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OPEN ACCESS Pakistan Journal of Nutrition ISSN 1680-5194 DOI: 10.3923/pjn.2017.645.650 Research Article  
[Characterization of the Antimicrobial Activity of Lactic Acid Bacteria Isolated from Buffalo Milk in West Sumatera \(Indonesia\) Against Listeria monocytogenes](#) 1Sri Melia, 1Endang Purwati, 1Yuherman, 1Jaswandi, 1Salam N. Aritonang and 2Mangatas Silaen 1Department of Animal Science, Andalas University, West Sumatera, Indonesia 2Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical Faculty of Prima Indonesia University, North Sumatra, Indonesia Abstract  
 Background and Objective: Listeria monocytogenes is an important pathogenic bacteria in various cases of poisoning in the food industry due to its ability to grow in cold temperatures and to survive in freezing temperatures. Lactic acid bacteria have important probiotic attributes including their antimicrobial effect against this pathogen. Therefore, this study aimed to isolate lactic acid bacteria from buffalo milk and characterize its antimicrobial activity against Listeria monocytogenes. Materials and Methods: Buffalo milk was collected from four districts in West Sumatera, Indonesia and its composition analysed. A total of 88 lactic acid bacteria strains were isolated and grown at De Man Rogosa Sharpe Agar (MRSA). The strains were identified based on morphology (shape, size and colour) and their biochemical characteristics (catalase test and the fermentation type) and then screened for antimicrobial activity against L. monocytogenes. The species were further identified based on 16S rRNA gene sequence analysis. Results: As a result of isolation and identification, 19 strains of lactic acid bacteria were screened against L. monocytogenes, but only three isolates (A 3.2, A 3.3 and TD 7.2) showed high inhibition against L. monocytogenes. They were identified using 16S rRNA gene sequence analysis. Conclusion: The BLAST results of the identification procedure showed that the isolated bacteria from buffalo milk belonged to Lactobacillus fermentum strain L 23 (A 3.3), Lactobacillus fermentum strain 6704 (TD 7.2) and Lactobacillus oris strain J-1 (A 3.2). Key words: Lactic acid bacteria, buffalo milk, antimicrobial activity, 16S rRNA, inhibition zone and Listeria monocytogenes Received: April 17, 2017 Accepted: June 05, 2017  
 Published: July 15, 2017 Citation: Sri Melia, Endang Purwati, Yuherman, Jaswandi, Salam N. Aritonang and Mangatas Silaen, 2017. [Characterization of the antimicrobial activity of lactic acid bacteria isolated from buffalo milk in West](#)



**Sumatera (Indonesia) against *Listeria monocytogenes*.** Pak. J. Nutr., 16: 645-650. Corresponding Author: Sri Melia, Department of Animal Science, Andalas University, West Sumatra, Indonesia Tel: +62 8126761782 Copyright: © 2017 Sri Melia et al. This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the [creative commons attribution license](#), which permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. Competing Interest: The authors have declared that no competing interest exists. [Data Availability: All relevant data are within the paper and its supporting information files.](#)

**INTRODUCTION** Buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) are domesticated ruminants that could be an alternative milk source. Due to its high fat and protein contents, buffalo milk could be used to produce cheese, yoghurt and ice cream and thus make a significant contribution to the dairy industry and its specific sensory properties might contribute to increasing the demand for various milk products. Buffalo milk is composed of 84.25 g kg<sup>-1</sup> fat, 94.80 g kg<sup>-1</sup> non-fat solids, 39.68 g kg<sup>-1</sup> protein, 48 g kg<sup>-1</sup> lactose, 7.13 g kg<sup>-1</sup> ash, 0.164% acid and 826.60 g kg<sup>-1</sup> water and it has a pH of 6.371. Due to its lactose content, buffalo milk has the potential to grow lactic acid bacteria. Fresh milk might contain various types of microorganisms such as yeasts, moulds and bacteria, among which Lactic Acid Bacteria (LAB) are specifically recognized for producing lactic acid by fermenting milk sugar. Thus, lactic acid bacteria are presumed to be the most dominant bacteria in fresh milk, which may cause the pH of the milk to decrease due to their metabolism and thus provide a special environment that could prevent the proper growth of pathogenic bacteria<sup>2</sup>. As a result, lactic acid bacteria are classified as probiotic, particularly because they are antimicrobial, stomach-acid tolerant and safe to use<sup>3</sup> but bacteria classified as probiotic should also have the ability to produce antimicrobial substances that can suppress the growth of pathogenic enteric bacteria. Such substances include organic acids, hydrogen peroxide, diacetyl and bacteriocin<sup>4</sup>. In the last decade, *Listeria monocytogenes* has become an important pathogenic bacteria that has been implicated in various poisoning cases related [to the food industry](#) due to [its ability to grow at cold temperatures and survive freezing temperatures](#). *Listeria monocytogenes* is a gram-positive, spore-forming, cocci-shaped and intracellular pathogenic-type bacteria that can be found in monocytes and neutrophils<sup>5</sup>. Historically, this bacteria was classified in the genus *Listerella*, but in 1940, the generic name of this human and animal pathogen was changed to *Listeria*<sup>6</sup>. The optimum temperature for the growth of *L. monocytogenes* is 35-37°C but it can also grow between 1-5°C (psychrophilic temperature) and it is also resistant to Pasteurization (72°C for 15 sec) and can survive at a pH range of 4.3-9.47. This research was conducted to assess [the antimicrobial activity of lactic acid bacteria isolated from buffalo milk](#) against *L. monocytogenes*.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS** Materials: Buffalo milk was collected from four districts in West Sumatera, Indonesia (50 Kota, Agam, Tanah Datar and Solok). Samples were collected using sterile bottles and kept at a low temperature (8-10°C) during transport and prior to analysis. Methods Chemical composition: Chemical composition was determined following standard AOAC procedures<sup>8</sup>.

**Isolation and identification of lactic acid bacteria:** A total of 88 isolates were obtained: 22 isolates from 50 Kota, 21 isolates from Agam, 25 isolates from Tanah Datar and 20 isolates from Solok. LAB strains were cultured in De Man Rogosa Sharpe broth (Merck, Germany) and spread on sterile MRS agar (Merck, Germany) plates, which were incubated at 37°C in anaerobic conditions for 48 h. The morphologically distinctive and well-strained colonies were selected by streaking to obtain pure colonies and then transferred to new MRS agar plates. Then, the selected colonies, which were positively proven to be catalase-negative and gram-positive were inoculated on new media for identification<sup>9</sup>. The morphological characteristics, particularly shape, colour and size, of the LAB were observed<sup>10</sup> and Gram staining<sup>11</sup>, catalase testing<sup>12</sup> and fermentation typing were conducted for biochemical evaluation<sup>13</sup>. Antimicrobial activity: To determine the antimicrobial effects of the selected LAB against *L. monocytogenes* (EP01), the agar-well diffusion method was used according to previous researches<sup>14,15</sup> and a calliper was used to subsequently measure the obtained inhibition zone. The LAB strains were classified as bacteriocin producers when the wells formed an inhibitory zone<sup>16</sup> and the clear area around the test wells was used to indicate inhibitory activity<sup>17</sup>. Therefore, the diameters (mm) of these zones were measured and recorded. Identification using 16S rRNA: The lactic acid bacteria [species were further identified based on 16S rRNA gene sequence analysis](#). Genomic DNA from each strain was first extracted using the Extrap Soil DNA Kit Plus Ver. 2 and the 16S rRNA gene was amplified with the universal primers 27 F (5'-GAGTTTGATCCTGGCTAG-3'), 1525 R (5'-AGAAAGGAGGTGATCCAGCC-3'). The PCR amplification conditions were as follows: [initial denaturation at 95°C for 5 min, 40 cycles of denaturation at 94°C for 45 s each, annealing at 56°C for 1 min, extension at 72°C for 1 min and 30 sec and final extension at 72°C for 7 min](#). The reaction mixtures were subsequently cooled to 4°C and the PCR products were analysed by agarose gel electrophoresis with 1% agarose. Subsequently, the PCR amplicons (approximately 1.5 kb) were purified with a Fast Gen Gel/PCR Extraction Kit (Nippon Genetics, Germany) according to manufacturer's instructions and the sequenced data were analysed and processed using BioEdit software. The sequences were compared with the sequences available in GenBank using BLAST (the Basic Local Alignment Search Tool) and all sequences were aligned using ClustalW (<http://clustalW.ddbj.nig.ac.jp>).

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION** The chemical composition of buffalo milk from some districts in West Sumatera are listed in Table 1, the buffalo milk was found to contain 7.22-7.83% protein, 7.18-7.88% fat and 80.62-81.03% moisture with a pH range from 6.06-6.39. The moisture and fat contents found in this study were similar to those of swamp buffalo milk (81% moisture and 7.0%) fat<sup>18</sup>. The pH range obtained in this study was lower than that reported for buffalo milk from the region of Cantal, France (pH 6.81)<sup>19</sup>. Total [lactic acid bacteria in buffalo milk](#): As [can be seen in Table 2](#), the total number of [lactic acid bacteria from Agam and Tanah Datar](#) was higher than that of 50 Kota and Solok. Moreover, the total LAB from this study was higher than that reported from Bulgarian Murrah buffalo (3.22×10<sup>5</sup> cmG3)<sup>20</sup>. The support *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella* Spp., and *Staphylococcus aureus*", Foodborne Pathogens and Disease, 02/2010">of LAB in dairy products microbiota can be viewed applicable *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella* Spp., and *Staphylococcus aureus*", Foodborne Pathogens and Disease, 02/2010">since these microorganisms are naturally show *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella* Spp., and *Staphylococcus aureus*", Foodborne Pathogens and Disease, 02/2010">in milking and processing environment, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella* Spp., and *Staphylococcus aureus*", Foodborne Pathogens and Disease, 02/2010">facilitating the contamination of raw milk and processed products<sup>21</sup>. The LAB counts from raw milk were 8×10<sup>5</sup> C22. Lactic acid bacteria strains from buffalo milk: As can be seen in Table 3. Eighty-eight LAB strains from buffalo milk were evaluated in this study and 19 were screened for antimicrobial activity against *Listeria monocytogenes*. In general, such strains were rod-shaped, gram-positive, 1-4 mm in size, beige and catalase-negative. In addition, they did not show the ability to form CO<sub>2</sub> and were thus classified as homofermentative; if bacteria can produce CO<sub>2</sub>, they are classified as heterofermentative. Homofermentative LAB have mostly been found in cow milk, cheese and Table 1: Composition of buffalo milk fermented milk<sup>23</sup>. Other reports have found homofermentative LAB strains in milk including *Streptococcus cremoris* and *S. lactis*<sup>24</sup>. Previous researchers successfully isolated *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *L. delbrueckii* ssp. *bulgaricus*, *Lactococcus lactis* ssp. *cremoris*, *L. lactis* ssp. *lactis* and *Streptococcus thermophilus*<sup>25</sup>, *Bifidobacterium* spp. and *Lactobacilli* spp.<sup>9</sup>, *Lactococcus lactis*<sup>26</sup>. Lactic acid bacteria were isolated from various types of buffalo milk along with *Lactobacillus plantarum*, *L. brevis*, *L. pentosus* and *Lactococcus lactis*<sup>27,28</sup>. In addition, *Lactococcus lactis*, which can produce lactic acid, which is 57.61% of the lactic acid bacteria found in buffalo milk from North Sumatera along<sup>28</sup>. Antimicrobial activity against *Listeria monocytogenes*: As shown in Table 4 of the 19 screened LAB strains from buffalo milk, 3 were found to have higher inhibitory activity against *L. monocytogenes*, i.e., strain A 3.3 (19 mm) and A 3.2 (18 mm) from Agam and strain TD 7.2 (19 mm) from Tanah Datar. Martinez and de Martinis<sup>29,30</sup> reported that *Lactobacillus sakei*, which produces bacteriocin, could decrease *L. monocytogenes* at 8°C. The [bacteriocin of \*L. mesenteroides\* 11 partially inhibited \*L. monocytogenes\* at 8°C but at 15°C, it was unable to prevent the growth of the pathogen](#). Amezcua and Brashears<sup>31</sup> found that the strain



identified as *Pediococcus acidilactici* was a possible bacteriocin producer with antilisterial activity. Some of the studied LAB have antimicrobial activity against *L. monocytogenes* and probiotic potential<sup>32,33</sup>; the LAB from Dadih Solok could inhibit *L. monocytogenes* given its 8-14-mm clear zone<sup>34</sup>. Molecular identification using 16S rRNA\*\*\*: The isolates were molecularly identified [by amplifying and sequencing the 16 S rRNA genes and comparing the results to the database of known 16S rRNA sequences. The BLAST results of the identification procedure showed that the isolated bacteria belonged to](#) *Lactobacillus fermentum* strain L 23 (A 3.3), *Lactobacillus fermentum* strain 6704 (TD 7.2) and *Lactobacillus oris* strain J-1 (A 3.2). According to Pascual et al.<sup>35</sup>, *Lactobacillus fermentum* strain L 23 produces bacteriocins and it is heat-stable with a low-molecular-mass District Water (%) Fat (%) Protein (%) pH 50 Kota Agam Tanah datar Solok 81.44±1.17 7.18±0.09 7.22±0.39 6.06±0.04 80.62±0.93 7.34±0.50 7.57±0.21 6.39±0.25 80.48±1.12 7.73±0.22 7.23±0.76 6.10±0.02 81.03±1.91 7.88±0.98 7.83±0.19 6.08±0.03 Value represent Mean±SD, n = 3 Table 2: Total lactic acid bacteria of buffalo milk District Total LAB (1×10<sup>6</sup> CFU/g) 50 Kota 3.0±0.820 Agam 190.0±30.51 Tanah datar 257.0±8.540 Solok 24.0±34.04 Table 3: Morphological and biochemical characteristic of the LAB Characteristic

District Strain of LAB Morphology ----- Form  
Gram stain Size Color Catalase test Biochemical ----- Fermentatif type 50  
Kota P 1.1 P 1.2 P 3.1 P 3.5 Rod + Rod + Rod + Rod + 1 mm 1 mm 2 mm 4 mm Cream - Cream - Cream - Cream -  
Homo fermentatif Homo fermentatif Homo fermentatif Homo fermentatif Agam A 1.2 A 3.1 A 3.2 A 3.3 A 3.4 Rod + Rod  
+ Rod + Rod + Rod + 2 mm 2 mm 3 mm 3 mm Cream - Cream - Cream - Cream - Homo fermentatif  
Hetero fermentatif Hetero fermentatif Homo fermentatif Homo fermentatif Tanah Datar TD 2.2 TD 2.3 TD 3.1 TD 3.2 TD  
6.1 TD 6.3 TD 7.1 TD 7.2 Rod + Rod + Rod + Rod + Rod + Rod + Rod + Rod + 3 mm 1 mm 1 mm 1 mm 3 mm 3 mm  
5 mm 1 mm Cream - Cream - Cream - Cream - Cream - Cream - Cream - Homo fermentatif Homo fermentatif  
Homo fermentatif Homo fermentatif Homo fermentatif Homo fermentatif Homo fermentatif Hetero fermentatif Solok  
S1.1 S1.3 Rod + Rod + 5 mm 3 mm Cream - Cream - Homo fermentatif Homo fermentatif Table 4: Antimicrobe activity  
of LAB strains against *Listeria monocytogenes* No. District Strain of LAB Inhibition zone (mm) 1 50 Kota P 1.1 17 2 P 1.2  
17 3 P 3.1 12 4 P 3.5 14 5 Agam A 1.2 17 6 A 3.1 14 7 A 3.2 18 8 A 3.3 19 9 A 3.4 15 10 Tanah TD 2.2 17 11 Datar TD  
2.3 15 12 TD 3.1 12 13 TD 3.2 15 14 TD 6.1 14 15 TD 6.3 15 16 TD 7.1 15 17 TD 7.2 19 18 Solok S1.1 11 19 S1.3 11  
Value represent Mean±SD, n = 3 (<7000-Da) peptide. Yavuzdurmaz and Sebnem<sup>36</sup> reported that *Lactobacillus*  
*fermentum* showed positive fermentation results for xylose, ribose, arabinose, melibiose, raffinose, galactose, maltose,  
sucrose, fructose and lactose; the fermentation result for *Lactobacillus oris* strain J-1 included ribose, arabinose,  
trehalose, melibiose, raffinose, galactose, maltose, sucrose, fructose and lactose. [According to the classification, these](#)  
[biochemical characteristics indicate that the bacteriocin produced by](#) *Lactobacillus fermentum* strain L 23 [belongs to the](#)  
[class II lactic-acid bacterium](#) bacteriocins<sup>37</sup>. Finally, the PCR products were sequenced and analysed using the basic  
local alignment search tool (BLAST, <http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>). CONCLUSION Isolation and identification resulted in  
88 strains of LAB from buffalo milk, which were mostly characterized as rod-shaped, gram-positive, catalase-negative,  
homo-fermentative and heterofermentative. Of the isolates, only three (A 3.3, A 3.2 and TD 7.2) showed high inhibition  
against *Listeria monocytogenes* and were identified as *Lactobacillus fermentum* L23 (A 3.3), *Lactobacillus fermentum*  
6704 (TD 7.2) and *Lactobacillus oris* strain J-1 (A 3.2). ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS This research was funded by the  
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