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## **SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCES**

B.S. ABDUR RAHMAN CRESCENT INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CHENNAI – 600048, TAMIL NADU, INDIA

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## Editorial

## Honours and awards received by SLS faculties during the year 2022

Faculty	Honours and awards	
	Coordinator and course organizer-Turing Scheme Study	
	Mobility programme, funded by Govt. of UK, 2022	
	<ul> <li>Associate Editor, Applied biochemistry and biotechnology,</li> </ul>	
	Springer, 2022-current	
	• Guest Editor, In silico Pharmacology, Springer, 2022	
	<ul> <li>Section editor, Current Pharmacology reports, Springer,</li> </ul>	
Dr. S.Hemalatha	2021-current	
	Associate Editor, Inorganic Nano metal chemistry (Taylor	
	and Francis). 2020-current	
	InRes Research Excellence Award 2022	
	• InRes C V Raman Prize 2022	
	• Received CV Raman prize 2022 for the recognition of	
and	outstanding professional & research achievements in the	
	field of Life Sciences by the Institute of Researchers	
	Wayanad, Kerala, India.	
	• Listed in the Top 2% of Scientists (2022) in the field of	
	Oncology and Toxicology by Stanford University, USA. (Sr.	
Dr. P.Ashok Kumar	No. 113,369).	
1000	• Awarded a merit certificate for "Top 2% scientist in the	
	world" published by Stanford University, USA in Elsevier for	
<u>S</u>	the year 2020 during 2021 conferred by B.S. Abdur Rahman	
	Crescent Institute of Science and Technology in the Teacher	
	Day celebration held on Sep 6, 2022.	
	• Awarded a "Young Scientist Award" sponsored by DRDO,	
Dr. D. MubarakAli	DST and CSIR held in the National Conference on	

	Anthropology: Biological diversity and affinities – a critical
	rethinking of the enduring issues in India at St. Joseph
	University, Dimapur, Nagaland, India held on March 17-18,
	2022.
	• Awarded a "Cash Prize / Certificate under Research
	Incentives Scheme of BASCIST for the Research Publications
	category for the year 2020 & 2021" conferred by B.S. Abdur
	Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology in the
	Teacher Day celebration held on Sep 6, 2022 for the
	outstanding research contribution.
	• Awarded First Prize in Paper Presentation in the
	International Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance &
	Microbiome under changing Climate Changes (AMRMIC
	2022): Wonders of the Small 3.0 held on October 10-12, 2022
	at Department of Microbiology, Pondicherry University,
	Puducherry (UT), India.
	• Awarded with InRes Vivekananda Prize 2022.
	• Awarded with Young Researcher Award 2022.
AN MAR	
Dr. S.Ranjani	

## Research Highlights

## Benefits of Oral Administration of *Lacticaseibacillus paracasei* strain Shirota in Reducing Insulin Resistance

#### Noor Hammna Anwardeen

III - B. Tech Biotechnology, School of Life Sciences, B.S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai-600048, Tamil Nadu, India

#### **Research Highlights:**

This study aims to determine the effects of *Lacticaseibacillus paracasei* (previously known as *Lactobacillus casei*) strain Shirota (LcS) in alleviating insulin resistance. Insulin resistance is defined as the failure of target organs to respond normally to the action of insulin. This condition further leads to various metabolic abnormalities such as hypertension, less tolerance to glucose and elevated levels of lipids in the blood. One of the major determinants of insulin resistance is the presence of excess level of visceral fat, which causes chronic low-grade inflammation. This causes increased production of pro-inflammatory adipokine production. These adipokines interfere with the insulin signaling pathway, thus facilitating the development of insulin resistance. Obesity-associated inflammation causes increased Toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4) signaling. TLR4 recognizes lipopolysaccharide (LPS) and nonesterified fatty acids (NEFA) which are present in higher levels in obese individuals. Lipopolysaccharide-binding protein (LBP) is a central mediator in TLR4-mediated immune response. Plasma LBP level is an indicator of the intensity of TLR4 signaling, and can also represent level of obesity and insulin resistance. When there is an increase in level of plasma LBP, it represents increased insulin resistance.

*Lactobacillus casei* strain Shirota is a commercially available probiotic strain. Probiotics are live microorganisms which are beneficial to the host organism when administered in adequate amounts. *Lactobacillus casei* strain Shirota YIT 9029 (LcS) was obtained from the culture collection of the Yakult Central Institute for Microbiological Research (Tokyo, Japan). The bacterial cells were prepared for administering to mice by preculturing in IL

(ionic liquid) medium, then inoculating seventy millilitres of the preculture in 7 litres of IL medium (selective medium for isolation and enumeration of *Lactobacilli* which was described by Rogosa *et al.* 1951) in a fermenter and incubating for 24 hours. The cultured cells were collected and washed three times using distilled water by centrifugation at 9000 **g** for 30 minutes at  $4^{\circ}$ C. Then, the cells were heat killed at  $100^{\circ}$ C for 30 minutes, lyophilized and stored at  $-20^{\circ}$ C until use.

Four types of mice were used in this study. These include: Ten-week-old C57BL/6J DIO (Diet induced obese) mice which were fed commercial high fat (HF) diet from 4 weeks of age, ten-week-old ob/ob mice, ten-week-old db/db mice, ten-week-old KK-A<sup>y</sup>/Ta mice. The first 3 types of mice were purchased from Charles River Japan, Yokohama, Japan. The 4<sup>th</sup> type of mice was purchased from Clea Japan, Tokyo, Japan. All mice were housed individually in plastic cages under conventional conditions. The ob/ob mice (obese mice) are mutants which eat excessively due to mutation in the gene for leptin production and become obese. These ob/ob mice are commonly used as an animal model for type II diabetes and obesity. KK-A<sup>y</sup>/Ta mice are used as animal models for type II diabetes, and they develop hyperglycemia and obesity.

DIO mice received tap water and high fat diet for 14 days. Then, they were assigned randomly into two groups; one group was fed a high fat diet whereas the other group was fed a high fat diet supplemented with 0.05% (w/w) *Lactobacillus casei* strain Shirota (LcS) for 5 weeks. The high fat diet was referenced from D12492; Research Diets, Inc., New Brunswick, NJ, USA. The other types of mice (ob/ob, db/db, KK-A<sup>y</sup>) received a normal mouse chow diet for one week. The body weight of mice was recorded once a week. Mice were subjected to insulin tolerance test (ITT) and oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) to study insulin resistance and glucose intolerance respectively.

Insulin Tolerance Test (ITT) was done by injecting human insulin (Humulin R, Eli Lilly Japan) intraperitoneally into the mice and then collecting blood samples from the tail vein. Oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) was done by oral administration of glucose using oral gavage, then collecting blood samples from the tail vein. It was confirmed that the DIO mice which was fed commercial high fat diet from 4 weeks of age developed obesity, insulin resistance and glucose intolerance. The effect of LcS was studied by comparing results between control group (high fat diet alone) and LcS group. From the ITT. it was observed that plasma glucose levels were significantly lower in the LcS group at 30, 60, 90 and 120 minutes after insulin injection.

The insulin tolerance test results were as follows: the plasma glucose levels in control population were 140 mg dl<sup>-1</sup>, 120 mg dl<sup>-1</sup>, 150 mg dl<sup>-1</sup>, 190 mg dl<sup>-1</sup> at 30, 60, 90, and 120 minutes respectively after insulin loading. Whereas, in the LcS group, the plasma glucose levels were 120 mg dl<sup>-1</sup>, 90 mg dl<sup>-1</sup>, 100 mg dl<sup>-1</sup> and 120 mg dl<sup>-1</sup> at 30, 60, 90, and 120 minutes respectively after insulin loading. The most significant difference between control group and LcS group was observed at 120 minutes, where the LcS group has 70 mg dl<sup>-1</sup> less plasma glucose level compared to control group. The OGTT results also showed that plasma glucose levels were significantly lower in the LcS group and followed a similar pattern as ITT results. The control group was also found to have higher level of plasma lipopolysaccharide-binding protein (LBP) of 5.2  $\mu$ g ml<sup>-1</sup> compared to 4.6  $\mu$ g ml<sup>-1</sup> in the LcS group. The administration of LcS in DIO mice caused less plasma LBP levels, which shows that LcS treatment may reduce obesity-associated inflammation by attenuating metabolic endotoxaemia. The above findings show the positive effect of LcS in reducing insulin resistance and improving glucose intolerance.

**For Further Reading:** Naito, E., Yoshida, Y., Makino, K., Kounoshi, Y., Kunihiro, S., Takahashi, R., Matsuzaki, T., Miyazaki, K., & Ishikawa, F. (2011, February 1). Beneficial effect of oral administration of *Lactobacillus casei* strain Shirota on insulin resistance in diet-induced obesity mice. *Journal of Applied Microbiology*, *110*(3), 650–657. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2672.2010.04922.x

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## Mini Review

## Use of Environmental Stress to Enhance Biofuel Production in Microalgae

#### Zainab S Zafar

B.Tech - Biotechnology, School of Life Sciences, B.S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai-600048, Tamil Nadu, India

#### **Research Highlights:**

This research was conducted to test the biofuel productivity of microalgae by exposing two strains of microalgae (Scenedesmus dimorphus and Selenastrum minitum) to stressful conditions. In the recent years, the use of microalgae to produce biodiesel has gained importance. This is because algae are a renewable source and environment friendly. Commercial microalagal cultivation for biofuel under optimal growth conditions contains low lipid content, which reduces the biodiesel quantity. However, subjecting the microalgae to various stresses during their growth phase can increase the lipid content, thereby yielding a greater amount of biodiesel in a short span of time.

In this article, the researchers subjected the algae to two different environmental stresses: salt stress and nutrient deprivation to check their effect on the lipid content and FAME compostion. FAME content is the amount of various fatty acid methyl esters present in the fuel after transesterification. The microalgae used for this study were purchased from UTEX, The Culture Collection of Algae at the University of Texas,USA and grown in filtered municipal wastewater locally obtained. This was cultured was 6 days and further treatments were carried out. Both the microalgae were subjected to salt stress by suspending the centrifuged pellets in 5% salt solution and nutrient deprivation by placing in tap water for upto 3 days. The samples were centrifuged at 3520g for 5 minutes and

resuspended in salt solution and tap water. A reference sample, which contained the algal strains in wastewater obtained for 3 days after culturing.

The lipids from Scenedesmus dimorphus and Selenastrum minitum were extracted using a chloroform/methanol (2:1 v/v) mixture and 0.73% NaCl solution. The quantity of lipids was determined gravimetrically. For obtaining fatty acid content, the cells pellets obtained after centrifugation were boiled in 1–2 ml of isopropanol for 10 min and then stored at -20°C. The samples were allowed to cool down and dry. After drying, the samples were exposed to N<sub>2</sub>. Transesterification of the derived fatty acids (FA) into FA methyl esters (FAME) was carried out by adding 1 ml of 5% H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> in dry methanol to the samples and boiled at 80°C for 2 h. Centrifugation at 1,250 g for 2 min was carried out again after adding 1 ml of distilled water and 2 ml of pure petroleum ether. The supernatant was transferred into a vial and redried and flushed with N<sub>2</sub> to remove air. Dry samples were dissolved in 50–60 µl hexane and 1 ul was injected and analyzed using a gas chromatograph.The identification of fatty acids was carried out by comparing their retention times with those of a standard. Based on the observations carried out for the three days, the following information regarding the lipid content was as follows:

#### **Nutrient Deprivation**

In S.dimorphus the total lipid content (in percentage) went from 17.4% initially to 24.3% ,38.2% and 29.6% at days1, 2 and 3 respectively, showing maximum increase at day 2. In S.minitum the total lipid content was 26% at start and had a significant increase only till day 2. Day 1 showed 42% , day 2 showed 43% and day 3 showed 33% of lipid content.

#### Salt Stress

In S.dimorphus, total lipid content increased from 17.4% to 24.5% in day 1, 33.8% in day 2 and 28.9% in day 3. The maximum amount of lipid being at day 2 after introduction of salt stress. In S.minitum, the highest lipid content was recorded at day 1 at 40%, followed by 36.8 at day 2 and 36% at day 3. There was a significant increase in percentage after day 1. On comparing with the samples growing directly in wastewater, samples undergoing

nutrient deprivation and salt stress had slightly higher quantity of lipids. The fatty acids derived from the two algal strains comprised mainly of C16 and C18 chains.

The most commonly found fatty acids were palmitic acid, linoleic acid, oleic acid, linolenic acid and some other C15 fatty acids in low concentrations. The predominant ones were palmitic acid and linoleic acids which are ideal for biodiesel production.

Upon determination of the ratio of various FAME produced, the researchers inferred that samples grown under nutrient deprivation and wastewater showed a greater amount of unsaturated fatty acids to saturated fatty acids, while samples exposed to salt stress displayed the opposite, saturated fatty acid content being more than unsaturated fatty acids. The greater the saturated fatty acid content, the greater the oxidative property of the fuel. Hence, according to the research, samples grown under salt stress are ideal for use as biofuel. However, the challenge to utilize the biofuels derived from the algae arises when their application is done in colder climate regions due to poor cold flow properties of the oils derived. Similarly, the amount of monounsaturated fatty acids was found to be more than polyunsaturated fatty acids, when samples were subjected to nutrient deprivation, which was shown to have better oxidative properties.

It was concluded that the microalgae, S.dimorphus and S. minitum had an increase in lipid content and a decrease in protein and carbohydrate content when subjected to nutrient deprivation and salt stress. The results showed that the predominant fatty acids were C16 and C18 fatty acids, which are similar to that of vegetable oils used for biodiesel production. The fatty acids can be transesterified to produce biodiesel, along with the stresses to improve the quality of the biodiesel produced. The study also states that salt water present in industrial effluents and sea water can be utilized to culture freshwater microalgae for industrial biofuel production.

**For further reading:** Nirupa Pushpakumari Kudahettige, Jana Pickova and Francesco G. Gentili (2018, December 3). Stressing Algae for Biofuel Production: Biomass and Biochemical Composition of Scenedesmus dimorphus and Selenastrum minutum Grown in Municipal Untreated Wastewater. Frontiers in Energy Research (Biofuels and Bioenergies), <u>https://doi.org/10.3389/fenrg.2018.00132</u>

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## ✤ Scientific Tips

### **Microbial Culture Collection Centres in India**

#### Keerthana K

M.Sc. Microbiology, School of Life Sciences, B.S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai-600048, Tamil Nadu, India

S.NO	CULTURE COLLECTION CENTRE	URL
1	Microbial culture collection-ICMR-	https://vcrc.icmr.org.in/facilities/micro
	Vector control Research centre.	bial-culture-collection
	Puducherry	
2	National Collection of Industrial	https://www.ncl-india.org/ncim
	Microorganisms. Pune	
3	Microbial Type Culture Collection and	https://mtccindia.res.in
	Gene Bank (MTCC).Chandigarh	
4	Culture collection department of	http://www.jcbose.ac.in/microbiol
	microbiology Bose institute CCDMBI.	
	kolkata	
5	North Maharastra microbial culture	
	Collection centre, Maharastra	http://grbio.org/cool/0gc0-dy4w
6	Gujarat biodiversity gen bank,Gujarat	http://btm.gujarat.gov.in/btm/sgb-
		<u>inti.html</u>
7	MACS Collection of micro organisms	https://aripune.org/microbial-
	MCM gharkar Reserch Institue,Pune	collection/

8	National collection of diary cultures	http://www.ndri.res.in
	National dairy research institute karnal	
9	NII Microbial Culture Collection NIICC	
	National Institute for Interdisciplinary	https://www.niist.res.in/
	Science and Technology (CSIR)	
	Trivandrum, Kerala	
10	National Bureau of Agriculturally	https://nbaim.icar.gov.in/
	Important Microorganisms (NBAIM),	
	Indian Council of Agricultural Research	
	(ICAR), Kushmaur, Uttar Pradesh	
11	National Facility for Marine	https://www.bdu.ac.in/centers/NFMC/
	Cyanobacteria Bharathidasan	
	University Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu	

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## Student Corner :

## **Student Startups in SLS**

#### Ranjani, S

#### School of Life Sciences, B.S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai-600048, Tamil Nadu, India





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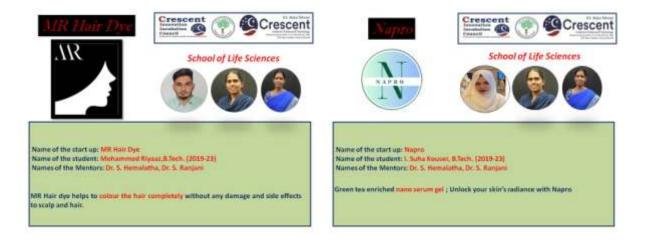


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Name of the start up: BioNourish Name of the student: V. Dheya, M.Tech. (2023-23) Names of the Mentors: Dr. S. Hemaiatha, Dr. S. Ranjani

Organic plant growth booster for stronger and faster growth. Our growth enhancer - your shortcut to a green thumb. BioNourish, the secret to lush, sibrunt plants

Green nano based product for the treatment of cancer- "Unleash Your Inner Warrior uer Cancer Naturally









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#### ✤ INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS:

SLS newsletter, a biannual publication by the School of life science intends to enlighten the readers with research articles, reviews, reports, research highlights, news and facts, concerned to the advancing field of biotechnology.

In order to acknowledge recent advancements and potential knowledge, bringing it to the notice of the science community through the newsletter, SLS welcomes original research, review and reports and details of the forthcoming events (conferences, seminars, symposia, trainings and workshops.)

### GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION:

✓ The article submitted must be an own write up on the selected article.

✓ References: The research paper referred must be assessed from renowned publishers (science, nature etc.,) and the references must be mentioned in the article.

✓ No Plagiarism will be entertained.

✓ The article should be typed in double space in word format limited to > 1000 words with font "Cambria" and font size 12 with 1.5 line spacing.

✓ Illustration and tables: Illustrations must be reduced to one – third of the page. Typed tables should be provided with tittles. Authors are specially requested to reduce the number of tables, illustrations and diagrams to a minimum (maximum 2).

 $\checkmark$  The SLS newsletter assumes no responsibility for statements and opinions advanced by the contributors to the journal.

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### **SLS NEWSLETTER - MEMBERSHIP FORM**

).		Particulars to be filled
L.	Name of the applicant	:
2.	Designation	:
8.	Date of Birth	:
	Affiction	
ŀ.	Ammation	:
5.	Permanent Address	
		•
ò.	E. Mail id	:
7.	Mobile Number	:
3.	Membership mode	: Annual Life
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	Membership type	: e-Newsletter
		: p-Newsletter
L <b>O.</b>	Signature with date	:
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	<ul> <li>Name of the applicant</li> <li>Designation</li> <li>Date of Birth</li> <li>Affiliation</li> <li>Permanent Address (Newsletter to be sent)</li> <li>E. Mail id</li> <li>Mobile Number</li> <li>Membership mode</li> </ul>

\*Conditions apply