

***Saccharomyces Cerevisiae* Used As Probiotic: Strains Characterization And Cell Viability**

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Abstract: The assay aimed to evaluate the cell viability of commercial yeast strains for bakery purpose in comparison to a selected strain (Yea-Sacc®¹⁰²⁶, Alltech®) indicated as a probiotic to be added to animal feed, promising yield gains. The objective of this first study was to check the number of viable cells, once the indicated product to be classified as probiotic needs to provide live cells. We tested the viability of one commercial probiotic strain (Yea-Sacc®¹⁰²⁶) in comparison to four bakery commercial yeast. Our results showed a low viability of the probiotic *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, which was 7.7 % and the bakery yeasts around 35 % of viable cells. The sustainability calls for alternative sources for animal feeding and the use of microorganisms is very welcome in the livestock chain, provided that the product presented has the characteristics inherent to it.

Keywords: animal diet, livestock improvement, yeast

I. Introduction

Probiotics are defined as live microorganisms with a positive effect on the host, once ingested. Such microorganisms are being studied for decades and due to the high resistance to anti-micro biotic substances they are used as alternative treatments for gastrointestinal disorders or its prevention. Nowadays, major species used are *Saccharomyces boulardii* and *S. cerevisiae* yeasts. Due to the risk of antibiotic use in large amounts and excessive doses, several laboratories and research centers are investing on probiotic, stimulated by the WHO (World Health organization). Recently a research showed a *S. cerevisiae* strain isolated from sugar-cane cachaça was effective on the mice protection against challenge tests with intestinal pathogens [1]. França and Rigo [2] related a wide range of live yeast used as probiotic additives in the control of rumen standards, used on evaluation of ruminants nutrition, area which *S. cerevisiae* is the major product used for the last 60 years favoring animal digestion.

Other authors [3] presented results on using live yeast as additives on animal nutrition, market that triplicates on the last 10 years in the USA. Once the yeast cells are not a natural host, yeast cells do not adhere to the intestine epithelium are carried over the gastrointestinal tract with the bolus, decreasing the pressure exercised by pathogenic microorganisms present [4].

Therefore, not all commercialized products have all characteristics needed to be used as therapeutic alternative: minimum number of viable cells; ability to be storage and reactivated, essential conditions for a good effect as probiotic on gastrointestinal tract [5]. The loss of viability on microorganisms populations, presented as additives in commercial food are related to physical conditions as pH, temperature, osmotic pressure, applied to the food conservation procedures [6,7].

In this work, we used a commercial probiotic *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Yea-Sacc®¹⁰²⁶ (Alltech®) characterized as a live culture of *S. cerevisiae*, 1026 strain, authorized by the European Union (EC No. 886/2009) as additives for horse nutrition in comparison to four bakery yeast commonly commercialized.

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The yeast strains used were lyophilized commercial yeast for bakery Commercial brands: Pamix, Fleischmann, Dr. Oetker and fresh yeast brand Mauri in comparison to Yea-Sacc®¹⁰²⁶. Yeast cells dilutions were done on saline buffer (0.85% NaCl) sterilized and the samples received viability dye methylene blue solution and rest for 5 minutes. One drop was placed into a Neubauer Chamber and the viable cells were counted, as shown on figure 1. Viable cells turn out blue. Dead yeast cells - white or transparent. All strains were counted in three replicates.



Figure 1. *S. cerevisiae* view at an optical microscope, 40 X increased. White cells: non-viable; Blue cells: viable or live cells.

The commercial yeast (Yea-Sacc®¹⁰²⁶) was submitted to serial dilutions and inoculated in YEPD solid medium. Petri dishes were kept at 28 °C and the colonies counting was done.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The viability cells test, based upon blue dyeing of viable cells is presented on table 1, showing the percentage of live cells counted, for each *S. cerevisiae* strain used.

Table 1. Viable cells identified by methylene blue dye procedure. All tested *Saccharomyces* are commercial brands for bakery purpose, except Yea-Sacc®¹⁰²⁶

Yeast	non-viable cells	live cells	viability%
Yea Sacc 1026	6,0 X10 ⁸	5,0X10 ⁷	7,69
Pamix	1,2 X10 ⁹	1,4X10 ⁹	53,84
Fleischmann	4,8X 10 ⁷	2,1X10 ⁷	30,43
Dr. Oetker	3,1X10 ⁷	2,1X10 ⁷	40,38
Mauri	8,9X10 ⁷	1,2X10 ⁷	13,19

The commercial yeast sold as probiotic show lowest cell viability in comparison to bakery yeast. Similar results were obtained by MARTINS *et al.*[5], using yeast from alcohol industry in comparison to a probiotic used in the livestock market. Inoculation in YEPD, an specific media for yeast was done to assure the low viability of the commercial probiotic. The growth on specific media presented a total count of 9.3X10⁵ UCF (Unit colony forming), lower than the commercial label for probiotic product and besides that, showed more than one specie growing, with very different visual morphology.

With such results, we cannot assure the efficiency of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* in livestock feeding; once the probiotic needs to be “alive” and the introduction of *S. cerevisiae* dead cells can also increase the production once yeast offers protein and micronutrients to enrich the food [8]. Arcos-Garcia *et al.*[9] published the inconsistency on the data collected due to the interactions between yeasts and forage offered to animals. These authors also showed the addition of two commercial probiotic *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Yea-Sacc¹⁰²⁶ and Levucell) did not improve the digestibility or fermentation process in the animal’s diet.

Yanbo and Zirong [10] reported the survival, weight gain and nutrient use for some animals supplemented with probiotics showed results dependent on the probiotic used.

For fishery and sea food, research suggest the inclusion of live microorganisms as *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* on the feed formulation, improving the performance and nutrient use on the diet [11] therefore, to assure such information, the viability of added cells must be evaluated.

Abdel-Tawwab [12] evaluated Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) and observed the physiological variables were directed affected by the diet. Feed with protein levels more than 45 %and yeast added (2.0g Kg⁻¹), better were the fish yield and decreased the mortality rate. Other groups working with pigs [13] reported the addition of 0.3% of yeast extract presented as probiotic additive on the diet. Among all probiotic used, *S. cerevisiae* showed less colonies growth in comparison to other yeast species, contradicting some papers.

IV. Conclusions

The commercial yeast (Yea-Sacc®¹⁰²⁶) presented as probiotic showed lower viability in comparison to commercial bakery yeasts. Therefore, the simple addition of yeast, dead or live, contributes to animal performance, bringing Complex B vitamins, selenium and other micronutrients. In this case, yeast should be presented as pre-biotic or a supplement to diet and not as a probiotic product.

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