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## Abstract

Purpose: To optimize the process parameters for the encapsulation of Clostridium tyrobutyricum (Ct) and to determine its in vitro characteristics.

Methods: The process parameters, including the concentration of the wall and hardening material, Ct to gelatin ratio and hardening time, were studied by single factor analysis, while optimization was performed by orthogonal experimental design for the encapsulation rate of Ct.

Results: Optimal conditions exhibited by orthogonal experimental design at a 92.17 % encapsulation rate with a viable count of  $9.61 \pm 0.06$  IgCFU/g were: 6 % modified starch, 3 % sodium alginate, and 2 % CaCl<sub>2</sub> at a Ct to gelatin ratio of 1:1 with a hardening time of 30 min. The survival rates of encapsulated Ct were higher than free Ct in simulated gastric (6.22 %) and intestinal juices (15.55 %). Reduction in viable counts of Ct at 90 °C were higher for free cells (44.76 %) than encapsulated cells (28.09 %) after 30 min of heat treatment. Correspondingly, encapsulation boosted the capacity of Ct to withstand the strong acidic conditions of the stomach and improved the storage properties of Ct.

Conclusion: The results suggested that extrusion is a good technique for the encapsulation of Ct, as it enhances the viability of Ct during their transit through the gastrointestinal tract. Furthermore, encapsulation is favorable for Ct if planned for use in formulations where high temperature treatment is required.

Keywords: Encapsulation, Acid resistance, Bile salt tolerance, Clostridium tyrobutyricum, Extrusion, In vitro simulation, Temperature tolerance

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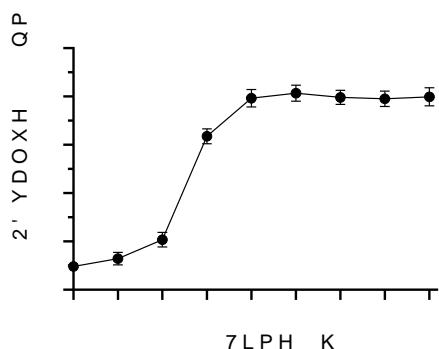
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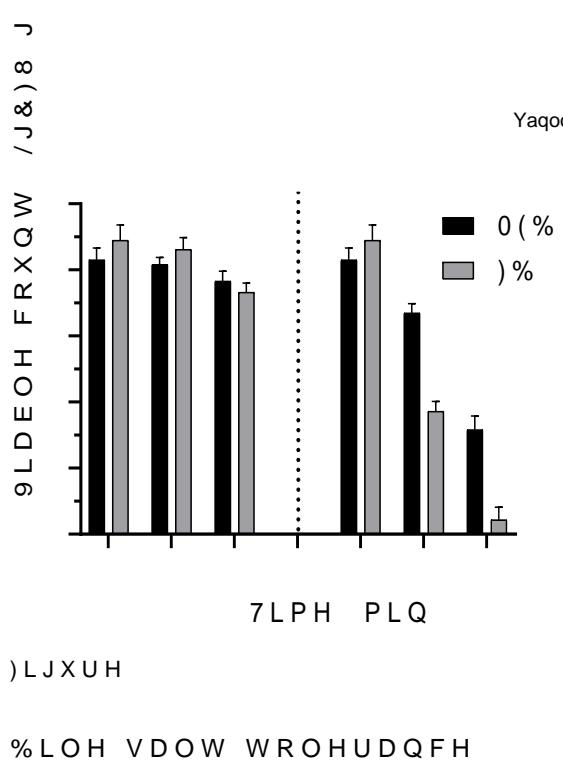
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Acknowledgement  
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Bifidobacteria Bifidobacterium bifidum  
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Lactobacillus

Ct

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