Influence of osmoprotectants on survival of Salmonella Typhimurium strains during desiccation

Christensen, Nanna; van der Berg, Franciscus Winfried J; Risbo, Jens; Knøchel, Susanne

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Influence of osmoprotectants on survival of Salmonella Typhimurium strains during desiccation

Nanna Christensen*, Frans v.d. Berg, Jens Risbo* and Susanne Knochel*

*Department of Food Science, University of Copenhagen, Rolighedvej 30, 1958 Frederiksberg C, Denmark

Background
Outbreaks caused by Salmonella associated with low moisture products are commonly reported, and Salmonella is known to survive desiccation well. The environment incl. food contains naturally occurring osmoprotectants, which may increase the survival of Salmonella cells in low moisture environments.

Aim
To investigate the desiccation tolerance of S.Typhimurium strains of different origin, and the osmoprotective effect of extracellular added betaine, proline, carnitine, and sucrose.

Method

- 20µl of 10^6 CFU/ml cell solution prepared in 0.9% NaCl, saline added 0.1% v/v, peptone and 1%, % glucose (PSP-G) in 48 well plates in closed chambers at 22°C, 43%RH (Figure 1).
- Sampling was performed after resuscitation for 30 min in PSP and plating of appropriate dilutions on BHI (incubated at 37°C, 23 ± 1h).
- Reduction was calculated using Equation 1 and plotted against time for modelling.
- Sampling was performed after resuscitation for 30 min in PSP and plating of appropriate dilutions on BHI (incubated at 37°C, 23 ± 1h).
- Testing with osmoprotectants was performed with 10mM betaine, 50mM betaine, proline and carnitine, and 10%, % sucrose in PSP-G.

Equation 1: Reduction (CFU/ml) = log (N_t/N_0)
Equation 2: % Reduction = mean (Reduction day 14) / mean (Reduction day 14control) × 100

Results

Table 1: Reduction of seven S.Typhimurium strains after desiccation for 14 days at 22°C and 43%RH calculated using equation 1. The reduction on day 14 is shown as mean of five technical replicates ± standard deviation. One-way ANOVA test was performed to identify strains with significant higher reduction on day 14 compared with S.Typhimurium 364/87, as this strain was chosen as the one with the lowest reduction. S.Typhimurium C5 was chosen as the strain with the highest reduction based on the p-value from the one way ANOVA test (both strains are marked with red boxes).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. Typhimurium strains</th>
<th>Strains selected for testing with osmoprotectants</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Reduction day 14 [CFU/ml]</th>
<th>One way ANOVA p-values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S. Typhimurium 364/87</td>
<td>Lowest reduction</td>
<td>Chocolate</td>
<td>-3.18±0.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Typhimurium 364/87</td>
<td>Pig</td>
<td></td>
<td>-3.50±0.8</td>
<td>0.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. Typhimurium 4/74</td>
<td>Bovine</td>
<td></td>
<td>-6.65±2.0</td>
<td>0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. Typhimurium 224/87</td>
<td>Clinical</td>
<td></td>
<td>-5.75±1.2</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Typhimurium DT12</td>
<td>Clinical</td>
<td></td>
<td>-3.79±1.3</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Typhimurium 7/29</td>
<td>Clinical</td>
<td></td>
<td>-8.67±1.5</td>
<td>&lt;0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Typhimurium C5</td>
<td>Highest reduction</td>
<td>Mouse</td>
<td>-9.94±0.7</td>
<td>&lt;0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion

- S. Typhimurium strains tested varied in desiccation tolerance based on reduction (Table 1). S.Typhimurium 364/87 and S.Typhimurium C5 (marked with red) represented highest and lowest desiccation tolerance.
- Previous studies have demonstrated a positive effect of betaine, proline and carnitine on survival of Salmonella subjected to NaCl stress (Cairney et al. 1985a; Cairney et al. 1985b; Gutierrez & Csorka 1995). Here, desiccation tolerance increased for both strains investigated (364/87 and C5) with carnitine and, in particular, with sucrose (Figure 2A-B) while limited effect was seen for proline and betaine.
- Hardly any reduction was seen within the period with sucrose (Figure 2A-B).
- Sucrose and carnitine had a significant (p<0.05) positive effect on desiccation tolerance based on reduction on day 13 (Table 2).

Conclusion

- Desiccation tolerance differs within the same serovar.
- The presence of 10%, % sucrose and 50mM carnitine, respectively, increased the desiccation tolerance in that order for S.Typhimurium 364/87 and S.Typhimurium C5, with a very marked effect of sucrose.

References