value < 0.05.

Results and Discussion

A nutrient media with various sources of carbon and nitrogen were used for cultivation microorganisms. There are MRS control medium (glucose is a carbon source; enzyme peptone, meat broth, ammonium citrate are nitrogen sources) and seven experimental nutrient media for cultivation of lactobacilli (n=4) and bifidobacteria (n=3). These nutrient media differed by the type and concentration of carbon and nitrogen sources and mineral components.

A comparative analysis of well-known nutrient media for the cultivation of lactobacilli and bifidobacteria shows that successful cultivation depends on a quality and composition of a medium due to a type of protein base as well as a specificity of growth components (Sánchez et al., 2019). Thus, many researchers used glucose, lactose, and sucrose as carbohydrate sources to prepare nutrient media. In addition to this, various microelements significantly affect a development of lactic acid bacteria that are present in the environment. In this regard, sodium chloride, sodium acetate, disubstituted ammonium citrate, sodium citrate, sources of manganese, magnesium, phosphorus, iron and other elements are used (Colombo et al., 2014). This fact requires a careful and focused approach in the selection process of raw ingredients for nutrient media preparation (Hayek et al., 2019). Therefore, a nutrient medium for cultivation of lactobacilli was enriched by a various ratios of lactose, sucrose and cystine with addition of skimmed milk up to 100% (Table 1).

Table 1. Composition of nutrient medium for lactobacteria cultivation.

No	Components	Nutrient Media		
		No. 1	No. 2	No. 3
1	Lactose, g	–	5.0 ± 0.01	10.0 ± 0.02
2	Sucrose, g	–	15.0 ± 0.02	10.0 ± 0.01
3	Cystine, g	0.01 ± 0.005	0.01 ± 0.005	0.01 ± 0.005
4	Skimmed milk, cm ³	up to 100	up to 100	up to 100

Bifidobacteria are very demanding on composition of nutrient media, especially on easily digestible nitrogenous compounds, amino acids, carbohydrates, unsaturated fatty acids, vitamins and mineral elements (Roy, 2001). The components were selected for the production of a nutrient medium for bifidobacteria cultivation in the following ratio (mass %): glucose – 1.0-1.5, lactose – 1.0-1.5, cystine – 0.01-0.03, ammonium citrate – 0.2-0.4; potassium phosphate monosubstituted – 0.2-0.4, magnesium sulfate heptahydrate – 0.02-0.04, manganese sulfate tetrahydrate – 0.005-0.007, sodium phosphate bisubstituted – 0.2-0.4, microbiological agar – 0.2-2.5, sodium citrate – 0.5-0.8, distilled water – the rest. Distilled water was added up to 100% after dissolving the ingredients and then boiled. The pH was adjusted to 6.2-6.6, and the nutrient medium was filtered through a paper filter. The medium was sterilized and tested for sterility by keeping in a thermostat at a temperature of 37°C for 3-5 days (Table 2).

Table 2. Composition of nutrient medium for bifidobacteria cultivation.

No	Components	Nutrient Media	
		No. 1	No. 2
1	Peptone, g	5.0 ± 0.01	6.0 ± 0.02
2	Yeast autolysate, g	2.0 ± 0.03	3.0 ± 0.01
3	Glucose, g	1.0 ± 0.01	1.2 ± 0.01
4	Sucrose, g	1.0 ± 0.02	1.2 ± 0.03
5	Cystine, g	0.01 ± 0.01	0.02 ± 0.01
6	Ammonium Citrate, g	0.2 ± 0.01	0.3 ± 0.02
7	Potassium phosphate monosubstituted, g	0.2 ± 0.03	0.3 ± 0.02
8	Magnesium sulfate, g	0.02 ± 0.001	0.03 ± 0.002
9	Manganese sulfate, g	0.005 ± 0.001	0.006 ± 0.003
10	Sodium phosphate disubstituted, g	0.2 ± 0.01	0.3 ± 0.01
11	Microbiological agar, g	0.2 ± 0.02	2.0 ± 0.01
12	Sodium Citrate, g	0.5 ± 0.01	0.7 ± 0.04
13	Distilled water, cm ³	up to 100	up to 100

Thus, as a result of the studies the components of nutrient media were determined. They are sources of nitrogen, vitamins, carbohydrates, minerals, and the protein component for lactic acid bacteria.

The study of the growth properties of the nutrient medium for lactobacilli was the next stage of our work. Moreover, studies have shown that all samples of experimental nutrient media for cultivation of lactobacilli provided a higher level of accumulation of *Lactobacillus* spp. compared to the control nutrient medium (Table 3).

Table 3. Growth properties of culture media for the cultivation of *Lactobacillus* spp. (here and then n=3).

<i>Lactobacillus</i> strain	Nutrient medium	Growth, CFU/cm ³
<i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i> 7	No. 1	7.1 ± 0.23 × 10 ⁷
	No. 2	6.7 ± 0.23 × 10 ^{8*}
	No. 3	8.8 ± 0.19 × 10 ^{8*}
	No. 4	8.9 ± 0.17 × 10 ^{10*}
	control	6.3 ± 0.21 × 10 ⁷
<i>Lactobacillus casei</i> 27	No. 1	7.3 ± 0.20 × 10 ^{7*}
	No. 2	8.9 ± 0.24 × 10 ^{7*}
	No. 3	10.7 ± 0.21 × 10 ^{8*}
	No. 4	10.8 ± 0.19 × 10 ^{9*}
	control	7.5 ± 0.23 × 10 ⁶
<i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i> 7-317	No. 1	7.1 ± 0.19 × 10 ^{7*}
	No. 2	7.7 ± 0.24 × 10 ^{8*}
	No. 3	8.7 ± 0.18 × 10 ^{8*}
	No. 4	9.4 ± 0.22 × 10 ^{9*}
	control	6.9 ± 0.21 × 10 ⁶

*p<0.05 compared to control

The most intensive growth of *Lactobacillus* spp. was observed on experimental nutrient media No. 3 and No. 4. Thus, the growth rate of *Lactobacillus plantarum* 7 was 8.8 ± 0.19 × 10⁸ CFU/cm³ on experimental nutrient medium No. 3 and 8.9 ± 0.17 × 10¹⁰ on medium No. 4. This index was 6.3 ± 0.21 × 10⁷ CFU/cm³ on a control nutrient medium. A *Lactobacillus casei* 27 culture also grew better on experimental nutrient media No. 3 and No. 4. A growth rate was 10.7 ± 0.21 × 10⁸ CFU/cm³ and 10.8 ± 0.19 × 10⁹ CFU/cm³ on listed media (7.5 ± 0.23 × 10⁶ CFU/cm³ on control medium). A *Lactobacillus plantarum* 7-317 bacteria grew on developed nutrient media No. 3 and No. 4. Active accumulation of a significant number of viable cells was observed within the range of 8.7 ± 0.18 × 10⁸ CFU/cm³ and 9.4 ± 0.22 × 10⁹ CFU/cm³ respectively (6.9 ± 0.21 × 10⁶ CFU/cm³ on control medium). It should be noted that experimental nutrient medium No. 4 is the best option for cultivation of *L. plantarum* 7, *L. casei* 27, *L. plantarum* 7-317 lactobacilli cultures compared to other experimental and control media. It should be noted that experimental nutrient medium No. 4 is the best option for cultivation of *L. plantarum* 7, *L. casei* 27, *L. plantarum* 7-317 lactobacilli cultures compared to other experimental and control media.

The next stage of our work was to test the growth properties of the developed media for bifidobacteria *Bifidobacterium adolescentis* 17 and *B. adolescentis* 17-316 (Table 4).

Table 4. Growth properties of culture media for the cultivation of *Bifidobacterium* spp.

Nutrient medium	Growth, CFU/cm ³	
	<i>Bifidobacterium adolescentis</i> 17	<i>Bifidobacterium adolescentis</i> 17-316
No. 1	4.5 ± 0.22 × 10 ⁶	5.5 ± 0.19 × 10 ⁶
No. 2	5.7 ± 0.27 × 10 ^{7*}	5.7 ± 0.27 × 10 ^{7*}
No. 3	6.4 ± 0.23 × 10 ^{8*}	5.9 ± 0.23 × 10 ^{8*}
control	4.1 ± 0.19 × 10 ⁶	5.2 ± 0.17 × 10 ⁶

Studies have shown that nutrient medium No. 3 is optimal for the cultivation of microorganism *B. adolescentis* 17 and *B. adolescentis* 17-316. It provides a high yield of a bacterial mass of these bifidobacteria in the range of 6.4 ± 0.23 × 10⁸ and 5.9

$\pm 0.23 \times 10^8$ respectively. The next step in our work was to determine the optimal conditions for the cultivation of lactobacteria and bifidobacteria. The conditions under which microorganisms are cultivated have played a decisive role in their biological activity manifestation, including those used in the composition of probiotic preparations (Ram & Chander, 2003). The acidity and alkalinity of nutrient media are the most important properties of these media that influences on the life processes of microorganisms. It is expressed as the negative logarithm of hydrogen ions concentration (pH). The pH value influences on a dissociation of acids in the nutrient medium, solubility of nutrients and their transport into the cell, activity of enzymes etc. Thus, this factor determines the possibility of the growth of microorganisms on a nutrient medium that is optimal by its composition (Waddington et al., 2010). We have studied a growth of *L. plantarum* 7, *L. casei* 27, *L. plantarum* 7-317, *B. adolescentis* 17 and *B. adolescentis* 17-316 strains at various pH and temperature. It was found that there is an inverse correlation between the pH value of nutrient medium and the number of lactic acid bacteria that grow on it. A high pH value accompanied by the presence of a small number of these bacteria (Table 5).

Table 5. Effect of nutrient medium Ph on the growth of lactic acid bacteria.

pH	Growth, $\times 10^6$ CFU/cm ³	
	Control	Experiment
5.5	13.7 \pm 0.15	14.1 \pm 0.14
6.0	14.4 \pm 1.16	14.5 \pm 1.10
6.5	23.2 \pm 1.70	24.0 \pm 1.16*
7.0	24.3 \pm 1.30	25.0 \pm 1.14*
7.5	22.5 \pm 1.10	23.0 \pm 1.01*
8.5	10.1 \pm 0.50	12.0 \pm 4.10

As a result of statistical analysis, the most intensive growth of microorganisms was observed on nutrient medium at pH 6.5-7.5. Thus, the maximum accumulation of probiotic cultures was observed at pH 7.0 (control – 24.3 \pm 1.30 $\times 10^6$ CFU/cm³; experiment – 25.0 \pm 1.14 $\times 10^6$ CFU/cm³), and the number of microbial cells was 14.1 \pm 0.14 $\times 10^6$ CFU/cm³ and 14.5 \pm 1.10 $\times 10^6$ CFU/cm³ at pH 5.5-6.0 respectively. The lowest concentration of microorganism 12.0 \pm 4.10 $\times 10^6$ CFU / cm³ was observed at pH 8.5. We also studied the optimal temperature conditions for the cultivation of lactic acid bacteria.

The cultivation of lactic acid bacteria was carried out at temperatures from 30°C to 50°C (Table 6). Studies have shown that the best growth of lactic acid bacteria was at a temperature of 37.0-40.0 \pm 0.5°C. Growth of cultures was low and ranged from 9.00 \pm 0.87 to 1.20 \pm 0.05 $\times 10^6$ CFU/cm³ at a temperature of 30.0, 45.0 and 50.0 \pm 0.5°C. Consequently, an optimal pH value is 7.0, and incubation temperature of an inoculum is 37.0 \pm 0.5°C at different cultivation modes of lactic acid bacteria. The results of these studies make it possible to improve the cultivation technology lactobacilli and bifidobacteria that based on the optimal growth substrate. This will allow to apply the obtained results for a manufacture of innovative probiotic preparations.

Table 6. Effect of temperature on the growth of lactic acid bacteria.

Temperature, °C	Growth, $\times 10^6$ CFU/cm ³	
	Control	Experiment
30.0 \pm 0.5	14.5 \pm 1.77	6.25 \pm 0.15*
37.0 \pm 0.5	24.7 \pm 0.36	25.00 \pm 0.34*
40.0 \pm 0.5	23.5 \pm 0.92	24.00 \pm 0.87*
45.0 \pm 0.5	8.05 \pm 0.92	9.00 \pm 0.87
50.0 \pm 0.5	9.05 \pm 0.06	1.20 \pm 0.05

Conclusion

A nutrient medium for the cultivation of lactobacilli is proposed. A new nutrient medium has the following composition: lactose – 10.0-15.0%, sucrose – 5.0-10.0%, cystine – 0.01%, skim milk – up to 100.0%. The nutrient medium optimal for the accumulation of bifidobacteria had the following composition of components (mass %): peptone – 7.0 \pm 0.01, yeast autolysate – 4.0 \pm 0.01, glucose – 1.5 \pm 0.02, sucrose – 1.5 \pm 0.01, cystine – 0.03 \pm 0.01, ammonium citrate – 0.4 \pm 0.03, potassium phosphate monosubstituted – 0.4 \pm 0.02, magnesium sulfate – 0.04 \pm 0.002, manganese sulfate – 0.007 \pm 0.002, sodium phosphate disubstituted – 0.4 \pm 0.02, microbiological agar – 2.5 \pm 0.04, sodium citrate – 0.8 \pm 0.05, and distilled water – up to 100%. We determined that the optimal temperature for cultivation of lactic acid bacteria is 37.0 \pm 0.5°C, and the pH value of the nutrient medium is 6.5-7.5.

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