

has been studied. Although it has been shown that sugar esters inhibit bacterial growth, there is a

lack of consensus as to which bacteria are most susceptible. While some studies have shown

 Devulapalle et al., 2004; Habulin et al., 2008), whereas hexose laurate did not suppress microbial growth significantly (Watanabe et al., 2000).

2.1 Materials and equipment

2.2 Lactose ester synthesis and purification

 Enzymatic synthesis of LML was performed according to Walsh et al., (2009). Synthesis of LMO was conducted using lactose, vinyl octanoate, molecular sieves and immobilized lipase enzyme TM2. For a 60 mL reaction in 2M2B, 3 g of lactose, 6 g of dried molecular sieves, 1.7 mL of vinyl octanoate (lactose to fatty acid ratio of 1: 2.1) and 1.8 g TM2 were combined. The 112 reactions were assembled in a 100 mL glass bottle and incubated at 60^oC and 90 rpm for 2 days. The amount of LMO synthesized was determined using HPLC with the evaporative light 114 scattering detector set at 60°C with a nitrogen gas pressure of 3.55 bar. There was a gradient from 10% acetonitrile-water (40:60, v/v) to 100% acetonitrile-water (95:5, v/v) as the mobile

 phase. Synthesis of LMM and LMD was done as described above for LMO using the same molar ratios of lactose to fatty acid (vinyl myristate or vinyl decanoate).

 For ester purification, the 2M2B reaction was filtered through a Whatman glass microfiber filter then dried in a hood for 24 h. The dry solids were suspended in 60 % ethanol, 40% water (60 ℃) and placed in a separatory funnel. The lower aqueous layer was drained into a beaker and dried in a hood for 24 h. After completely drying, the product powder was suspended in acetone, and then centrifuged for 15 min at room temperature at 2,000 x g and the supernatant analyzed via HPLC for the presence of di- tri- or higher saccharides. The acetone extraction was repeated until only the monoester was present in the pellet.

2.3 Microbial inhibitory studies

127 Stock solutions of LMO (60 mg/ml) and LMD (25 mg/ml) were prepared in 30% ethanol:water. Stock solutions of LML (60 mg/ml) were prepared in 50% ethanol:water and 100% DMSO. Stock solutions of LMO and LMD (60 mg/ml) were prepared in 100% DMSO. LMM was not soluble in 60% ethanol:water hence a stock (60 mg/ml) was prepared in 100% DMSO. Controls were 30% ethanol:water, 50% ethanol:water and 100% DMSO. Ester stock solutions were diluted into growth media to give final ethanol concentrations ranging from 0.5 to 10% and final DMSO concentrations ranging from 2 to 8%. All seven stocks of esters and controls were tested on the bacteria listed in Table 1. Analysis of microbial inhibitory activities of LMO was performed by making a 5 strain

cocktail of *L. monocytogenes* including C1-056, J1-177, N1-277, N3-013, and R2-499. The

individual 5 stocks were stored at -80℃, and each individual freezer stock (20 µl) was added to

15 ml of BHI media. The *Listeria* strains were grown at 37 ℃ and 200 rpm for 24 h. Aliquots (2

3. Results

3.1 Minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) of lactose esters

 In our earlier work, we showed that the novel lactose ester, LML (in 50% ethanol:water) was antimicrobial towards *L. monocytogenes* and *M. KMS*, but had no activity against Gram- negative bacteria (Wagh et al., 2012). In this study, additional lactose esters, LMO, LMD, and LMM were synthesized, and along with LML, were dissolved in both ethanol and DMSO, and tested for microbial inhibitory activity against Gram-positive bacteria and *E. coli O157:H7*. The control samples contained the same concentration of solvent as the treatments.

 The MIC values of the lactose esters against various Gram-positive bacteria are listed in Table 2. LML was found to be the most effective microbial inhibitory ester since it showed MIC 170 values (<0.05 to <5 mg/ml) for each Gram-positive bacteria tested in each solvent. On average, there were lower MIC values with LML/ETOH for *M. KMS, L. monocytogenes* and *E. faecalis*. The MIC for LML/DMSO with *E. faecalis* was 5 mg/ml, which was the highest MIC value for

LML among the bacteria tested.

The MIC values of LMD/DMSO ranged from <1 to <3 mg/ml for *B. cereus*, *M. KMS* and

S. suis. The MIC for LMD/DMSO for *L. monocytogenes*, *E. faecalis* and *S. mutans* was above 5

mg/ml. The MIC values for LMD/ETOH ranged from <3 to <5 mg/ml with no MIC values for *S.*

mutans. Ethanol itself was inhibitory, specifically with *M. KMS* which showed no cells in the

control or treatment with 5 mg/ml LMD/ETOH (corresponding to 10% ethanol), therefore, no

MIC could be determined. LMD/ETOH inhibited the growth of *L. monocytogenes* and *E.*

- *faecalis* while LMD/DMSO showed no inhibitory effects on these bacteria.
- LMM in DMSO showed inhibitory activity against *B. cereus*, *M. KMS* and *S. suis* with
- MIC values between <1 mg/ml and <5 mg/ml. However, the MIC values for LMM with *L.*

monocytogenes, *E. faecalis* and *S. mutans* were >5 mg/ml.

 LMO/ETOH showed no inhibitory effect at concentrations up to 5 mg/ml but LMO/DMSO was inhibitory to *B. cereus*, *S. suis* and *L. monocytogenes*. *S. suis* and *L. monocytogenes* were more sensitive with MIC values <3 mg/ml than *B. cereus* with an MIC value <5 mg/ml. No ester dissolved in either DMSO or ethanol showed microbial inhibitory activity against the Gram-negative bacteria tested (*E. coli* O157:H7). *3.2 Minimum bactericidal concentrations (MBC) of lactose esters* The MBC of the lactose esters are reported in Table 3 as well as the log reductions in the treatments as compared to the controls. No esters showed bactericidal activity against *S. mutans*. Out of the 4 compounds tested, LML was the only lactose ester to exert a bactericidal effect against *B. cereus, M. KMS*, *S. suis* and *L. monocytogenes* in both solvents used. The MBC values of LML/DMSO were <1 mg/ml for *B. cereus, M. KMS,* and *S. suis*. MBC concentrations of LML were lower in DMSO compared to ethanol for *B. cereus* and *S. suis.* In tests against the Gram-positive bacteria, LMD/ETOH showed broad antimicrobial activity against *B. cereus, S. suis* and *L. monocytogenens* and *E. faecalis* with MBC values between <3 mg/ml and <5 mg/ml. However, LMD/DMSO was not shown to be bactericidal to *L. monocytogenes* or *E. faecalis* at concentrations up to 5 mg/ml. Furthermore, bactericidal activity of ethanol was shown against *M. KMS*, with no cells growing in the control or treatment at 10% ethanol as stated earlier for the MIC values. LMM/DMSO was effective against *B. cereus*, *M. KMS* and *S. suis* with MBC values between <3 and <5 mg/ml. LMO/ETOH showed no bactericidal effects up to concentrations of 5 mg/ml whereas LMO/DMSO was only shown to have bactericidal activity against *B. cereus* at <5 mg/ml. DMSO was itself inhibitory towards *S. suis* with no growth in the treatment of controls with

4. Discussion

 Carbohydrate fatty acid derivatives are biodegradable, nontoxic and non-skin irritant surfactants with microbial inhibitory activity (Szuts et al., 2012). The microbial inhibitory properties of these derivatives are increasingly of interest and many of these compounds have been shown to inhibit Gram-positive rather than Gram-negative bacteria (Piao et al., 2006; Wagh et al., 2012). This study evaluated both microbial inhibitory and bactericidal properties of lactose esters. LML was shown to be the most effective lactose ester in preventing microbial growth, 218 yielding the lowest MIC values in the range of $\langle 0.05 \text{ mg/ml} \rangle$ to $\langle 5 \text{ mg/ml} \rangle$ (0.095 mM to $\langle 9.53 \rangle$ mM) against each Gram-positive bacteria tested. Moreover *B. cereus* and *S. suis* appeared to be the most susceptible with MIC values obtained for each ester tested, and the lowest MIC value 221 was obtained with LML/ETOH and *M. KMS* (<0.05 mg/ml or <0.095 mM). With regards to previous studies of bacterial inhibition with lactose esters, LML/ETOH showed inhibitory activity against *L. monocytogenes* at concentrations of 0.1 mg/ml (0.19 mM) (Wagh et al., 2012). Similar microbial inhibitory effects of LML were observed in another study in which LML/ETOH inhibited the growth of *L. monocytogenes* in milk, low fat yogurt and cheese at <5 mg/ml (Chen *et al*. 2013).

 It is known that the identity of the sugar group attached to the ester plays a role in modulating the antimicrobial activity [3, 7]. The antimicrobial effect of sugar esters has traditionally be measured and reported as MIC values, with no MBC values given. Smith et al.,

effects against *S. aureus* at 4 mg/ml and 3 mg/ml, respectively. In a similar study, Smith et al.,

(2008) and Nobman et al., (2009) reported that a glucose fatty acid ether containing decanoic

 acid showed the greatest activity against *S. aureus* and *Listeria* at concentrations of 0.04 mM but was effective against *E. coli* at 20 mM. In this study, we showed that LMD had MIC values for

 all bacteria tested except *S. mutans*, although the MIC values were solvent dependent for *M. KMS, L. monocytogenes* and *E. faecalis*.

In general, the MIC values of the LML/ETOH treatments were lower than the

LML/DMSO treatments suggesting compounding stress of both LML and ethanol lead to growth

inhibition as suggested by Chen et al., (2013). Similar results are seen with LMD/ETOH, where

- MIC values were obtained for *L. monocytogenes* and *E. faecalis*, but not with LMD/DMSO.
- Conversely, the MBC values of LML/DMSO were lower or equal to the LML/ETOH values.

Therefore, the effect of ethanol on the MBC values is not understood.

5. Conclusions

 The results suggest that the chain length of the fatty acid ester significantly influences the microbial inhibitory and bactericidal activity of lactose esters towards Gram-positive bacteria. Lactose esters containing decanoate and laurate were more microbial inhibitory than esters containing octanoate and myristate. No esters inhibited the growth of the Gram-negative bacteria *E. coli O157:H7*. The solvent used to dissolve the esters influenced the microbial inhibitory activity for some bacteria. Ethanol (>7.5%) and DMSO (<8%) inhibited the growth of *L. monocytogenes* and *S. suis* respectively. Additional research on the microbial inhibitory activity of these esters in food systems without the need to prior dissolve in either ethanol or DMSO is needed.

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345 Table 1. Microorganisms and growth media used in this study

346 $a +$, positive; -, negative

 347 NA = not available

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- 357 X^1 = no growth in treatment or control at 5 mg/ml
- 358 2 Data obtained from Wagh et al., 2012.
- 359 No = No growth inhibition

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365 Table 3. Minimum bactericidal concentration of lactose esters as both mg/ml and mM 366 concentrations. Esters were tested at concentrations up to 5 mg/ml. The log reductions of the 367 treatment samples compared to the controls are given as log values.

368 X^1 = no growth in treatment or control at 5 mg/ml

369 ²Data obtained from Wagh et al., 2012.

 370 No = No MBC value