Downloaded from jifro.ir on 2025-11-01

Effect of Lactobacillus plantarum and Lactobacillus delbrueckii subsp. bulgaricus on growth performance, gut microbial flora and digestive enzymes activities in Tor grypus (Karaman, 1971)

Mohammadian T.1*; Alishahi M.1; Tabandeh M.R.2; Ghorbanpoor M.3; Gharibi D.3

Received: June 2016 Accepted: August 2016

Abstract

In this study, two main probiotics (Lactobacillus plantarum and Lactobacillus delbrueckii subsp. bulgaricus) were isolated from the intestine of Tor grypus and their effects on growth performance, gut microbial flora and digestive enzymes activities (i.e., α-amylase, lipase, trypsin, chymotrypsin, and alkaline phosphatase) of *Tor grypus* (Karaman, 1971) were determined. Juveniles of T. grypus (n=480, weighing 45±10 g) were randomly divided into 4 equal groups (with 3 replications) and fed on diets containing 5×10⁷ cfu g⁻¹ of L. plantarum (G1), L. bulgaricus (G2), L. casei (G3) and a control diet (without probiotic) for 60 continuous days. Results showed that probiotic supplementations had generally significant effects on growth performance (p<0.05). The G2 group had the best effect on specific growth rate (SGR) and feed utilization efficiency in T. grypus. The digestive enzyme activities, on day 30 after feeding, significantly increased in G1 when compared with those in the control group (p<0.05). Significant changes in bacterial intestinal flora were observed in all probiotic groups compared with the control (p<0.05). Our results indicated that supplementation of isolated bacteria from the intestine of T. grypus (i.e., G2) can efficiently improve growth performance, intestinal microbiota and some digestive enzyme activities in juvenile T. grypus. Therefore, it can be isolated and used as a growth enhancer just like the commercial probiotics.

Keywords: *Tor gryp*us, Intestine lactobacilli, Growth performance, Digestive enzyme activity, Microbial flora.

¹⁻ Department of Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, Ahvaz, Iran

²⁻ Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, Ahvaz, Iran

³⁻ Department of Pathobiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, Ahvaz, Iran

^{*}Corresponding author's Email: tak.mohammadian@gamil.com

Introduction

Significant increase in production and optimizing profitability is one of the most important goals of modern aquaculture (Denev et al., 2009). During the past decades, the aquaculture industry developed due to the use of various fish species, application of intensive culture systems, and improved metabolic assimilation of dietary nutrients. The concept functional feeds formulated by probiotics is a novel idea to the aquaculture industry. The application of alternative probiotics an to therapeutics in aquaculture is not so new (Panigrahi et al., 2005), but the interest in such safe and high effective functions has been increased rapidly 1999). Various (Gatesoupe. microorganisms have been evaluated as probiotics in aquatic animals (Irianto and Austin, 2002; Vine et al., 2004; Kim and Austin, 2006; Yanbo and Zirong, 2006; Balcázar and Rojas-Luna, 2007; Balcázar et al., 2008; Mirbakhsh et al., 2013; Faeed et al., 2016); however lactic acid bacteria (LABs) are the most used probiotics in aquaculture (Nikoskelainen et al., 2001; Aly et al., 2008; Vendrell et al., 2008; Talpur et 2013). **Probiotics** al., are microorganisms that beneficially affect the health and survival of the host by selectively stimulating the growth of beneficial gastrointestinal microbial community (Merrifield et al., 2010a,b). The use of probiotics has also been suggested to be an alternative method to prevent and control various aquatic diseases by reducing pathogenic

organisms in the gastrointestinal tract of fish based on its antagonistic activity at the site of colonization on the host's intestine (Askarian et al., 2008; Korkeaaho et al., 2012). Pre-digestion of antinutritional factors in the diet. enhancement of non-specific immune responses (Ringø and Gatesoupe, 1998), increasing the fermentation products (Kim and Austin, 2006), improvement of mineral uptake and food absorption have been described as potential beneficial actions of probiotics (Verschuere et al., 2000). Probiotics stimulate appetite may digestive enzyme activities (Tovar-Ramırez et al., 2004).

There are several reports available regarding the beneficial influence of bacterial probiotics including live yeast, bifidobacters. Lactobacillus, feeding on growth performances and microbiota in some aquatic animals such as sea bass (Dicentrarchus labrax) (Tovar et al., 2002; Tovar-Ramırez et al., 2004), sea bream (Sparus aurata) (Suzer et al., 2008; Sáenz Rodrigáñez et al., 2009); beluga (Huso huso) and Persian sturgeon (Acipenser persicus) (Askarian et al., 2008); Tilapia (Oreochromis niloticus) (Standen et al., 2013); Rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss) (Korkea-aho et al., 2012; Ramos et al., 2013).

The *Tor grypus* is one of the most important fish species in southwest Asia (Iran, Iraq, Turkey and Syria) due to its excellent biological characteristics such as fast growth and high resistance against natural stressors, marketable taste, and high economic value.

Recently, this species has been introduced to Cyprinid farms and it has been accounted for among new species in poly-culture systems. Due to lack of information on Lactobacillus probiotic application in *Barbus* fish species, this study focused on investigating the effect of two LABs, Lactobacillus plantarum and Lactobacillus delbrueckii subsp. bulgaricus, isolated from the intestine of T. grypus and a standard Lactobacillus strain (Lactobacillus casei ATTC1608®) on growth indices, gut microbiota, and digestive enzymes (α-amylase, lipase, trypsin, chymotrypsin, and alkaline phosphatase) activities. Feeding habit metabolic flexibility and carbohydrate-protein utilizations was also measured in probiotics fed on T. grypus.

Materials and methods

Bacteria

Bacterial isolates were recovered using a previously described method (Irianto and Austin, 2002). Briefly, the entire digestive tracts of T. grypus captured from natural water resources Khuzestan province in Iran were removed and their contents were discarded. One gram of isolated digestive tract was homogenized in tissue grinders (Kontes, Vineland, NJ, USA) on ice and vigorously stirred into 9.0 ml of sterile saline (0.85% w/v). Dilutions at 10⁻² and 10⁻³ were prepared in fresh saline and 0.1 mL volumes were spread over duplicate plates of de Man, Rogosa and Sharpe (MRS) broth (BD Difco, Sparks, MD, USA), and incubated at 30°C for up to 3 days. Various numbers of colonies (20-30) were randomly taken and examined for inhibitory effects against the pathogenic A. hydrophila (AH04). The in vitro probiotic activity of each colony was determined using an agar diffusion method and its inhibition zone was measured as described by Ruiz et al. (1996). Finally, two LAB isolates with the highest inhibitory effects were selected for the following experiments. The L. plantarum and L.bulgaricus strains used in this study were primarily identified based on colony and cell Gram morphology, staining. biochemical characteristics, and 16S sequencing (GenBank rRNA gene number EU520326 accession and EU520327) (Mohammadian et al., 2016). These strains were grown for 30 h at 37°C in MRS broth (BD Difco. Sparks, USA). MD. L. casei ATTC1608® was purchased from Pasteur Institute of Iran.

Diet preparation

The control diet was formulated using the ingredients as subsequently described. The proximate analysis of the basal diet according to the AOAC method was: 37.1% for crude protein, 8.8% for crude lipid, 9.6% ash and 390 Kcal per 100 g for gross energy. Probiotic bacterial suspensions were prepared by centrifuging (15min., 4000 rpm) the 72h MRS broth cultured bacteria and resuspending them in PBS at the concentration of Macfarland grade 10 $(3\times10^9$ cfu mL⁻¹). The probiotic-enriched diets were prepared by gently spraying 16 mL of the prepared bacterial suspension on the control and mixing that part by part in a drum mixer to obtain a final probiotic concentration of 5×10^7 cfug⁻¹. They were packed in sterile propylene containers and stored at 4°C for viability studies for a week. This dose was chosen based on a previously recommended dose (Ghosh et al., 2003; al.. 2010). Merrifield et Final concentrations of probiotic bacteria in the diet were confirmed by suspending one gram of food in sterile PBS and the serial diluted food culturing suspension in MRS media. Counted bacteria in the food were almost the same as added probiotic bacteria in all batches of probiotic-enriched diets.

Experimental design

Juveniles of *T. grypus* (45±10 g) (Mean±SD) were transferred from a private cyprinid farm in Khuzestan Province, Iran, to the Lab of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz. The fish were acclimated for 2 weeks in indoor 300 L

fiberglass tanks and were fed with a standard diet (37.1% crude protein, 8.8% crude lipid, 9.6% ash, and 390 Kcal 100g⁻¹ gross energy). Then, after verifying the health status of the fish, they were distributed randomly into 12 aquaria at an initial density of 40 fish per aquarium and divided into four treatment groups, including control (n=40), L. plantarum (G1, n=40), L. bulgaricus (G2, n=40) and L. casei PTTC1608 (G3, n=40 as a positive control). Final concentration of each probiotic was about 5×10⁷cfu g⁻¹ of the diet (Table 1) (Nikoskelainen et al., 2001). The aquaria were supplied with water from external **Biofilteres** (Athmann, China), at a temperature of 25.9±1.2°C. The fish were fed with probiotic-contained diets for 60 days (twice a day). During the experimental period, the temperature ranged from 24.5 to 28.5°C, salinity was from 0.6±0.11 % and the dissolved oxygen was 5.9±1.3mgL⁻¹. On day 60, feeding with the experimental diet stopped and fish were fed with the control diet for 15 subsequent days. Daily feeding rate was about 2% of biomass.

Table 1: The experimental design and treatment setting up, applied in this study.

Treatment	G1	G2	G3	Control
Probiotics category	L. plantarum	L. bulgaricus	L. casei	Normal saline
Additive quantity (g kg-1)	5×10^7	5×10^7	5×10^7	0.0

Sampling and analysis of biological parameters

In order to determine growth performance, weight of the all fish in each treatment was measured at the beginning and 30 and 60 days from that. Growth performance at 30 and 60 days after the feeding was assessed in terms of Body Weight Growth (BWG), Specific Growth Ratio (SGR), Food Conversion Efficiency (FCE), Food Conversion Ratio (FCR) and Protein Efficiency Ratio (PER). The calculations were performed using the following formulae: BWG %= 100× (FBW-IBW)/ IBW, SGR%= $100 \times$ (ln¹FBW–lnIBW)/ FCR=feed days, (FBW-IBW), consumed/ FCE%=(FBW-IBW)/feed consumed×100. PER=IBW/protein intake. IBW is initial body weight, FBW is final body weight and days are days of feeding.

Digestive enzyme activity

To analyze the activity of digestive enzymes, on days 0, 30, and 60 following probiotic feeding and 15 days after treatment cessation, the fish were starved for 24 h and 3 fish were taken randomly. The intestine was dissected out under sterile conditions and at low temperature (around 4°C, near icepack). Then the samples were homogenized in a cold homogenizing buffer containing 50 mMTris-HCl, pH 8.0 (1:9v/w) followed by centrifugation (13.500 \times g; 30 min at 4°C). The supernatant was collected and kept at -80°C in small later determinations portions for (Rungruangsak-Torrissen et al., 2002; Rungruagsak-Torrissen and Fosseidengen, 2007).

Total protein content of the supernatant was assayed according to a (Bradford, 1976) method using bovine serum albumin as a standard. Trypsin activity was measured using N α -Benzoyl- L -

arginine ethyl ester (BAEE) as the substrate (Erlanger etal., 1961). Banzoyl-L-Tyrosine ethyl ester Ester (BTEE) was used as a substrate to determine enzyme activity of chymotrypsin (Hummel, 1959). The activity of alkaline phosphatase (AP) was measured using p-nitrophenyl phosphate (pNPP) as substrate (Bessey et al., 1946). α-amylase activity was measured according to the modified Bernfeld method as described previously (Areekijseree et al., 2004) using starch solution as substrate. specific activity Amylase was expressed as µmol maltose produced h⁻¹ mg protein⁻¹. Lipase activity was determined based on the measurement of fatty acids release due to enzymatic hydrolysis of triglycerides in stabilized emulsion of olive oil (Borlongan, 1990). Enzvme activities measured as the change in absorbance using a spectrophotometer (UV-2802S; Unico, Shanghai, China) and expressed as specific activity (U mg¹protein) (Sun et al., 2012).

One of the objectives of this study was to select a suitable modified for improving method nutrient utilization. Feeding habit and metabolic flexibility of carbohydrate-protein utilizations to reach this objective was measured in probiotics fed on T. grypus according to Hofer and Schiemer (1981) and Thongprajukaew et al. (2011). To do this, α-mylase/Trypsin ratio was calculated for each treatment.

^{1.} Natural logarithm having based 10

Microbiological aspects

Micro floral analyses were done as described by Merrifield et al. (2010). Total and Lactobacillus counts in fish intestines were determined by plate counting on TSA and MRS agar, respectively. The intestine of the experimental fish (5 fish from each treatment) was sampled just prior to starting on the experimental diets, and 30 and 60 days past the probiotic feeding and to determine the effect of feed cessation on parameters studied the supplemented diets were stopped and normal diets were used for two subsequent weeks (Nikoskelainen et al., 2003). This was done by aseptically dissecting the fish after overdose (1mL/L) of anesthesia (Benzocaine; Sigma-Aldrich Co., St Louis, MO, USA) and removing a portion of the intestine that was finely chopped. All steps were carries out under sterile conditions. One gram of the sample was homogenized with 9 ml of sterilized phosphate buffered saline (PBS, 0.1 M, pH=7.0) and stirred into 1 min in stomacher (Orugan Stomacher, Tokyo, Japan). Subsequently, dilution series were prepared from the homogenate and plated in the MRS and TSA media. The plates were incubated at 30°C for 48 h prior to counting. Confirmation of the isolated bacteria from the gut of T. grypus was done in the previous work by using morphological biochemical and molecular tests adopted from Bergey's manual of systematic bacteriology 1984; (Holt et al., Mohammadian et al., 2016).

Statistical analysis

All statistical tests were performed using SPSS software (SPSS, Release 16.0, SPSS, Chicago, IL, USA). Two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and general linear model was used to evaluate the effect of time and treatments on each variable. One-way analysis of ANOVA was done to determine the differences between different variables. Differences were considered statistically significant when p<0.05 and the results are expressed as mean \pm SD.

Results

Growth performance

The final weight, weight gain and specific growth rate of T. grypus significantly increased when they fed with diets containing L. bulgaricus and L. casei for 60 days (Table 2). The minimal FCR was observed in fish fed with dietary L. bulgaricus while the highest one was observed in the L. planturum fed groups (Table 2). There was a significant higher protein efficiency ratio (PER) in the L. bulgaricus fed group (G2) as compared with other treated and control groups (p<0.05). The lowest protein efficiency ratio was found in the fish fed L. planturum containing food (G1).

Table 2: Weight gain (WG), Specific Growth Ratio (SGR), Food Conversion Efficiency (FCE), Food Conversion Ratio (FCR) and Protein Efficiency Ratio (PER) of the T. grypus were fed with different experimental diets. Values are presented as mean \pm SD (n = 9). Different small alphabetic letters in the same column show significant differences (p<0.05) and values with a different capital letters in the same row are significantly different (p<0.05).

Indices	Treatment	Day 30	Day 60
WG%	G1	0.23±0.07 a,A	0.24±0.02 a,A
	G2	0.5±0.01 b,B	$0.38\pm0.01^{b,A}$
	G3	$0.54\pm0.04^{\ b,B}$	0.35±0.03 b,A
	Control	$0.26\pm0.08^{\mathrm{a,A}}$	0.21±0.02 a,A
	G1	0.19±0.05 a,A	0.19±0.01 a,A
SGR	G2	$0.42\pm0.009^{\ b,\ B}$	0.30±0.007 b,A
	G3	$0.42\pm0.03^{b,B}$	$0.27\pm0.03^{c,A}$
	Control	0.22±0.07 a,A	0.175±0.02 a,A
FCR	G1	2.03±0.71 b,A	1.8±0.2 c,A
	G2	0.52±0.02 a,A	0.63±0.02 a,A
	G3	$0.8\pm0.06~^{\rm a,A}$	1.22±0.13 b,B
	Control	1.09±0.39 a,A	1.39±0.17 b,A
FCE	G1	52.8±16.5 a,A	55.4±6.4 c,A
	G2	191.4±6.5 c,A	157.7±4.9 a,A
	G3	$124.13\pm10.4^{b,A}$	82.29±8.5 b,B
	Control	99.62±33.1 b,B	$72.37\pm9^{b,B}$
PER	G1	1.1±0.34 a,A	1.15±0.13 a, A
	G2	$3.9\pm0.13^{c,A}$	$3.27\pm0.1^{c,B}$
	G3	2.58±0.21 b,A	1.71±0.18 b,B
	Control	$2.07\pm0.69^{b,B}$	$1.50\pm0.18^{\mathrm{b,B}}$

Digestive enzyme activity

The specific activity of trypsin was increased during the 30 days of treatment in G₁ and G₂ groups, while its activity declined at the end of the experiment. The highest specific activity of trypsin was determined in G1 group on the 30th day of the experiment (2.23±0.88 U mg protein⁻¹) (Fig. 1). No significant differences were found among the other groups on days 30 or 60 of feeding (p>0.05). We observed no significant changes in trypsin activity 15 days after the probiotic treatment in all tested groups. The specific activity of α-amylase

increased in all experimental groups during the 30 days of probiotic feeding and thereafter slightly decreased until the end of the experiment. Its highest activity (2.3 ± 0.85 U mg protein⁻¹) was found in G1 group on day 30 of the experiment (Fig. 2). Treatment cessation had no effect on α -amylase activity in all tested groups.

The specific activity of AP was significantly elevated on the 30^{th} day of the feeding in G1 and G2 groups (p<0.05).

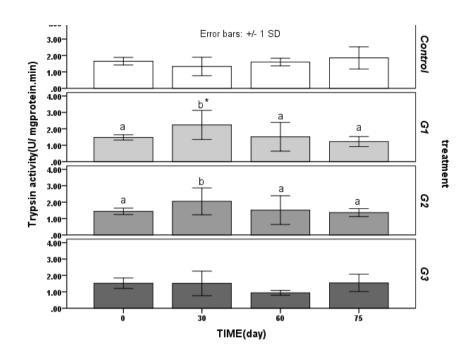


Figure 1: Specific activity of Trypsin of *Tor grypus* treated with G1 (*Lactobacillus planturum* ~ 5×10^7 cfu g⁻¹), G2 (*L. bulgaricus* ~ 5×10^7 cfu g⁻¹), G3 (*L. casei* ~ 5×10^7 cfu g⁻¹) and without probiotic (control). Data represent as mean±SD (n= 9). At each sampling time (column), asterisk shows significant difference (p<0.05) between treatments and control group. In the same row, different letters show significant difference (p<0.05) among different sampling time in each treatment.

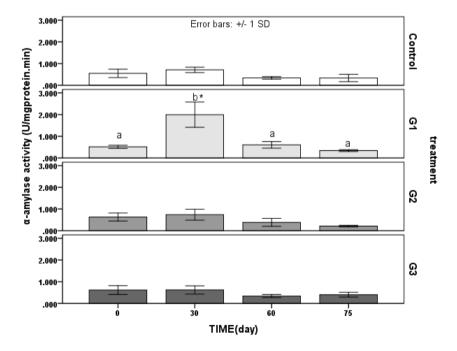


Figure 2: Specific activity of α -amylase of *Tor grypus* treated with G1 (*Lactobacillus planturum* ~5×10⁷ cfu g⁻¹), G2 (*L. bulgaricus* ~5×10⁷ cfu g⁻¹), G3 (*L. casei* ~5×10⁷ cfu g⁻¹) and without probiotic (control). Values is shown as means±standard error (n=9). Legends as mentioned in Fig. 1.

The highest activity of AP (214.9±81.09 U mg protein ⁻¹ min⁻¹) was observed on day 30 past the feeding in G1 group (Fig. 3). We found no changes in AP activity of all groups, 60 days after the probiotic feeding. Treatment cessation had no significant effect on activity of AP in all experimental groups.

Chymotrypsin activity was influenced by probiotic administration, so that on the 30th day of the test, G1 groups had the highest chymotrypsin activity and a significant difference with the control group (p<0.05). The results on the 60th day of the feeding showed that except G2 group, all experimental groups had declined chymotrypsin activity. 15 days after the chymotrypsin probiotic cessation. activity decreased in all experimental groups (Fig. 4).

Lipase activity had no significant (p>0.05) differences among the

probiotic-fed groups during the feeding period (Fig. 5).

The highest amylase to trypsin ratio (A/T ratio, p<0.05) was found in fishfed G1 diet on the 30th day of the treatment. No significant differences (p>0.05) were observed in A/T ratios among the other fish groups at other times of the experiment (Fig. 6).

Microbiological assay

Before the probiotic feeding, the fish had low detectable lactobacilli level in the entire intestines. The viable count of LABs significantly increased in a timedependent manner in the intestine of fish-fed G2 and G3 probioticscontained diets. Although fish-fed G1 supplemented diets increased viable counts 30 days after the probiotic feeding, the number of viable LABs in G1was significantly reduced on the 60th day of the experiment (Table 3).

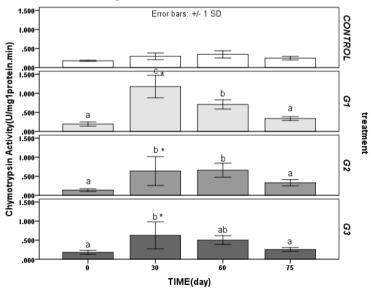


Figure 3: Specific activity of alkaline phosphates (AP) of *Tor grypus* treated with G1 (*Lactobacillus planturum* $\sim 5\times 10^7$ cfu g⁻¹), G2 (*L. bulgaricus* $\sim 5\times 10^7$ cfu g⁻¹), G3 (*L. casei* $\sim 5\times 10^7$ cfu g⁻¹) and without probiotic (control). Values is shown as means±standard error (n=9). Legends as mentioned in Fig. 1.

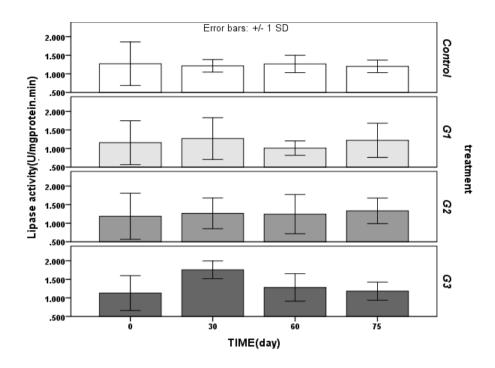


Figure 4: Specific activity of chymotrypsin of *T. grypus* treated with G1 (*Lactobacillus planturum* ~5×10⁷ cfu g⁻¹), G2 (*L. bulgaricus* ~5×10⁷ cfu g⁻¹), G3 (*. casei* ~5×10⁷ cfu g⁻¹) and without probiotic (control). Values is shown as means±standard error (n=9). Legends as mentioned in Fig. 1.

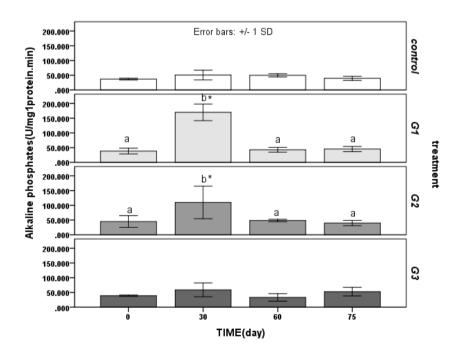


Figure 5: Specific activity of Lipase of *Tor grypus* treated with G1 (*Lactobacillus planturum* ~ 5×10^7 cfu g⁻¹), G2 (*L. bulgaricus* ~ 5×10^7 cfu g⁻¹), G3 (*L. casei* ~ 5×10^7 cfu g⁻¹) and without probiotic (control). Values is shown as means±standard error (n = 9). Legends as mentioned in Fig. 1.

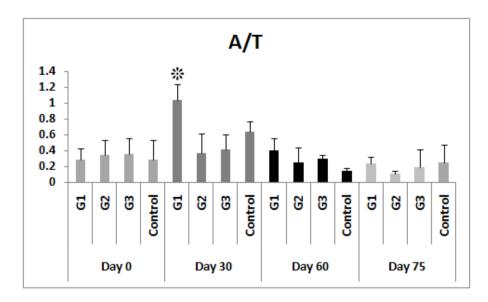


Figure 6: α-amylase/Trypsin ratio in *Tor grypus* treated with G1 (*Lactobacillus planturum* ~5×10⁷ cfu g⁻¹), G2 (*L. bulgaricus* ~5×10⁷ cfu g⁻¹), G3 (*L. casei* ~5×10⁷ cfu g⁻¹) and without probiotic (control). Values is shown as means±standard error (n = 9). Legends as mentioned in Fig. 1.

Table 3: Total viable counts, total lactic acid bacteria (LAB), from the digestive tract of *Tor grypus*. MRS: de Man, Rogosa and Sharpe.

	Groups	Time(0)	Time(30)	Time(60)	Time (75/withdraw)
MRS counts (Lactobacillus) 10 ² cfu mL ⁻¹	G1 G2 G3 Control	$\begin{array}{c} 2.3^{a,A}{\pm}16\\ 3.05^{a,A}{\pm}15\\ 2.51^{a,A}{\pm}16\\ 2.51^{a,A}{\pm}14 \end{array}$	7.63 ^{b,C} ±54 1.15 ^{c,C} ±67 11.3 ^{bc,B} ±60 3.05 ^{a,AB} ±15	6.02 ^{b,B} ±39.66 3.21 ^{c,D} ±75.66 10.4 ^{c,C} ±74.33 3.51 ^{a,B} ±17.6	5 ^{b,B} ±42 3 ^{c,B} ±55.66 5 ^{c,B} ±53 3.05 ^{a,C} ±74.33
Total counts 10 ⁵ cfu mL ⁻¹	G1 G2 G3 Control	48.3±8.38 ^{a,A} 2 ^{a,A} ±49 5.77 ^{a,A} ±53 5.56 ^{a,A} ±43	$9.45^{b,B}\pm114$ $17.6^{c,B}\pm150$ $19.6^{c,D}\pm191$ $4.58^{a,B}\pm57$	15.63 ^{b,C} ±170.66 6.24 ^{c,C} ±203 13.52 ^{d,D} ±217 4.5 ^{a,B} ±56.33	$20.6^{b,B}\pm102\\14.01^{c,B}\pm146\\12.58^{c,B}\pm141.33\\5.68^{a,C}\pm72.33$

Discussion

In this study, two LABs (*L. bulgaricus* and *L. planturum*) with probiotic action were isolated from the intestine of *T. grypus* and their effects on growth performance, gut microbial flora, and digestive enzyme activity were determined during a 60-day feeding. We also compared their properties with a standard LAB strain (*L. casei* ATTC1608®). Our results showed that *L. bulgaricus* improved the growth

performance of *T*. grypus more effectively when compared with other tested LABs. *T*. grypus fed L. bulgaricus supplemented diets showed higher growth performance, SGR, BWG, RGR, PER, FCR and FER in relation to other experimental groups. The promotion of the growth rate, FER and PER in L. bulgaricus-fed group occurred concomitantly with increasing protein turnover. This result was in agreement with those observed by (Gildberg et al., 1995; Byun et al., 1997; Ghosh et al., 2003; Liu et al., 2013). Different action of probiotics on growth performance of treated fish, found in our experiment support the suggestion that each probiotic strain may interact with the host in a different way (Bomba et al., 2002; Sun et al., 2012). It may also be explained by the greater adaptive capacity of bulgaricus in aquatic environments in comparison to L. plantarum and L. also It was found that casei. supplementation of food with L. bulgaricus could improve the feed utilization of T. grypus in higher rates than other probiotics. As a reason based on our supposition, intestinal bacteria shared in the decomposition nutrients, such as enzymes, minerals and vitamins, and thus, facilitate feed utilization, digestion and absorption. Growth indices such as BWG, PER, FCR and FER increased among T. grypus fed on a diet containing L. bulgaricus for 60 days. These findings are similar to that obtained by (Khattab et al., 2005; Macey and Coyne, 2005). It has been indicated that probiotics in feeds with a certain concentration display a growth promoting effect and can be beneficial for commercial fish production. In practical terms, this means that probiotic can decrease the amount of feed necessary for animal growth resulting in production cost available evidence reduction. The indicates gastrointestinal bacteria take part in the decomposition of nutrients, microorganisms provide the physiologically active materials, such as

enzymes, amino acids, and vitamins (Sugita et al., 1998; Waché et al., and thus. facilitate feed 2006). utilization and digestion. This may account for the enhanced FER and PER by dietary L. bulgaricus supplementation in the present study (Bairagi et al., 2002; Balcázar and Rojas-Luna, 2007; Bagheri et al., 2008). Another probable reason of this difference can refer to autochthonous characteristic of L. bulgaricus which may provide higher digestible nutrients for the host and digests higher dietary protein/amino acids when compared to the allochthonous bacteria like L. casei. Considering these findings, different concluded that **LABs** especially L. bulgaricus isolated from intestine of T. grypus can improve the performance ofgrowth juvenile T. grypus when administrated as a food additive. Such probiotics are be used recommended to as commercial growth promoter facilitate extensive culture of T. grypus in future.

Administration of probiotics isolated from the gut of T. grypus had effective action on the activities of different digestive enzymes. On day 30 of the probiotic feeding, the specific activities of trypsin, chymotrypsin, α-amylase and AP were higher in all probiotics-fed fishes in relation to the control group. The exception was lipase, activity of which had no difference between probiotic treated and untreated groups during the feeding period. In agreement from with results the previous researches (Francis et al., 2001; Sáenz

de Rodrigáñez et al., 2009; Lara-Flores et al., 2010), we found higher AP activity in T. grypus treated with G1 and G2 containing diets for 30 days. The increase in the activity of AP reflects a possible development of brush border membranes of enterocytes that can be stimulated by the probiotics (Cuvier-Péres and Kestemont, 2001). Activities of this brush border enzyme have been reported to be indicators of the intensity of nutrient absorption in the enterocytes of fish (Gawlicka et al., 2000). High AP activity also has been reported indicator to be an lipid carbohydrate and absorption (Calhau et al., 2000; German et al., 2004). Taken these findings, it has been concluded that higher growth performance rate in T. grypus fed mav be due probiotics improvement of enterocytes function as well as better conversion and utilization of feed in brush border.

trypsin, The α-amylase, chymotrypsin in the T. grypus digestive system may not only be secreted from ingested bacteria but may also be derived from endogenous origin, as in grouper (Epinephelus coioides) (Sun et al., 2012) and in beluga (Huso huso) (Askarian et al., 2008). Because grampositive bacteria like members of the genus Lactobacillus, secrete a wide range of exoenzymes, the origin of enzymatic activities in fish-fed probiotics could not be distinguished (Moriarty, 1996; Moriarty, 1998; Suzer et al., 2008). It has been confirmed that relatively higher activities of digestive enzymes result in growth performance

improvement. It is believed that probiotics influence digestive processes enhancing the population beneficial microorganisms, microbial improving enzyme activity; the microbial intestinal balance, consequently improving the digestibility and absorption of food and feed utilization (Mohapatra et al., 2012; Askarian et al., 2008). Our results were in agreement with the study in sea bass (Dicentrarchus labrax) larvae (Tovar-Ramírez et al., 2004), common carp (Cyprinus carpio) (Yanbo and Zirong, 2006), Indian white shrimp (Fenneropenaeus indicus) (Ziaei-Nejad et al., 2006), shrimp (Litopenaeus vannamei) (Wang, 2007); Skrodenyte-Arbaciauskiene (2007); gilthead sea bream (Sparus aurata, L.) (Suzer et al., 2008); grouper (E. coioides) (Sun et al., 2011); rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss) (Andani al.. 2012) demonstrating the improvement of survival rate, growth parameters, and digestive enzyme activities.

Regarding the above results, we encountered contradictory finding because gut enzyme activities were generally lower in T. grypus in G2 group than those in fish of G1 group, while G2 group had the highest growth performance. One possibility is that different probiotics in the diet may affect the gut microbiological and biochemical parameters independently (Balcázar and Rojas-Luna, 2007) or it can be speculated that the L. plantarum effect has wreckful morphology and health parameters.

Additional studies are required in order to clarify this hypothesis in detail.

A/T ratio had no association with fish growth because it was at the highest level in G1 group, while the highest fish growth was observed in G2 group. The significantly higher growth performance and A/T ratio in G2 and G1 dietary groups respectively, may indicate higher energy requirement for protein utilization and growth in G1 group than the other groups (Thongprajukaew *et al.*, 2011).

The gut microbiota can play an important role in the health and growth of the aquatic animals (Vine et al., 2004). Our results showed that feeding of T. grypus with diet containing L. bulgaricus could increase counts of viable LABs. These results were in agreement with previous reports that probiotics have been used as growth promoters in Atlantic salmon rainbow trout (Robertson et al., 2000), Tilapia (Ferguson *et* al., Rainbow trout (Merrifield et al., 2010), Shrimp (Castex et al., 2008) and Siberian sturgeon (Geraylou et al., 2013a; Geraylou et al., 2013b). Two weeks after cessation of feed containing Lactobacilli, the number of gut Lactobacilli dramatically decreased. This result was in agreement with the other researchers observations by (Vieira et al., 2008; Son et al., 2009; Korkea-aho et al., 2012; Dash et al., 2014) shown in full washing out of probiotic bacteria seven days after the probiotic withdrawal. Findings of this study clearly demonstrate that the probiotic-contained feed must be given

to fish continuously to retain the probiotic-bacteria level in the gut.

In our study when fish were fed on L. plantarum containing diets, changes were less apparent in the diversity of the microbiota in 60 days, when compared to those in fish of G2 and G3 groups. The exact mechanism behind this variation was unclear, but probably L. plantarum does not harbor in the beyond intestine weeks after administration of the diet. It may be due to structural differences in the cell wall compositions of different LAB strains (Gill, 1998; Geraylou et al., 2013a), or antagonism action of various bacteria. In the present study, the highest numbers of LABs concomitant of the highest growth rate were found in the intestine of T. grypus fed L. bulgaricus. It suggests that the numbers of viable LABs are more efficient than enzyme activity in enhancing the growth parameters of T. grypus. To confirm this hypothesis we found that G2 diet could increase counts of the microbiota in the intestine compared to the control and other probiotic groups, but these changes were not translated into increased enzyme activity in the **Taking** these findings into gut. consideration, concluded we that feeding of T. grypus with L. bulgaricus may balance intestinal microbial flora resulting in improvement of food absorption and enhancement of growth performance (Irianto and Austin, 2002).

In conclusion, the ability of *L. bulgaricus* and some deal of *L. plantarum*as isolated strains to augment growth performance and enzyme

activity, colonize and modify the intestinal microbiota as a potential confirmed. probiotic strains were Application of this isolated probiotics is recommended as supplementation feed for other cultural fish because the diet with these probiotic bacteria increases digestion, absorption of protein, and other nutrients in the gastrointestinal tract due to the increase of intestinal proteolytic enzyme activity. Finally we recommend a similar study be done on cultured shrimp species, because this industry needs to pay attention to health management.

Acknowledgements

This work was funded by a Grant from Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz Research Council (Grant No: 636410, 1392.4.6).

References

Aly, S.M., Abdel-Galil Ahmed, Y., Abdel-Aziz Ghareeb, Α. Mohamed, M.F., 2008. Studies on Bacillus subtilis and Lactobacillus acidophilus, as potential probiotics, the immune response on and resistance of **Tilapia** nilotica (Oreochromis niloticus) to challenge Fish infections. and Shellfish Immunology, 25, 128-136.

Andani, H., Tukmechi, A., Meshkini, S. and Sheikhzadeh, N., 2012.

Antagonistic activity of two potential probiotic bacteria from fish intestines and investigation of their effects on growth performance and immune response in rainbow trout

(Oncorhynchus mykiss). Journal of Applied Ichthyology, 28, 728-734.

Areekijseree, M., Engkagul, A., Kovitvadhi, U., Thongpan, Mingmuang, M., Pakkong, P. and Rungruangsak-Torrissen, K.. 2004. **Temperature** and pН characteristics of amylase and proteinase of adult freshwater pearl mussel. Hyriopsis (Hyriopsis) bialatus Simpson 1900. Aquaculture, 234, 575-587.

Askarian, F., Matinfar, A., Kousha, A., Bahmani, M., Khorshidi, K., Shenavar, A. and Ringø, E., 2008. Diversity or lactic acid bacteria in the gastrointestinal tracts of reared beluga (*Huso huso*) and persian sturgeon (*Acipenser persicus*): A comparative study. *Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Science*, 3(5), 302-311.

Bagheri, T., Hedayati, S.A., Yavari, V., Alizade, M. and Farzanfar, A., 2008. Growth, survival and gut microbial load of rainbow trout (*Onchorhynchus mykiss*) fry given diet supplemented with probiotic during the two months of first feeding. *Turkish Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*, 8, 43-48.

Bairagi, A., Ghosh, K.S., Sen, S.K. and Ray, A.K., 2002. Enzyme producing bacterial flora isolated from fish digestive tracts. *Aquaculture International*, 10, 109-121.

Balcázar, J.L. and Rojas-Luna, T., 2007. Inhibitory activity of probiotic Bacillus subtilis UTM 126 against Vibrio species confers protection

- against vibriosis in juvenile shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*). *Current Microbiology*, 55, 409-412.
- Balcázar, J.L., Vendrell, D., De Blas, I., Ruiz-Zarzuela, I., Muzquiz, J.L. and Girones, O., 2008. Characterization of probiotic properties of lactic acid bacteria isolated from intestinal microbiota of fish. Aquaculture, 278, 188-191.
- Bomba, A., Nemcova, R., Gancarcikova, S., Herich, R., Guba, P. and Mudronova, D., 2002. Improvement of the probiotic effect of micro-organisms by their with combination maltodextrins, fructo-oligosaccharides polyunsaturated fatty acids. British Journal of Nutrition, 88, S95-S99.
- **Borlongan, I., 1990**. Studies on the digestive lipases of milkfish, *Chanos chanos. Aquaculture*, 89, 315-325.
- **Bradford, M.M., 1976**. A rapid and sensitive method for the quantitation of microgram quantities of protein utilizing the principle of protein-dye binding. *Analytical Biochemistry*, 72, 248-254.
- Byun, J.W., Park, S.C., Benno, Y. and Oh, T.K., 1997. Probiotic effect of Lactobacillus sp. DS-12 in flounder (Paralichthys olivaceus). The Journal of General and Applied Microbiology, 43, 305-308.
- Calhau, C., Martel, F., Hipólito-Reis, C. and Azevedo, I., 2000.

 Differences between duodenal and jejunal rat alkaline phosphatase.

 Clinical Biochemistry, 33, 571-577.
- Castex, M., Chim, L., Pham, D., Lemaire, P., Wabete, N., Nicolas,

- J.L., Schmidely, P. and Mariojouls, C., 2008. Probiotic P. acidilactici application in shrimp Litopenaeus stylirostris culture subject vibriosis in New to Caledonia. Aquaculture, 275, 182-193.
- **Cuvier-Péres, A. and Kestemont, P., 2001**. Development of some digestive enzymes in Eurasian perch larvae *Perca fluviatilis. Fish Physiology and Biochemistry*, 24, 279-285.
- Dash, G., Raman, R.P., Prasad, K.P., Makesh, M., Pradeep, M. and Sen, S., 2014. Evaluation of *Lactobacillus plantarum* as feed supplement on host associated microflora, growth, feed efficiency, carcass biochemical composition and immune response of giant freshwater prawn, *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* (de Man, 1879). *Aquaculture*, 432, 225-236.
- Deney, S., Staykov, Y., Moutafchieva, R. and Beev, G., 2009. Microbial ecology of the gastrointestinal tract of fish and the potential application of probiotics and prebiotics in finfish aquaculture.

 Aquaculture International, 1, 1-29.
- Erlanger, B.F., Kokowsky, N. and Cohen, W., 1961. The preparation and properties of two new chromogenic substrates of trypsin. *Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics*, 95, 271-278.
- Faeed, M., Kasra Kermanshahi, R., Pourkazemi, M., Darboee, M. and Haghighi Karsidani, S., 2016. Effect of the probiotic *Entrococcus*

- faecium on hematological and nonspecific immune parameters and disease resistance in zander (Sander lucioperca). Iranian Journal of Fisheries Sciences, 15(4), 1581-1592.
- Ferguson, R... Merrifield. **D.L.**. Harper. **G.M.**. Rawling. **M.D..** Picchietti. Mustafa. S.. S.. Balcàzar, J.L. and Davies, S.J., 2010. The effect of Pediococcus acidilactici on the gut microbiota and immune status of on growing red (Oreochromis tilapia niloticus). Journal of Applied Microbiology, 109, 851-862.
- Francis, G., Makkar, H.P. and Becker, K., 2001. Antinutritional factors present in plant-derived alternate fish feed ingredients and their effects in fish. *Aquaculture*, 199, 197-227.
- **Gatesoupe, F., 1999**. The use of probiotics in aquaculture. *Aquaculture*, 180, 147-165.
- Gawlicka, A., Parent, B., Horn, M.H., Ross, N., Opstad, I. and Torrissen, O.J., 2000. Activity of digestive enzymes in yolk-sac larvae of Atlantic halibut (Hippoglossus hippoglossus): indication of readiness for first feeding. Aquaculture, 184, 303-314.
- Geraylou, Z., Souffreau, C., Rurangwa, E., De Meester, L., Courtin, C.M., Delcour, J. A., Buyse, J. and Ollevier, F., 2013a. Effects of dietary arabinoxylanoligosaccharides (AXOS) and endogenous probiotics on the growth performance, non-specific immunity

- and gut microbiota of juvenile Siberian sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii*). *Fish and Shellfish Immunology*, 35, 766-775.
- Geraylou, Z., Souffreau, **C.**, Rurangwa, E., De Meester, L., Courtin, C.M., Delcour, J. A., Buyse, J. and Ollevier, F., 2013b. Effects of dietary arabinoxylanoligosaccharides (AXOS) endogenous probiotics on the growth performance, non-specific immunity and gut microbiota of juvenile Siberian sturgeon (Acipenser baerii). Fish and Shellfish Immunology, 35, 766-775.
- German, D.P., Horn, M.H. and Gawlicka, A., 2004. Digestive enzyme activities in herbivorous and carnivorous prickleback fishes (Teleostei: Stichaeidae): ontogenetic, dietary, and phylogenetic effects. *Physiological and Biochemical Zoology*, 77, 789-804.
- Ghosh, K., Sen, S.K. and Ray, A.K., 2003. Supplementation of an isolated fish gut bacterium, *Bacillus circulans*, in formulated diets for rohu, *Labeo rohita*, fingerlings. *Israeli Journal of Aquaculture*, 55, 13-21.
- Gildberg, A., Johansen, A. and Bøgwald, J., 1995. Growth and survival of Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) fry given diets supplemented with fish protein hydrolysate and lactic acid bacteria during a challenge trial with Aeromonas salmonicida. Aquaculture, 138, 23-34.

- **Gill, H., 1998**. Stimulation of the immune system by lactic cultures. *International Dairy Journal*, 8, 535-544.
- Hofer, R. and Schiemer, F., 1981. Proteolytic activity in the digestive tract of several species of fish with different feeding habits. *Oecologia*, 48, 342-345.
- Holt, J., Krieg, N. and Sneath, P., 1984. Bergey's manual of systematic bacteriology, vol. 1. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore.
- **Hummel, B.C., 1959**. A modified spectrophotometric determination of chymotrypsin, trypsin, and thrombin. *Canadian Journal of Biochemistry and Physiology,* 37, 1393-1399.
- Irianto, A. and Austin, B., 2002. Use of probiotics to control furunculosis in rainbow trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (Walbaum). *Journal of Fish Diseases*, 25, 333-342.
- Khattab, Y.A., Shalaby, A.M. and Abdel-Rhman, A., 2005. Use of probiotic bacteria as growth promoters, anti-bacterial and their effects on physiological parameters of Oreochromis niloticus. **Proceedings** International of Symposium on Nile Tilapia in Aquaculture, 2005.
- Kim, D.H. and Austin, B., 2006. Innate immune responses in rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*, Walbaum) induced by probiotics. *Fish & Shellfish Immunology*, 21, 513-524.
- Korkea-Aho, T., Papadopoulou, A., Heikkinen, J., Von Wright, A., Adams, A., Austin, B. and

- **Thompson, K., 2012**. Pseudomonas M162 confers protection against rainbow trout fry syndrome by stimulating immunity. *Journal of Applied Microbiology*, 113, 24-35.
- Lara-Flores, M., Olivera-Castillo, L. and Olvera-Novoa, M.A., 2010. Effect of the inclusion of a bacterial mix (Streptococcus faecium and Lactobacillus acidophilus), and the yeast (Saccharomyces cerevisiae) on growth, feed utilization andintestinal enzymatic activity of Nile tilapia (Oreochromis niloticus). International Journal of Fisheries and Aquaculture, 2, 93-101.
- Liu, W., Ren, P., He, S., Xu, L., Yang, Y., Gu, Z. and Zhou, Z., 2013. Comparison of adhesive gut bacteria composition, immunity, and disease resistance in juvenile hybrid tilapia fed two different *Lactobacillus* strains. *Fish and Shellfish Immunology*, 35, 54-62.
- Macey, B. and Coyne, V., 2005. Improved growth rate and disease resistance in farmed *Haliotis midae* through probiotic treatment. *Aquaculture*, 245, 249-261.
- Merrifield, D., Bradley, G., Baker, R. and Davies, S., 2010a. Probiotic applications for rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss* Walbaum) II. Effects on growth performance, feed utilization, intestinal microbiota and related health criteria postantibiotic treatment. *Aquaculture Nutrition*, 16, 496-503.
- Merrifield, D., Dimitroglou, A., Bradley, G., Baker, R. and Davies, S., 2010b. Probiotic applications for

- rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss* Walbaum) I. Effects on growth performance, feed utilization, intestinal microbiota and related health criteria. *Aquaculture Nutrition*, 16, 504-510.
- Mirbakhsh, M., Akhavansepahy, A., Afsharnasab, M., Khanafari, A. and Razavi, M.R., 2013. Screening and evaluation of indigenous bacteria from the Persian Gulf as a probiotic and biocontrol Vibrio against harveyi Litopenaeus vannamei post larvae. Iranian Journal **Fisheries** Sciences, 12(4), 873-886.
- Mohammadian, T., Alishahi, M., Tabandeh, M.R., Ghorbanpoor, M., Gharibi, D. and Tollabi, M., 2016. Probiotic effects of Lactobacillus plantarum and L. delbrueckii ssp. bulguricus on some immune-related parameters in Barbus grypus. Aquaculture International, 24, 225-42.
- Mohapatra, S., Chakrabory, T., Prusty, A.K., Das, P., Paniprasad, K. and Mohanta, K.N., 2012. Use of different microbial probiotics in the diet of rohu, *Labeo rohita* fingerlings: effects on growth, nutrient digestibility and retention, digestive enzyme activities and intestinal microflora. *Aquaculture Nutrition*, 18,1-11.
- Moriarty, D., 1996. Microbial biotechnology-a key ingredient for sustainable aquaculture. *Infofish International*, 29-33.
- Moriarty, D., 1998. Control of luminous *Vibrio* species in penaeid

- aquaculture ponds. *Aquaculture*, 164, 351-358.
- Nikoskelainen, S., Ouwehand, A., Salminen, S. and Bylund, G., 2001.

 Protection of rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss) from furunculosis by Lactobacillus rhamnosus. Aquaculture, 198, 229-236.
- Nikoskelainen, S., Ouwehand, A.C., Bylund, G., Salminen, S. and Lilius. **E.M.**. 2003. **Immune** enhancement in rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss) by potential bacteria (Lactobacillus probiotic Fish rhamnosus). Shellfish Immunology, 15(5),443-452.
- Panigrahi, A., Kiron, V., Puangkaew, J., Kobayashi, T., Satoh, S. and Sugita, H., 2005. The viability of probiotic bacteria as a factor influencing the immune response in rainbow trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*. *Aquaculture*, 243, 241-254.
- Ramos, M., Weber, B., Gonçalves, J., Santos, G., Rema, P. and Ozório, 2013. R., Dietary probiotic supplementation modulated microbiota and improved growth of juvenile rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss). *Comparative Biochemistry* and Physiology. Part A, Molecular and Integrative Physiology, 166, 302-307.
- Ringø, E. and Gatesoupe, F.J., 1998. Lactic acid bacteria in fish: a review. *Aquaculture*, 160, 177-203.
- Robertson, P., O'dowd, C., Burrells, C., Williams, P. and Austin, B., 2000. Use of *Carnobacterium* sp. as

- a probiotic for Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* L.) and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*, Walbaum). *Aquaculture*, 185, 235-243.
- Ruiz, C., Roman, G. and Sanchez, J., 1996. A marine bacterial strain effective in producing antagonisms of other bacteria. *Aquaculture International*, 4, 289-291.
- Rungruangsak-Torrissen, K., Rustad, A., Sunde, J., Eiane, S.A., Jensen, H.B., Opstvedt, J., Nygård, E., Samuelsen, T.A., Mundheim, H. and Luzzana, U., 2002. In vitro digestibility based on fish crude enzyme extract for prediction of feed quality in growth trials. *Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture*, 82, 644-654.
- Rungruagsak-Torrissen, K. and Fosseidengen, J.E., 2007. Effect of artificial feeding on digestive efficiency, growth and qualities of muscle and oocyte of maturing Atlantic mackerel (Scomber scombrus L.). Journal of Food Biochemistry, 31, 726-747.
- Sáenz De Rodrigáñez, M., Díaz-Rosales, P., Chabrillón, M., Smidt, H., Arijo, S., León-Rubio, J., Alarcón, F., Balebona, M., Moriñigo, M. and Cara, J., 2009. Effect of dietary administration of probiotics on growth and intestine functionality of juvenile Senegalese sole (Solea senegalensis, Kaup 1858). Aquaculture Nutrition, 15, 177-185.
- Son, V.M., Chang, C.C., Wu, M.C., Guu, Y.K., Chiu, C.H. and Cheng, W., 2009. Dietary administration of

- the probiotic, *Lactobacillus* plantarum, enhanced the growth, innate immune responses, and disease resistance of the grouper *Epinephelus coioides*. Fish & Shellfish Immunology, 26, 691-698.
- Standen, B., Rawling, M., Davies, S., Castex, M., Foey, A., Gioacchini, G., Carnevali, O. and Merrifield, D., 2013. Probiotic *Pediococcus acidilactici* modulates both localised intestinal-and peripheral-immunity in tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*). *Fish and Shellfish Immunology*, 35, 1097-1104.
- Sugita, H., Hirose, Y., Matsuo, N. and Deguchi, Y., 1998. Production of the antibacterial substance by *Bacillus* sp. strain NM 12, an intestinal bacterium of Japanese coastal fish. *Aquaculture*, 165, 269-280.
- Sun, Y.Z., Yang, H.L., Ma, R.L., Song, K. and Li, J.S., 2012. Effect of Lactococcus lactis and Enterococcus faecium on growth performance, digestive enzymes and immune response of grouper Epinephelus coioides. Aquaculture Nutrition, 18, 281-289.
- Suzer, C., Çoban, D., Kamaci, H.O., Saka, Ş., Firat, K., Otgucuoğlu, Ö. and Küçüksari, H., 2008. Lactobacillus spp. bacteria as probiotics in gilthead sea bream (Sparus aurata, L.) larvae: Effects on growth performance and digestive enzyme activities. Aquaculture, 280, 140-145.
- Talpur, A.D., Ikhwanuddin, M., Abdullah, M.D.D. and Ambok Bolong, A.M., 2013. Indigenous

- Lactobacillus plantarum as probiotic for larviculture of blue swimming crab, *Portunus pelagicus* (Linnaeus, 1758): Effects on survival, digestive enzyme activities and water quality. *Aquaculture*, 416, 173-178.
- Thongprajukaew, K., Kovitvadhi, U., Kovitvadhi, S., Somsueb, P. and Rungruangsak-Torrissen, K., 2011. Effects of different modified diets on growth, digestive enzyme activities and muscle compositions in juvenile Siamese fighting fish (

 Betta splendens Regan, 1910).

 Aquaculture, 322, 1-9.
- Tovar-Ramırez, D., Zambonino Infante, J., Cahu, C., Gatesoupe, F. and Vázquez-Juárez, R., 2004. Influence of dietary live yeast on European sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) larval development. *Aquaculture*, 234, 415-427.
- Tovar, D., Zambonino, J., Cahu, C., Gatesoupe, F., Vázquez-Juárez, R. and Lésel, R., 2002. Effect of live yeast incorporation in compound diet on digestive enzyme activity in sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) larvae. *Aquaculture*, 204, 113-123.
- Vendrell, D., Luis Balcázar, J., De Blas, I., Ruiz-Zarzuela, I., Gironés, O. and Luis Múzquiz, J., 2008. rainbow Protection of trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss) from lactococcosis by probiotic bacteria. Comparative Immunology, Microbiology Infectious and Diseases, 31, 337-345.
- Verschuere, L., Rombaut, G., Sorgeloos, P. and Verstraete, W., 2000. Probiotic bacteria as biological

- control agents in aquaculture. *Microbiology and Molecular Biology Reviews*, 64, 655-671.
- Vieira, F.D.N., Buglione Neto, C.C., Mouriño, J.L.P., Jatobá, Ramirez. **C..** Martins. **M.L.**. Barracco, M.A.A.M. and Vinatea, L.A., 2008. Time-related action of Lactobacillus plantarum in bacterial microbiota of shrimp digestive tract and its action as immunostimulant. Pesquisa Agropecuária Brasileira, 43, 763-769.
- Vine, N., Leukes, W., Kaiser, H., Daya, S., Baxter, J. and Hecht, T., 2004. Competition for attachment of aquaculture candidate probiotic and pathogenic bacteria on fish intestinal mucus. *Journal of Fish Diseases*, 27, 319-326.
- Waché, Y., Auffray, F., Gatesoupe, F.J., Zambonino, J., Gayet, V., Labbé, L. and Quentel, C., 2006. Cross effects of the strain of dietary Saccharomyces cerevisiae rearing conditions on the onset of intestinal microbiota and digestive enzymes in rainbow trout. **Onchorhynchus** mykiss, fry. Aquaculture, 258, 470-478.
- **Wang, Y.B., 2007**. Effect of probiotics on growth performance and digestive enzyme activity of the shrimp *Penaeus vannamei*. *Aquaculture*, 269, 259-264.
- Yanbo, W. and Zirong, X., 2006. Effect of probiotics for common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) based on growth performance and digestive enzyme

activities. *Animal Feed Science and Technology*, 127, 283-292.

Ziaei-Nejad, S., Rezaei, M.H., Takami, G.A., Lovett, D.L., Mirvaghefi, A.R. and Shakouri, M., 2006. The effect of *Bacillus* spp. bacteria used as probiotics on digestive enzyme activity, survival and growth in the Indian white shrimp *Fenneropenaeus indicus*. *Aquaculture*, 252, 516-524.