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Theme

**Study of combined effect of some medicinal plants
and probiotics against *Helicobacter pylori*
responsible for gastroduodenal diseases**

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List of abbreviations

AASEA :	Algerian Association of Sciences in Animal Experimentation
ACSOs :	Salk(en)yl-L-cysteine sulfoxides
ADH :	Arginine dihydrolase
AGE :	Aqueous garlic extract
AGS cells :	Adenocarcinoma gastric cell line
ARE :	Antioxidant response element
<i>B.</i> :	<i>Bifidobacterium</i>
BabA :	Blood group antigen-binding adhesion
<i>C.</i> :	<i>Campylobacter</i>
Cag PAI :	Cytotoxin-associated gene pathogenicity island
CDX2 :	Caudal-type homeobox 2
CE :	Catechin equivalent
CFS :	Cell-free supernatant
CLO :	<i>Campylobacter</i> -like organism
CM:	Cytoplasmic membrane of target cell
DCs:	Epithelial and dendritic cells
DDS :	Diallyl disulfide
DM :	Dry matter
DMS :	Diallyl monosulfide
DNA :	Deoxyribonucleic acid
DPPH :	Diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl
DTS :	Diallyl trisulfide
DTTS :	Diallyl tetrasulfide
DZI :	Diameter of zones of inhibition
EC :	Electrical conductivity
EHPSG :	European <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> Study Group
ELISA :	Enzyme linked immunosorbent assay
FDA :	Food and Drug Administration
FISH :	Fluorescence in situ hybridization
GAE :	Gallic acid equivalent
GCLM :	Glutamate-cysteine ligase modifier

GP :	Glycoprotein
GSH-Px :	Decrease glutathione peroxidase
<i>H.</i> :	<i>Helicobacter</i>
HDL :	High-density lipoprotein
HE :	Hematoxylin and eosin
<i>HP.</i> :	<i>Helicobacter pylori</i>
HPLC :	High-performance liquid chromatography
HpSA :	Stool antigen test
IC :	Inhibition concentration
IECs:	Intestinal epithelial cells
IM :	Inner bacterial membrane
LAB :	Lactic acid bacteria
<i>Lb.</i> :	<i>Lactobacillus</i>
<i>Lc.</i> :	<i>Leuconostoc</i>
LDL:	Low density lipoprotein-cholesterol
LPS :	Lipopolysaccharide
MALT :	Mucosa associated lymphoid tissue
MAPK :	Mitogen-activated protein kinase
MBC :	Minimum bactericidal concentration
MCSO :	Allicin and S-methyl cysteine-sulfoxide
MIC :	Minimum inhibitory concentration
NBT :	Nitroblue tetrazolium
NC :	Negative control
<i>O.</i> :	<i>Oenococcus</i>
OBMT :	Omeprazole, bismuth subcitrate, metronidazole, and tetracycline
OM :	Outer bacterial membrane
OMPs :	Outer membrane proteins
ORFs :	Open reading frames
ORS:	Oxygen-free radical species
<i>P.</i> :	<i>Pediococcus</i>
PC :	Positive control
PCR :	Polymerase chain reaction.
PCSO :	S-propyl-cysteine sulfoxide
PG :	Peptidoglycan

PGE2 :	Prostaglandin E2
PPI :	Proton pump inhibitors
PPI-AC :	Clarithromycin-based triple therapy
PPI-AL :	Levofloxacin based triple therapy
PSCA :	Prostate stem cell antigen
PUD:	Peptic ulcer disease
QE :	Quercitin equivalent
RANKL :	Receptor activator of nuclear factor-kappa B ligand
REA :	Rutin acid equivalent
RNA :	Ribonucleic acid
Rt :	Retention time
S.:	<i>Saccharomyces</i>
SOD :	Superoxide dismutase
T4SS:	needle-like type 4 secretion system
TAE :	Tanic acid equivalent
TBB :	Treated with <i>B. breve</i>
TC :	Total cholesterol
TCMs:	Traditional chinese medicines
TFE1 :	Treated with fenugreek extract 150 µg/kg
TFE2 :	Treated with fenugreek extract 300 µg/kg
TG :	Triglyceride
TSS :	Total suspended solids
TV :	Trichomoniasis
UBT:	Urea breath tests
VacA :	Vacuolating cytotoxin
VBNC :	Viable but nonculturable
VVC:	Vulvovaginal candidiasis
W. :	<i>Weissella</i>

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Introduction

Introduction

In Algeria, as in other developing countries, infectious and parasitic diseases constitute a public health problem because of their frequency and seriousness (**Mimoune et al., 2022**). The situation is more worrying because of the appearance of strains antibiotic-resistant microorganisms and the emergence of uncommon infections which compromise treatments using existing drugs (**WHO, 2002**).

Helicobacter pylori infection is the underlying cause of noncardia gastric cancer, the second commonest cause of death from cancer in the world, it is also responsible for deaths from peptic ulcer. Gastric cancer and peptic ulcer together cause more than a million deaths per year worldwide, it is therefore a serious public health problem (**Axon, 2014**).

H. pylori is usually acquired during childhood and able to establish lifelong chronic infection (**Malaty et al., 2002**). Infected patients are asymptomatic in most cases but infection has been directly linked to chronic gastritis, peptic ulcer, non-ulcer dyspepsia, mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma, and gastric cancer (**Crowe, 2019**). On the basis of compelling evidence, the World Health Organization has classified *H. pylori* as a group I carcinogen leading to gastric adeno-carcinoma and recently highlighted the ranking of *H. pylori* in the priority list of research (**Tacconelli, 2018**).

H. pylori prevalence varies between countries and their socio-economic levels (**Suerbaum and Michetti, 2002**). It is estimated that the prevalence of this infection is higher in developing countries where it can reach 80% to 90% of the young adult population compared to 40% or less in developed countries (**Heluwaert et al., 2014**).

A serological study in the 1980s reported a prevalence of 80% in the Algerian population (**Megraud et al., 1989**). Another study carried out in Algeria in 2000 revealed a prevalence of 71% (**Faik, 2000**). Algeria still one of the regions presenting a high prevalence of this infection (**Djennane-Hadibi et al., 2016**).

The eradication of *H. pylori* is essential when it is detected, in particular to avoid the risk of stomach cancer. Its eradication treatment using triple therapy (proton pump inhibitor combined with two antibiotics) is currently the reference treatment recommended (**Malfertheiner et al., 2002**). However, conventional treatment with antibiotics is not always effective against *H. pylori* infection due to the resistance of the bacteria to antibiotics, the main factor in treatment failure (**Raymond et al., 2010**). Faced to this obstacle, it is essential to seek new effective antibacterial substances with a broad spectrum of action exploring the plants used in traditional medicine (**Omolo et al., 2014**).

The history of Aromatic and Medicinal Plants (AMP) is associated with the evolution of civilizations. In all regions of the world, the history of peoples shows that these plants have always occupied an important place in medicine and in culinary preparations (**Bouzouita et al., 2008**). The last decades have been marked by the particular interest shown in the implementation of value of medicinal plants as sources of bioactive natural substances (**El-Haci, 2012**). Nowadays between 350,000 plants are used in the pharmacopoeia human. 75% of drugs are of plant origin and 25% of them contain at least one active molecule of plant origin (**Salmerón-Manzano et al., 2020**).

Garlic (*Allium sativum L.*), onion (*Allium cepa L.*), fenugreek (*Trigonella Foenum-graecum L.*) and cumin (*Cuminum cyminum L.*) are among the ancient foods grown in Algeria, and known for their virtues and medicinal applications. They are a rich source of phyto-nutrients advised as important elements of the Mediterranean diet (**Lanzotti, 2006; Lazouni et al., 2007**). These herbs are used to treat a range of illnesses related to: digestive disorders (gastric and intestinal), urinary system, cardiovascular diseases and respiratory diseases, etc. (**Eddouks et al., 2007**). Currently, we understand more and more, that the active principles of medicinal plants products are often related to the products of secondary metabolites, which are widely used in therapy, as anti-inflammatory preventive agents, antimicrobial, antiseptics, diuretics, but mainly antioxidant (**Hussein and El-Anssary, 2019**).

Many studies have been carried out to investigate the anti-*H. pylori* activity of plant extracts, partially purified fractions of natural compounds (**Kabangu and Tambwe, 1990**). Numerous plants present a strong anti-*Helicobacter pylori* activity such as *Impatiens balsamina L.* (**Wang et al., 2009**), *Persea americana*, *Annona cherimola*, *Guaiacum coulteri*, *Moussonia deppeana* (**Castillo-Juárez et al., 2009**), *Myristica fragrans* (seed), *Rosmarinus officinalis* (rosemary leaf) (**Mahady et al., 2003**) and *Curcuma amada* Roxb., *Mallotus philippinesis* (Lam) Muell., *Myristica fragrans* Houtt., *Psoralea corylifolia L.* (**Zaidi et al., 2009**). Remarkable anti-*H. pylori* activity was reported for garlic (**Sivam, 2001**); onion (**Ramos et al., 2006**), fenugreek (**Randhir and Shetty, 2007**) and cumin (**Moghaddam, 2010**).

Further more numerous scientific studies have reported the prophylactic and therapeutic properties of lactic acid bacteria (LAB) (**Parker, 1974; Varcoe et al., 2003; Marelli et al., 2004**). These beneficial microorganisms for the health of humans and animals have been given the name “Probiotics”. This concept was developed especially after the emergence, in

recent decades, of bacteria resistant to antibiotics and the interest aroused by natural inhibition agents for the control of pathogenic germs (**Kailasapathy and Chin, 2000**).

LAB have been used for years against infectious diseases and are widely studied for their ability to protect humans against pathogenic bacteria (**Ryan et al., 2008**). Several studies have shown that LAB have an inhibitory activity against the pathogenic bacterium *H. pylori* *in vitro* and *in vivo* (**Coconnier et al., 1998; Michetti et al., 1999; Elsalmi et al., 2019**). This power exerted by LAB is usually due to the production of organic acids, hydrogen peroxide, as well as bacteriocins (**Silva et al., 1987; Vandenberg, 1993; Midolo et al., 1995**). LAB clearly show better tolerance to classic triple therapy and seem to have a preventive effect. Therefore, the administration of probiotics could be exploited as a potential therapeutic agent for the eradication of *H. pylori* (**Hamilton-Miller, 2003**).

Symbiotics are defined as a combination of probiotics (live microorganisms which, when administered in adequate amounts, confer a health benefit to the host) and prebiotics (a food ingredient selectively metabolized by beneficial intestinal bacteria), which may act synergistically (**Kumari et al., 2020**).

To the best of our knowledge, no research so far has been carried out on the synergistic effect of garlic, onion, cumin and fenugreek with probiotics on the growth inhibition of *H. pylori*. For this reason, the aim of this study was to highlighting the *in vitro* and *in vivo* probiotic and/ prebiotics effect of some LAB and plant extracts on *H. pylori*.

The objectives of our work were to evaluate the effect of plant extracts and probiotics against *H. pylori* (*in vitro*), to determine the potential of combination between extract plants and probiotics against *H. pylori* (*in vitro*) and to confirm of the *in vivo* antibacterial effect of fenugreek extract (*Trigonella Foenum-Graecum* L.) and *Bifidobacterium breve* on *H. pylori* colonization.

Part I:
Literature
Review

Chapter -I-

Generalities on *Helicobacter pylori*

I.1 History

The first well known report of gastric Helicobacters has been credited to an Italian anatomist **Giulio Bizzozero**, as early as in **1893**. In hand drawn illustrations, Bizzozero documented the presence of “spirochetes” with approximately 10 wave lengths within the parietal cells and gastric glands in the stomachs of dogs. However, the first record on the presence of spiral organisms in the human mucosa, adjacent to carcinomas was described by **Krienitz (1906)**.

In **1939**, **Doenges** showed 43% of human stomach autopsies harboured spiral organisms and a year later, **Freedberg and Baron (1940)** presented findings of “spirochetes” in about 40% of the resected gastric specimens. These findings were viewed with scepticism as most of the samples of spiral organisms were obtained post mortem and the possibility of contamination could not be disregarded. Moreover, the hypothesis of contamination gained superiority in the early **1950s** when **Palmer** performed a study on more than 1,000 gastric biopsies taken with a blind suction biopsy instrument and found no evidence of spirochetes. This incorrect conclusion drawn during that period could be due to the rigid endoscopes available, which only allowed biopsies to be taken from the fundus and not from the antrum, where *H. pylori* is usually located. The possibility that the appropriate staining solutions were not used could not be ruled out. The interest in this gastric spiral bacterium was re-awakened when **Steer and Colin-Jones (1975)** noted that numerous spiral bacteria were present in 80% of their gastric ulcer specimens. Unfortunately, attempts to culture the organism yielded only growth of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. This was later assumed to be the contaminants from the endoscope.

A major breakthrough in locking the link between gastroduodenal diseases and the spiral bacteria was established when two Australian researchers **Robin Warren** and **Barry Marshall (1984)**, after numerous unsuccessful attempts, managed to culture the *Campylobacter*-like organism (CLO) by chance. Furthermore, Barry Marshall himself had fulfilled the Koch’s postulate, confirming an association of the bacteria and clinical disease by voluntarily ingesting a culture of *H. pylori* and was subsequently diagnosed with gastritis (**Marshall et al., 1985a**).

The brief history on the discovery of *H. pylori* as illustrated in **Table 1** shows that *H. pylori* has existed all this while, but investigators were not able to detect the bacteria in biopsies or merely considered their findings a result of contamination. The discovery of the

gastric pathogen, *H. pylori*, has indeed led to a revolution in our understanding of gastroduodenal pathology, mainly gastritis and peptic ulcer.

Table 1: History of the discovery of *H. pylori* (Ling, 2004)

History of <i>H. pylori</i>		
Year	References	Report
1893	Bizzozero	Spiral organisms in dogs
1896	Salomon	Spiral organisms in dogs and cats
1906	Krienitz	First description in a human with gastric cancer
1939	Doenges	Spirochetes in stomach (autopsies)
1940	Freedburg and Barron	Spirochetes in stomach with ulcers or carcinoma
1954	Palmer	All bacteria in stomachs believed to be contaminants
1975	Steer and Colin-Jones	Bacteria in gastric ulcer patients identified as <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>
1983	Warren and Marshall	First culture of <i>H. pylori</i>

I.2 Taxonomy and classification

This novel gastric bacterium isolated resembled *Campylobacter* in several aspects, both morphologically and microbiologically. Therefore, the primary isolate was first referred to as *Campylobacter pyloridis* (Marshall and Warren, 1984). The specific epithet was later revised to *C. pylori* conforming to the correct Latin genitive of the noun pylorus (Marshall and Goodwin, 1987). However, further characterization of the organism indicated that perhaps *C. pylori* was not a true *Campylobacter*. The ultra structure details showed multiple sheathed flagella at one pole of the bacterium, in contrast to the single bipolar unsheathed flagellum typical of *Campylobacter* species (Goodwin et al., 1985).

The protein patterns and cellular fatty acid composition of *C. pylori* also differed markedly from those of *Campylobacter* species (Pearson et al., 1984; Goodwin et al., 1985). Analysis of the 16S rRNA sequence provided more evidence to exclude *C. pylori* from the *Campylobacter* genus (Romaniuk et al., 1987). Finally, Goodwin et al. (1989) proposed the new genus name *Helicobacter* and since then, *C. pylori* was renamed *H. pylori*, the first member of the new genus.

H. pylori is a helical-shaped bacterium found in an area of the stomach near the pylore, hence its name. It is considered the leader of a new group of bacterium, called Gram-negative Super Family VI bacteria, which includes four genera: *Helicobacter*, *Campylobacter*,

Arcobacter and *Wolinella*. *H. pylori* is differentiated from other groups primarily by the structure of its ribosomal RNA (16S) but also by the multitude of sheathed flagella (4-6), and by the possession of particular fatty acids and menaquinones that have valuable taxonomic value (Megraud, 1993).

The classification of *H.pylori* is represented in the **Table 2**:

Table 2: Classification of *H.pylori* (Garrity et al., 2005)

Domain	Eubacteria
Kingdom	Bacteria
Phylum	Proteobacteria
Class	Epsilonproteobacteria
Order	Campylobacterales
Family	<i>Helicobacteraceae</i>
Genus	<i>Helicobacter</i>
Species	<i>Helicobacter pylori</i>

Since the discovery of *H. pylori* in 1982, many other species of the genus *Helicobacter* have been identified. They colonize the digestive mucosa of humans or animals (Megraud and Lamouliatte, 2003). The genus *Helicobacter* currently includes 30 validated species (Menard et al., 2016). Depending on the specific niches to which they are associated, the *Helicobacters* are divided into two groups: the gastric *Helicobacters* comprising *H. pylori* and *H. felis* in particular and the enterohepatic *Helicobacters* colonizing the gastro-intestinal and bile ducts (Fig. 1).

I.3 Characteristics of *H. pylori*

I.3.1 Morphological and physiological

H. pylori is a helical S shaped Gram negative bacterium. It is 2.5-5 µm in length, 0.5-1 µm in width and possesses a tuft of 4 to 6 polar sheathed flagella (Goodwin et al., 1985). Each flagellum is 2.5 µm long and about 30 µm in thickness, with a membranous terminal bulb (Goodwin et al., 1989). The characteristic corkscrew motility enables the bacterium to burrow into the mucin lining the epithelial mucosa of the stomach (Goodwin et al., 1985).

The flagella components consist of the hook protein (Flg E) and two flagellin proteins, FlaA and FlaB. *H. pylori* with disrupted FlgE was non-motile and lacked the filaments, although both flagellin proteins were produced (O'Toole et al., 1994). Both flagellin subunits were found to be essential for motility and colonization of the stomach (Fig. 2) (Josenhans et al., 1995).

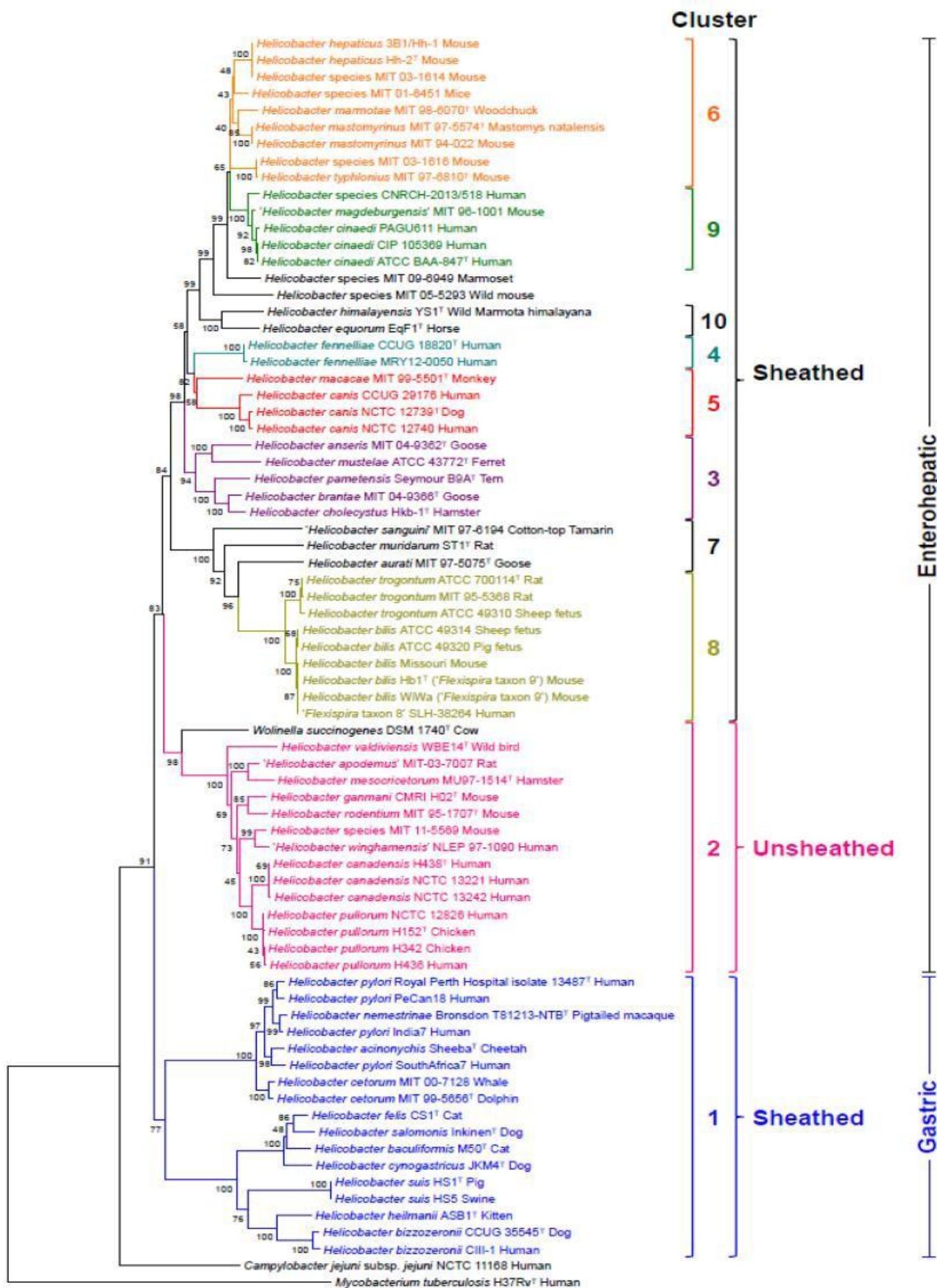


Figure 1: Phylogenetic tree representing the different taxons of the genus *Helicobacter* (Menard et al., 2016)

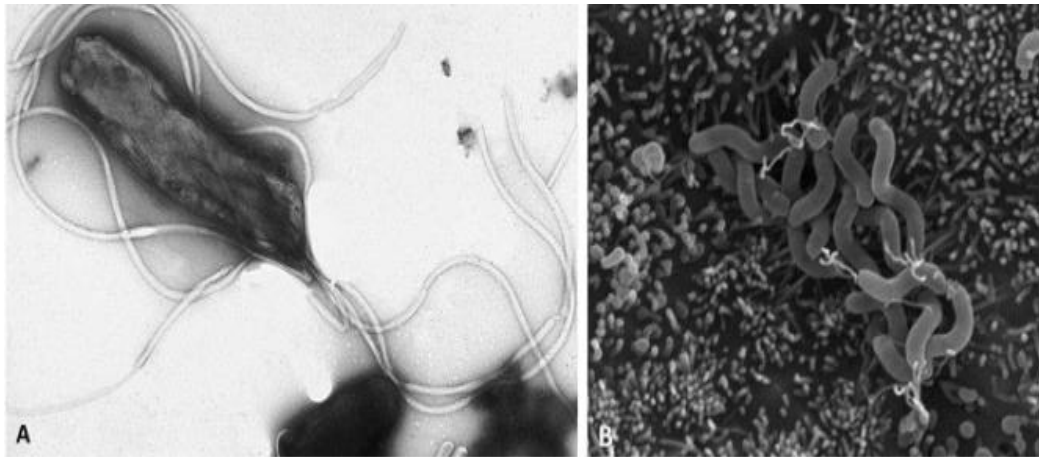


Figure 2: *Helicobacter pylori* under electron microscopy (Gx 30000) (Tan et al., 2010)

A. *H. pylori*; B. *H. pylori* cluster at gastric epithelial cell level

H. pylori prefers a microaerophilic environment with 5-10% carbon dioxide environment for *in vitro* culture. A variety of solid media containing 5-10% horse/sheep blood were used to culture the bacteria under microaerophilic atmosphere, *H. pylori* colonies usually appeared after 3-5 days incubation at 37°C (Hachem et al., 1995).

This bacterium presents two different morphologic manifestations: spiral and coccoid forms. The role of the spiral form has been shown to be strongly associated with gastroduodenal diseases (Annibale et al., 2001). However, the biological significance of the coccoid form, which is non-culturable *in vitro*, has yet to be determined (Zheng et al., 1999). Some investigators postulated that the coccoid form may represent a persistent form in which *H. pylori* can exist in the environment as VBNC (Nilsson et al., 2002) and could possibly play a role in the transmission cycle and treatment failure (Cave, 1997).

I.3.2 Cultural

The proper specimen for culturing *H. pylori* is biopsy specimens obtained during endoscopy. Since proton pump inhibitors (PPI) may change distribution of mucosal bacteria (Megraud et al., 1991), subjects who are scheduled to undergo endoscopy should quit PPIs or antibiotics for two weeks or more. There is a controversy over the number of tissue samples required for the diagnosis of *H. pylori*. A single biopsy at antrum (2 cm from the pylorus) is sensitive but it is not sufficient for a reliable diagnosis (Megraud and Lehours, 2007). As *H. pylori* may have patch distribution, the larger number of samples taken increases the sensitivity. Therefore, it is recommended to take two specimens from the antrum as well

as two specimens each from the anterior and posterior corpus (**Megraud and Lehours, 2007**).

Specimens of *H. pylori* is fragile in room temperature and air. It is obligatory to avoid air exposure of the specimens and to place them in saline or transport media such as Stuart's transport medium (4 h maximum) (**Megraud and Lehours, 2007**). If these transport condition cannot be available, it is better to freeze the specimens at -70°C or in liquid nitrogen in a dry tube and transport them frozen to the laboratory. Storage at 4°C in a medium containing 20% glycerol also led to *H. pylori* recovery in 81% of the biopsy specimens tested (**Han et al., 1995**).

H. pylori is not distributed evenly in most cases; more colonies appear in the grinded specimens. In addition, direct plating to solid medium is used as *H. pylori* is difficult to grow in the broth culture. The medium includes an agar base, growth supplements, and selective supplements. Blood or serum components are examples of growth supplements, which promote the growth of *H. pylori*, and the proportion is 5 %, 7 %, or 10 %. Other growth supplements include yolk, charcoal, starch, bovine serum albumin, catalase (**Megraud and Lehours, 2007**). Selective supplements are crucial due to the presence of contaminating bacteria. It consists of antibiotics and antifungals: antibiotics which inhibit the growth of Gram-positive bacteria such as vancomycin or teicoplanin, antibiotics targeting Gram-negative bacteria such as nalidixic acid colistin or trimethoprim, and antifungals such as nystatin or amphotericin B. To increase sensitivity of the test, selective medium or the blood containing nonselective medium is used (**Piccolomini et al., 1997**). Selective medium such as *Pylori* agar and Skirrow agar and non selective medium such as blood agar and Columbia agar are frequently used (**Garza and Perez, 2014**). Incubating the bacteria cultures will be made in microaerobic conditions of $35\text{--}37^{\circ}\text{C}$ (85 % N_2 , 10 % CO_2 , 5 % O_2), and the colonies appear within 3–4 days in optimal conditions (**Fig. 3**). However, 7–10 days of incubation is recommended to make sure that the result is negative (**Van der-Hulst et al., 1996**).



Figure 3: Appearance of *H.pylori* colonies (**Davood et al., 2009**)

I.3.3 Biochemical

H. pylori is inactive in most of the conventional biochemical tests. Carbohydrates are neither oxidized nor fermented. It produces catalase and cytochrome oxidase but is most notable for its high level of urease and alkaline phosphatase activity. *H. pylori* is a homogeneous species in its enzymic profile, with the exception of some minor strain differences in aminopeptidase and other presented enzyme activities. Typical strains are positive for alkaline phosphatase, acid phosphatase, leucine arylamidase, naphthol-AS-BI-phosphohydrolase, esterases C4 (butyrate) and C8 (caprylate), and gamma glutamyl transpeptidase. Strains are usually negative in hippurate hydrolysis, nitrate reduction, indole formation, arylsulphatase activity, growth in the presence of 1 % and 3.5% NaCl, and indoxyl acetate hydrolysis (**Tab. 3**). Some *H. pylori* has been reported to be negative for catalase and urease production but, in general, the isolation of such strains directly from clinical material is rare. Another important difference between strains is their ability to produce a vacuolating cytotoxin in human and animal cell lines (**Owen, 1998**).

I.3.4 Genetical

H. pylori has a relatively small genome (~ 1.65 Mb) and is only about 1/3 the size of the *E. coli* genome. In comparison, the *H. pylori* genome was shown to possess 17% of species specific genes to the closely related organism *Campylobacter jejuni* (**Pennisi, 1999**).

Table 3: Biochemical and cultural characteristics of *H.pylori* (**Goodwin et al., 1989**)

Biochemical characteristics of <i>H. pylori</i>		
Oxydase	+	
Catalase	+	
Urease	+	
Hippurate hydrolysis	-	
Nitrate reduction (microaerophilic)	-	
H ₂ S production in triple sugar iron agar	-	
Gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase	+	
Alkaline phosphatase	+	
Motility in brain heart infusion broth	+	
Motility from agar plate	-	
Growth microaerophilically at 37°C	+	
Growth on blood agar containing 3.5% NaCl	-	
Growth on 0.5% glycine	+	
Growth on 1% glycine	-	
Growth on 1% bile	-	
Susceptibility to nalidixic acid (30-pg disk)	R	
Susceptibility to cephalothin (30-pg disk)	S	
Susceptibility to metronidazole (5-pg disk)	S	

-: Negative
 +: Positive
 S: Sensitive
 R: Resistant

H. pylori genomic (chromosomal) DNA is a single circular molecule of small size from 1.4 to 1.73 Mb depending on the strains, but genomic analysis of 30 strains resulted in an average value of 1.71 Mb (**Taylor et al., 1992**). On the other hand, the species of *H. pylori* is distinguished by the more basic value of (G+C) of its DNA, which varies between 36 and 37%, different from that of the genus *Vibrio* (G + C = 38-51%) and the genus *Wolinella* (G + C = 46-49%) (**Sobhani et al., 1991a**). *H. pylori* present more than 30% of specific genes. However, about 1200 genes are common to all strains, and 200 to 400 genes located mainly in plasticity zones or in the cag pathogenicity island (cagPAI) are present in a variable way between the different strains (**Varon and Megraud, 2013**).

H. pylori present two genomes that don't have the same number of genes: 1587 genes for the first one and 1491 genes for the second, these genomes possess 16S, 23S and 5S rRNAs, which don't carry antibiotic resistance genes or virulence genes. The genome of *H. pylori* is composed of a circular chromosome 1.66 pB. The sequencing of this genome was carried out in 1999 (**Raymond, 2016**). The genome of *H. pylori* is composed of three parts: a stable part that ensures the homogeneity of the species, a variable part for the adaptation of the bacterium to its environment and a last part has recently been described and would be decisive for the virulence (**Basso et al., 2008**). Many elements of this genome suggest that it is frequently altered by intra-gene alterations or by the acquisition of exogenous DNA. This diversity could influence the pathogenicity of certain strains or play a role in the survival of the bacterium at the host level (**De Reuse and Bereswill, 2007**).

Completed genomes of two unrelated *H. pylori* strains (26695 and J99) as well as the comparison of the two have been made available (**Alm and Trust, 1999**). *H. pylori* 26695, sequenced by The Institute of Genome Research, was isolated in the mid 1980s in the United Kingdom from a patient suffering from gastritis. In contrast, *H. pylori* J99, an isolate from a duodenal ulcer patient in USA was sequenced in a collaborative study between Astra Zeneca R and D Boston (formerly Astra Research Center Boston) and Genome Therapeutics Corporation.

Comparison of the two genomes shows that *H. pylori* J99 is 24.036 bp shorter and contains 57 fewer predicted open reading frames than strain 26695. In addition, the analysis between the genomes of the two strains have also identified that each strain contains a set of genes (~6-7%) that are unique to each strain. Interestingly, almost one half of these genes were clustered in a single hyper variable region, namely the plasticity zone. In both J99 and 26695 genomes, almost 60% of the open reading frames (ORFs) were attributed with

predicted functions (Alm and Trust, 1999). Comparison of the two completed sequenced genomes has provided important information regarding the genetic heterogeneity. There are now evidence for some genetic loci such as *cagA* and *vacA* of the Western and Asian strains represented distinct lineages of *H. pylori* strains (Van Doorn et al., 1999).

I.4 Habitat

The stomach is the main habitat of *H. pylori*. There may be extension of the *H. pylori* habitat into the proximal duodenum or distal esophagus, usually in the presence of gastric metaplasia in those sites (Talley et al., 1988). *H. pylori* also has been found overlying ectopic gastric epithelium in Meckel's diverticulum, but this is an uncommon circumstance. Its genetic sequences have been identified in oral and colonic contents, but it is not clear whether these organisms are transient or residential (Ackerman et al., 2003).

I.5 Epidemiology of *H. pylori* infection

H. pylori infects around 50% of the population, it is acquired during childhood, and typically persists in the stomach throughout life unless treated with antibiotics. Overcrowding, poor sanitation, and low economic standards are the risk factors for acquiring *H. pylori* infection, which is inversely correlated with socioeconomic status (Khalifa et al., 2010). Because of the improved living standards in developed compared to developing countries, the infection rate is still much higher in developing countries where it can sometimes reach 80-90% (Fig. 4). Related to this, the birth cohort effect was seen in developed countries where the *H. pylori* prevalence is much higher in the older generation because of a lower acquisition rate in the younger generation and wide spread use of antibiotics. In a study of Peruvian children, 71% were infected by the age of 6 months (determined by urea-breath test) compared to 1.2% of 6 months-old Swedish children (determined by serological test) (Delport and Van der-Merwe, 2007). The increased growth rate of developing countries proposes that the total number of infected individuals in the world will increase even further and consequently, gastric disease related to *H. pylori* infection will also increase (Khalifa et al., 2010).

The *H. pylori* infection has emerged as one of the most common chronic bacterial infections worldwide and affects more than half of the world's population, with clinical signs of infection only manifesting in <20% of these individuals (Percival and Suleman, 2014). *H. pylori* is thought to be indigenous to the human population and is well adapted to existing in the human stomach for the lifetime of its host unless eradication using appropriate chemotherapeutic agents is successful (Blaser, 1997).



Figure 4: Prevalence of *H. pylori* infection worldwide in 2017 (Michael et al., 2017)

Life long colonization seems to be due to the ability of some strains of *H. pylori* to both adapt to the host's immunological responses and to also withstand the constantly changing gastric environment (Salaun et al., 2005).

The rate of *H. pylori* infection differs among groups as well as within the population. Strains from different geographical areas exhibit phylogeographic features (Blaser, 2005; Ahmed et al., 2007). The genomic patterns of *H. pylori* have been shown to be extremely diverse, and gastric mucosa may be colonized by strains with small differences in the genomic patterns suggesting subtype variation (Colding et al., 1999).

I.5.1 Prevalence

The prevalence of *H. pylori* infection varies widely by geographic area, age, race, and socioeconomic status. While the infection is on a fast decline in the most of the Western countries, mainly due to the success of therapeutic regimens and improved personal and community hygiene that prevents reinfection, in developing countries, the prevalence rates can reach 90% and is higher among individuals belonging to low socioeconomic status group (Khalifa et al., 2010). It occurs especially due to failure of treatment and emergence of drug resistance (Blaser, 2005).

Most studies suggest that males and females are infected at approximately the same rates (Kawasaki et al., 1998). In spite of it, a meta-analysis population-based study reported a male predominance of *H. pylori*-related diseases in adults but not in children (De Martel and Parsonnet, 2006). The infection probably occurs in the childhood, and children are often infected by a strain with a genetic fingerprint identical to that of their parents (Covacci et al., 1998). Besides, local prevalence of *H. pylori* within a country also should be considered, and there are estimates that infection is more common in rural developing areas than in urban

developed ones (**Vale and Vitor, 2010**). Moreover, differences by ethnic and racial groups are evident (**Bardhan et al., 1997**). In addition, the main risk factors of *H. pylori* infection, especially if present during childhood, have been associated with socioeconomic status. **Malaty and Graham (1994)** demonstrated that there is probably an inverse correlation between prevalence and socioeconomic status. It has also been reported that overcrowding, such as living in a crowded environment, sibship size, number of persons or children in the home, number of persons per room, crowding index, and living in an institutionalized population, is a situation consistently related to *H. pylori* positivity (**Peach et al., 1997; Kikuchi et al., 1999**). Finally, it is important to consider that the pathogenetic role of *H. pylori* in gastroduodenal pathologies has been elucidated and confirmed in the past 30 years (**Malfertheiner et al., 2014**) redirecting the scientific and medical understanding of great part of gastrointestinal diseases. The development of effective therapies against *H. pylori* infection has progressed, and its successful eradication leads to healing of chronic active gastritis and reverses inflammation of the mucosa. In spite of it, the challenge nowadays is gastric cancer and the understanding of gastric carcinogenesis, almost always is associated with *H. pylori* long-term infection (**Roesler and Zeitune, 2014**).

I.5.2 Transmission pathways

Although the natural niche for *H. pylori* is the human stomach, some questions about other possible reservoirs for bacterium have been appearing in the last years. Nevertheless, most part of the questions about the transmission of *H. pylori* remains unclear, and, because of it, the possible modes of transmission are still unknown. Consequently, the routes of transmission of *H. pylori* are supposed to occur via an array of different pathways.

Some important studies have reported and highlighted the importance of *H. pylori* biofilms, the presence of coccoid forms within the biofilm, and resistance, providing insight into the prevalence of coccoid forms in the gastric mucosa. These reports are very important because these can bring a better understanding about the mechanisms behind recalcitrant coccoid states and how they can phenotypically shift into more virulent spiral forms (**Cellini et al., 2008; Cellini, 2014**).

The infection is typically acquired in early childhood and once established commonly persists throughout life unless treated. Person-to-person transmission within the family appears to be the predominant mode of transmission, particularly from mothers to children and among siblings, indicating that intimate contact is important. The route of transmission is

uncertain, but the gastro-oral, oral-oral, and fecal-oral routes are likely possibilities (Weyermann *et al.*, 2009; Khalifa *et al.*, 2010).

The community and environment may play additional roles for *H. pylori* transmission in some settings. Molecular analyses show that the microorganism is also present in various aquatic environments suggesting that human-fecal-contaminated water sources could be a plausible reservoir of the pathogen. The persistence of the environment virulent *H. pylori* strain in a clustered state, such as the biofilm, suggests a long-term survival of the bacterial community outside the host, enabling bacterial transmission with important clinical repercussions (Hu and Ehrlich, 2008). In addition, zoonotic transmission by houseflies (Junqueira *et al.*, 2017) and some domestic animals such as dogs, cats, and sheep (Momtaz *et al.*, 2014), as well as iatrogenic transmission, have been proposed. Besides, there can be factors both from host and bacterium which may modify the acquisition and persistence of *H. pylori* infection (Peters *et al.*, 2011).

Another possibility of *H. pylori* transmission which has been extensively reported is the water. The contamination of drinking water by human feces has been suggested as one of the possible routes of *H. pylori* transmission, and it has been demonstrated that the microorganism is present in the so-called VBNC state in this unsuitable environment, meaning that their role in fecal-oral transmission via contaminated water sources cannot be disregarded (Mishra *et al.*, 2008; Cellini, 2014). The first evidences of water transmission route were obtained in studies developed in some Latin American countries- Peru, Colombia, Chile, and Venezuela and since then *H. pylori* has been detected in several water sources, including lakes, rivers, tap water, well water, irrigation water, and sea water, and also in water distribution systems. Consequently, it can be hypothesized that drinking water could be the pathway for returning to humans (García *et al.*, 2014). Consequently, it can be suggested that water can serve as an intermediate source in the fecal-oral transmission of *H. pylori*, acting as a reservoir in which this pathogen can survive for long periods (Roesler, 2019).

I.6 Pathogenesis

I.6.1 Adherence and colonisation

Being a bacterial pathogen, *H. pylori* has to establish itself in the stomach following transmission. Adherence to the gastric epithelium is a crucial step in colonisation, a precursor of pathogenesis of *H. pylori*. All isolates expressed several putative colonization factors, including various adhesins, flagellar motility and urease (Eaton *et al.*, 1992; Hocker and Hohenberger, 2003).

H. pylori infection is a chronic infection and is considered unlikely that such infection remains with the absence of adhesin-host cell interactions (**Evans and Evans, 2000**). Adhesins are bacterial proteins, glycoconjugates or lipids that are involved in the initial steps of *H. pylori* infection and are important virulence factors. Presently, there is no consensus as to which *H. pylori* adhesins are most important *in vivo*. However, the best characterized adhesin is the blood group antigen-binding adhesion (BabA) which binds to difucosylated Lewisb (Leb) blood group antigens found on the gastric epithelial cells (**Ilver et al., 1998**). Besides being an important adhesin, the presence of gene allelebabA2 was shown to be associated with *H. pylori* pathogenesis (**Prinz et al., 2001**). Other adhesins included heat shock protein Hsp 60, *H. pylori* lipopolysaccharide (LPS), mucin binding proteins and neutrophil-activating protein (**Valkonen et al., 1994; Yamaguchi et al., 1997; Namavar et al., 1998**).

H. pylori possesses 4-6 sheathed flagella and their presence appear to be essential in *H. pylori* infection. An isogenic non-motile mutant in the flagellar secretion apparatus component *fljQ* resulted in a 30% reduction in adherence to human gastric cancer AGS cells (American Type Culture Collection no.CRL-1739) (**Foyne et al., 1999**). In the *in vivo* study by **Eaton et al. (1992)**, the non-motile *H. pylori* survived for only 6 days in infected piglets while the motile variant survived for a longer period of time (21 days). The study inferred that motility is necessary for full colonisation of gnotobiotic piglets by *H. pylori*.

The environment of the human stomach is usually within the pH range of 1-3.5. *H. pylori* is able to colonize the gastric epithelium in acidic conditions with the production of urease which metabolized urea to generate a neutral microenvironment, urease was shown to be essential for initial infection of normal mucosa in gnotobiotic piglets (**Eaton and Krakowka, 1994**).

I.6.2 Virulence factors

Virulence is defined as the ability of a bacterial species to induce disease. Consequently, the outcome of a bacterial infection is highly dependent on the prevalence and status of its virulence factors. The genetic diversity and variability of *H. pylori* is mirrored in the wide range of virulence factors that vary by disease, age, country, and ethnicity (**Boyanova et al., 2011**). To be defined as an *H. pylori* virulence factor, the protein must be correlated with disease both *in vitro* and *in vivo* and with epidemiological disease patterns (**Lu et al., 2005**).

Three main virulence factors of *H. pylori* are the cytotoxin-associated gene pathogenicity island (*cagPAI*), the vacuolating cytotoxin (VacA), and the outer membrane

proteins (OMPs). Many of the OMPs are proposed to be involved in disease-associated mechanisms such as adherence and manipulation of the immune response. VacA and CagA are, together with BabA, associated with the more severe cases of gastric (Aljeboury et al., 2020; Haamadi et al., 2021).

I.6.2.1 Cytotoxin-associated gene pathogenicity island (cagPAI)

The *cagPAI* is a pathogenicity island in the *H. pylori* genome and encodes numerous genes that, upon cell contact, are expressed and assembled into the needle-like type 4 secretion system (T4SS) (Rohde et al., 2003). The T4SS is evolutionarily conserved among many Gram-negatives such as *Agrobacterium*, *Bordetella*, and *Legionella*, but differs in different organisms in terms of what substrates are transferred. *H. pylori* T4SS binds the integrin $\beta 1$ receptor that is located on the basal membrane and transfers the cytotoxin associated gene A (CagA) which is also encoded by the *cagPAI* (Kwok et al., 2007; Jiménez-Soto et al., 2009). Once inside the cell, CagA is phosphorylated on specific EPIYA motifs by host kinases, and phosphorylated CagA goes on to manipulate the cell by interacting with numerous host cell proteins. In addition, injected non-phosphorylated CagA manipulates proliferation and immune response of host cells (Suzuki et al., 2009). Cultured epithelial cells respond by forming the characteristic “hummingbird phenotype” that is the effect of both cell scattering and elongation (Fig. 5) (Tegtmeyer et al., 2011). CagA is not considered as a virulence factor (although the *cagPAI* is), but it is considered an oncoprotein and is associated with development of gastric adenocarcinoma (Parsonnet et al., 1991). *H. pylori* infections of Mongolian gerbils resulted in more gastric adenocarcinomas in a CagA-dependent manner and so did mice that were transgenic for CagA expression (Franco et al., 2005; Ohnishi et al., 2008).

I.6.2.2 Vacuolating cytotoxin VacA

Vacuolating cytotoxin A (VacA) is a multifunctional secreted cytotoxin. The *vacA* gene is found in all *H. pylori* isolates though there are differences among the alleles. The S1 allele, especially in combination with the m1 allele, is highly associated with the risk of developing peptic ulcers and gastric cancer (Palframan et al., 2012). The VacA toxin forms large vacuoles in gastric cells; however such vacuoles are not seen in biopsies. VacA localizes to, and exerts effects on, the mitochondria where it triggers the apoptotic cascade and induces cell death by mitochondrial fission (Fig. 6) (Jain et al., 2011; Palframan et al., 2012). In addition, VacA has been found to bind the integrin subunit CD18 on T-cells and suppressing their activities (Gebert et al., 2003; Sewald et al., 2008).

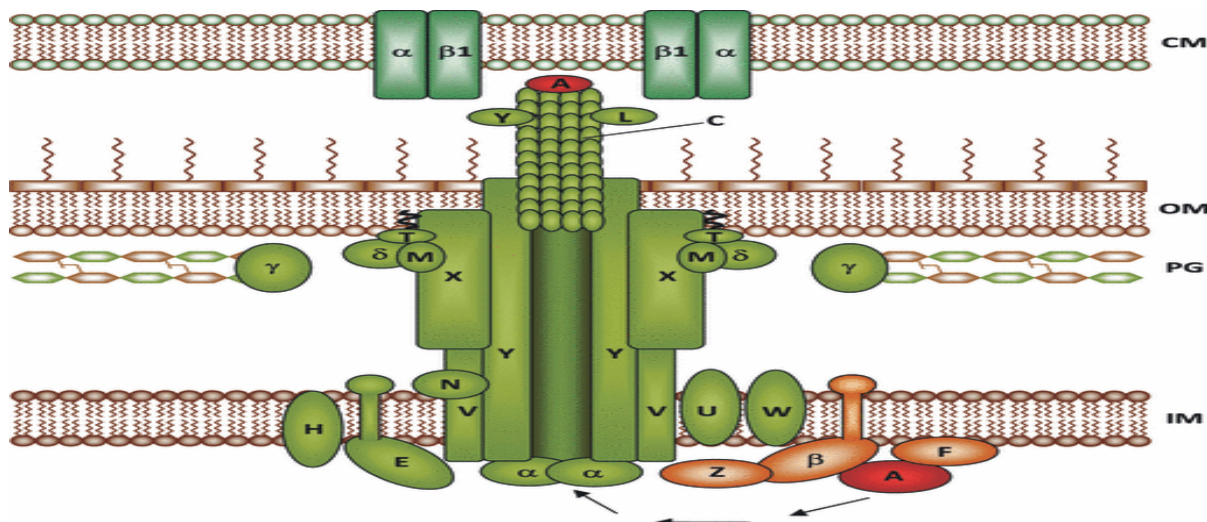


Figure 5: Assembly and interaction model of the cag type IV secretory apparatus (Fischer, 2011)

Cag proteins are indicated in their most likely locations. Essential apparatus components are depicted as green, translocation factors in orange and effector cagA, red. *cagL* (L), *cagY* (Y), *cagT* (T), *cagX* (X), *cagM* (M), *cagN* (N), *cagV* (V), *cagU* (U), *cagW* (W), *cagZ* (Z), *cagH* (H), *cagE* (E), inner bacterial membrane (IM), peptidoglycan (PG), outer bacterial membrane (OM), cytoplasmic membrane of target cell (CM)

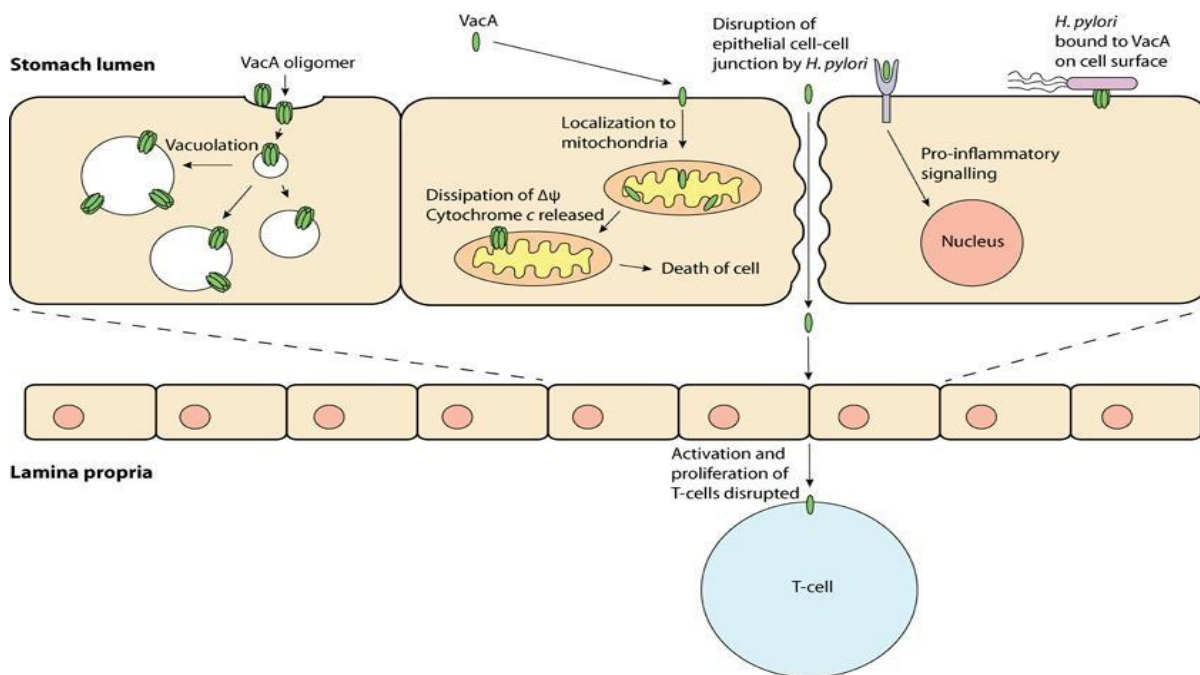


Figure 6: Schematic representation of *vacA* pathogenesis (Palframan et al., 2012)

I.6.2.3 Outer membrane proteins

The OMPs of *H. pylori* comprise about 4% of the genome, more than in any other bacterial species. They are divided into five families with the largest group being the Hop family. The Hops are comprised of 21 genes that all encode a conserved N-terminal motif (Alm et al., 1999). Related to the Hop family are the 11 Hor genes, which are homologous in sequence to the Hop family but lack the N-terminal motif. Together the Hop and Hor families form the major OMP family (Alm et al., 2000). The C-terminal domains of the OMPs are homologous and have alternating hydrophobic and hydrophilic domains that are proposed to form antiparallel amphiphatic β -sheets that assemble into a β -barrel in the outer membrane (Bina et al., 2000).

Phylogenetic analyses based on the homologous C-terminal domains reveal clustering of certain genes. High nucleotide similarities in the 5' and 3' regions of the genes indicate a preference for recombination between these alleles and this has indeed been shown for *babA*, *babB*, and *babC*, and more recently for *sabA*, *sabB*, and *hopQ* as well (Bäckström et al., 2004; Solnick et al., 2004; Talarico et al., 2012).

Located between the N- and C-terminal domains, and exposed to the extracellular environment, is the hypervariable region that is unique for each OMP and is proposed to determine their functions. This variable region not only varies between the OMPs, but also varies for the same OMP between different strains (Alm et al., 1999). Because this region is exposed to the outside of the cell, it is part of the 'face' towards the immune response and is, therefore, under constant selective pressure to avoid recognition. In relation to the diversity seen in the variable region, some genes (*sabA*, *sabB*, *hopZ*, *oipA*, *babB*, and *babC*) are also proposed to have CT repeats that can be regulated by slipped-strand mispairing to undergo phase variation (Alm et al., 1999; Oh et al., 2006). By readily turning proteins on and off, the bacterial community is more dynamic and able to prepare for sudden changes that can occur during the course of the infection. Although functions are still not assigned to all OMPs, their cellular localization hints that these proteins are involved in adherence or transport of nutrients. The first five characterized OMPs were classified as porins, and two of the OMPs, BabA (HopS) and SabA (HopP), are defined and characterized as adhesins (Ilver et al., 1998; Mahdavi et al., 2002). Many others are proposed to be involved in adhesion such as HopZ, HopQ and AlpAB (HopB and HopC) but no receptors for these proteins have yet been identified (Loh et al., 2008; Senkovich et al., 2011). The OMPs are thought to have been acquired as a single gene event that underwent duplication and divergence before the

speciation of *H. pylori* because they are also present in their closest relative, *H. acinonychis*, though the gene repertoire is somewhat dissimilar (Gressmann *et al.*, 2005). The evolution of the OMPs has probably been a continuous process because some genes are still found as duplicates (*hopJ/K* and *hopM/N*) indicating a recent duplication event (Alm *et al.*, 2000). The geographic variation that can be seen for other virulence factors of *H. pylori* such as CagA and VacA is also seen for the OMPs. Kawai *et al.* (2011) have recently published a comparison between 20 complete genomes from East Asia, Europe, West Africa, and United state and found distinct differences in the prevalence of *babC* (HopU), which only seems to be present in the European strains.

I.6.3 *Helicobacter*-induced gastric pathology in humans

Chronic infection with *H. pylori* is strongly associated with gastric pathology, including chronic active gastritis, peptic ulcer disease, gastric adenocarcinoma and gastric extranodal marginal zone lymphoma of mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue type (MALT lymphoma), of these outcomes, the most significant in terms of mortality is gastric adenocarcinoma. Recent meta-analyses suggest that the relative risk of developing gastric cancer is 2 to 3 times higher for people infected with *H. pylori* than for those without infection (Danesh, 1999). Understanding these different pathological conditions is important for understanding how faithfully the available models recapitulate the clinical features of *H. pylori* pathology.

I.6.3.1 Superficial gastritis

The commonest outcome of *H. pylori* infection is gastritis. Acute gastritis has rarely been described in humans, but has been reported in the context of experimentalists being exposed to *H. pylori* either accidentally (Sobala *et al.*, 1991) or in a deliberate attempt to induce gastric pathology (Morris and Nicholson, 1987; Morris *et al.*, 1991). In these cases, the infected individuals reported symptoms and underwent endoscopic assessment with biopsy of the inflamed gastric mucosa. The early stages of disease are marked by the presence of a polymorpho-nuclear leukocyte infiltrate in the gastric mucosa and a transient reduction in gastric acid output. According to Marshall *et al.* (1985b) and Morris and Nicholson (1987), *H. pylori* eradication therapy was prescribed. This was effective in eradicating *H. pylori* from the gastric mucosa, and led to the complete resolution of symptoms and of gastric histological abnormalities. Sobala *et al.* (1991) observed that symptoms and signs resolved spontaneously, and repeat endoscopy demonstrated low levels of *Helicobacter* colonizing the gastric antrum, together with an increase in lymphocytes within the gastric mucosa. These histological changes correlated with IgM and IgG sero conversion for *H. pylori*, which are

typical for chronic, superficial *H. pylori* gastritis. This is the most prevalent *H. pylori*-induced gastric pathology worldwide (Filipe *et al.*, 1995; Campbell *et al.*, 2001).

I.6.3.2 Peptic ulcer disease

Individuals colonized with *H. pylori* present a higher risk to develop peptic ulcer disease (PUD) than those not exposed to this infection (Li *et al.*, 2010). However, the reduced incidence of *H. pylori* infection worldwide has coincided with a reduction in PUD (Groenen *et al.*, 2009). In contrast to the 1980s, when the association of *H. pylori* and PUD was first established (Graham, 1998), individuals presenting with this disease are now less likely to be colonized with *H. pylori*; more often, their condition is linked to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug use or to low-dose aspirin (Sung *et al.*, 2009; Musumba *et al.*, 2012). *H. pylori*-induced peptic ulceration occurs in the context of pre-existing chronic superficial gastritis, but is associated with increased gastric acid secretion and a T-helper 1 (Th1) polarized immune response, compared with individuals with isolated superficial gastritis (D'Elios *et al.*, 1997; Shimada *et al.*, 2002). Frequently, individuals with PUD exhibit antral predominant gastritis, which leads to enhanced gastrin secretion. In turn, this stimulates the parietal cells of the gastric corpus to secrete more acid, leading to mucosal ulceration (McColl *et al.*, 1997). Eradication of *H. pylori* is reportedly sufficient to suppress excess gastrin secretion, which is an important component of the healing process of *H. pylori*-associated peptic ulcers (McColl *et al.*, 1991).

I.6.3.3 Gastric adenocarcinoma and its precursor lesions

In 2012, gastric cancer was the fifth commonest malignancy worldwide, and the third commonest cause of cancer-related death, with over 720,000 deaths worldwide caused by the disease (Ferlay *et al.*, 2013). *H. pylori* colonization is the single biggest risk factor for gastric carcinogenesis and is a risk factor in at least 80% of cases of gastric cancer (Graham, 2015). However, as only a very small percentage of people infected with *H. pylori* go on to develop gastric cancer, understanding why those individuals do so is a key aim of future studies in this field. Other risk factors linked to gastric cancer (Fig. 7) fall into two main groups (Burkitt *et al.*, 2017). The first consists of potentially modifiable exogenous risk factors, such as dietary salt and nitrosamine intake (Jakszyn *et al.*, 2006; Wang *et al.*, 2009), *H. pylori* virulence factors (Yamaoka, 2010), non-*Helicobacter* gastric microbiota (Dicksved *et al.*, 2009; Lofgren *et al.*, 2011) and smoking status (La Torres *et al.*, 2009). The second group consists of unalterable host genetic, or intrinsic, risk factors. Amongst these genetic factors are polymorphisms at loci encoding cytokines and their receptors (Persson *et al.*, 2011), stromal remodelling proteins, such as matrix metallo proteinases (Tang *et al.*, 2008), and prostate

stem cell antigen (PSCA), which in the context of gastric pathology, acts as a tumour suppressor gene (Garcia-Gonzalez et al., 2015; Ichikawa et al., 2015). The development of gastric cancer occurs through a stereotypical pathological pathway (Fig. 7), which was first proposed well before the identification of *H. pylori* (Correa et al., 1975). Over the course of several decades, some individuals with chronic superficial gastritis develop gastric atrophy, characterized by the patchy loss of parietal cells in the gastric corpus mucosa. This decreases gastric acid secretion, leading to higher intraluminal pH, decreased somatostatin secretion and consequent gastrin secretion. In addition to stimulating acid secretion from parietal cells, gastrin also enhances proliferation in the gastric epithelial stem cell zone, leading to an increase in epithelial cell turnover (Burkitt et al., 2009).

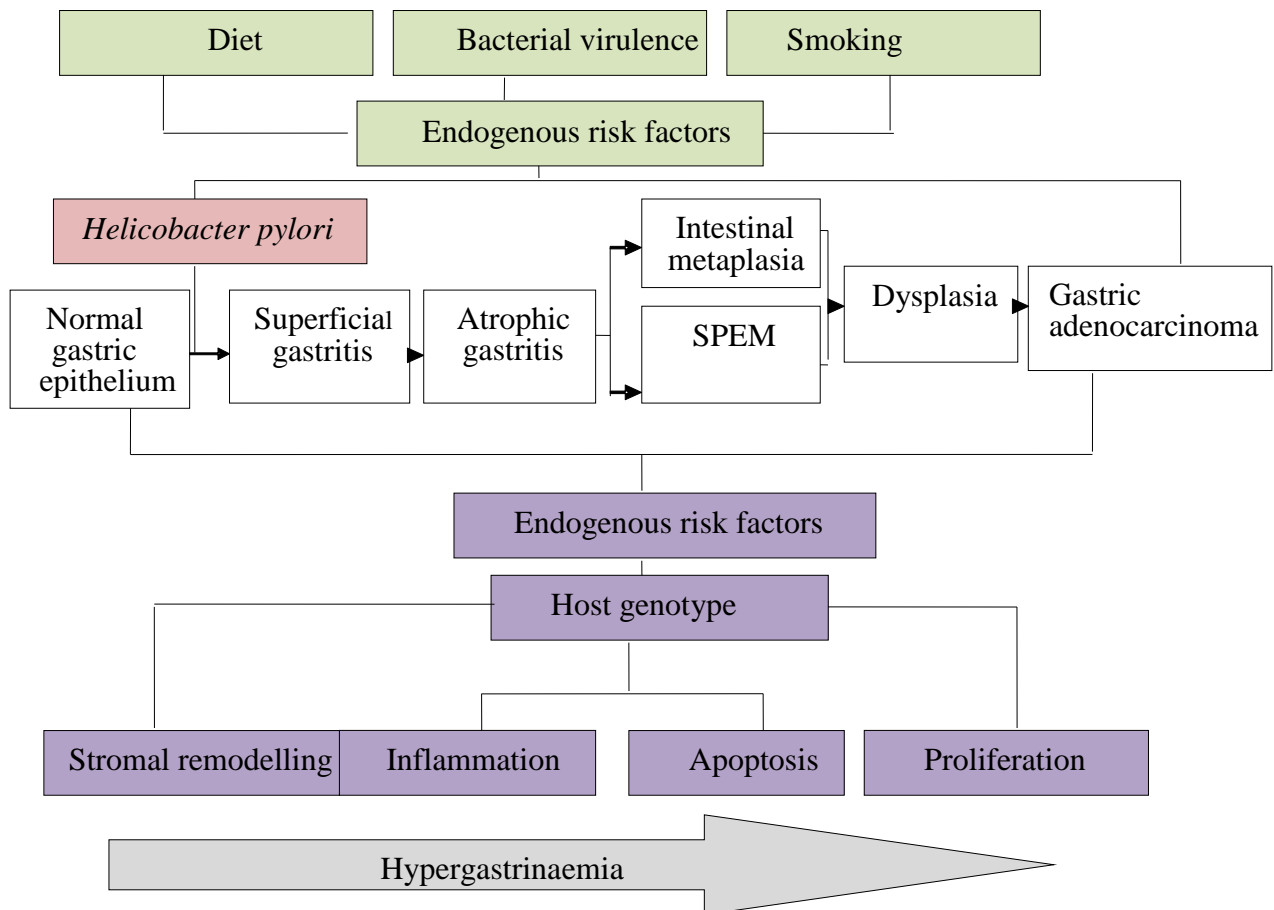


Figure 7: *H. pylori* infection and progression to gastric cancer. A schematic demonstrating the pathological progression of *H. pylori*- induced gastric pre-neoplasia, and highlighting endogenous risk factors for progression towards gastric cancer (Graham, 2015).

SPEM: Spasmolytic polypeptide expressing metaplasia

A proportion of people with established gastric atrophy develop intestinal-type metaplasia of the gastric mucosa over time, where oxyntic glands are replaced by CDX2 (caudal-type homeobox 2)-expressing glandular units, which are morphologically similar to the intestinal crypt. Intestinal metaplasia in the stomach is linked to gastric dysplasia; up to 20% of affected individuals with intestinal metaplasia have concurrent dysplasia (**Den Hoed et al., 2011**). Gastric epithelial dysplasia is associated with an at least 10-fold increased risk of developing gastric cancer, but it has been difficult to represent this risk accurately from population-based studies (**Lauwers et al., 1999**).

Several studies have assessed the strategy of testing for, and eradicating, *H. pylori* in populations at a high risk of developing gastric cancer. Unfortunately, a recent well-designed meta-analysis confirmed a relatively poor outcome for this strategy. The eradication of *H. pylori* reduces the incidence of gastric cancer in healthy asymptomatic infected Asian individuals (**Ford et al., 2014**). However, when individuals with pre-existing pre-neoplastic gastric pathology (defined as the presence of gastric atrophy, intestinal metaplasia or dysplasia) were considered, there was no evidence that eradication of *H. pylori* decreased the risk of gastric cancer. For this highest risk group, therefore, there are currently no effective therapeutic strategies (**Burkitt et al., 2009**).

I.6.3.4 MALT lymphoma

Gastric extranodal marginal zone lymphomas of mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT lymphomas) are B-cell lymphomas that develop within the mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue of the stomach. The incidence rate of gastric MALT lymphoma in the USA was estimated to be 3.8 in 1,000,000 individuals between 2001 and 2009, making it a rare outcome of *H. pylori* infection (**Khalil et al., 2014**). In the only published systematic review of this condition, 79% of 1844 reported cases of MALT lymphoma were associated with *H. pylori* infection (**Asenjo and Gisbert, 2007; Gisbert and Calvet, 2011**).

As with other haematological malignancies, characteristic cytogenetic profiles have been described for MALT lymphoma. Proper regulation of nuclear factor kB (NF-kB) transcriptional activity is required for normal lymphocyte function, and deregulated NF-kB signaling can facilitate lymphomagenesis. The API2-MALT1 fusion oncoprotein created by the recurrent t(11;18)(q21;q21) in mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) lymphoma induces proteolytic cleavage of NF-kB-inducing kinase (NIK) at arginine 325. NIK cleavage requires the concerted actions of both fusion partners and generates a C terminal NIK fragment that retains kinase activity and is resistant to proteasomal degradation. The resulting

deregulated NIK activity is associated with constitutive noncanonical NF- κ B signaling, enhanced B cell adhesion, and apoptosis resistance (**Rosebeck et al., 2011**).

MALT1 encodes mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma translocation protein 1, which is essential for the activation and proliferation of T- and B-lymphocytes, and also plays a fundamental role in NF- κ B activation. One of the downstream effects of this fusion protein is enhanced cleavage of NIK (NF- κ B-inducing kinase), which is a critical regulator of alternative pathway NF- κ B signalling (**Merga et al., 2016**).

I.7 Diagnosis of *H. pylori* infection

The detection of *H. pylori* infection is a primary requisite for diagnosis of gastroduodenal diseases related to this bacterium. In the paediatric population, duodenal ulcer is strongly associated with *H. pylori* infection and the risk of development of gastric cancer is relatively high if the infection is acquired at a young age (**Blaser et al., 1995; Huang et al., 1999**). In view of these critical issues, accurate diagnosis of *H. pylori* infection is a key step towards proper patient management. Two categories of diagnostic methods for *H. pylori* infection are defined: invasive and non-invasive.

Several factors such as the need to evaluate the sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive value of a given test must be taken into account when selecting for a test. In addition, the age of patients being tested also has to be considered. At present, no single test can be absolutely relied upon to detect *H. pylori* colonization but if feasible, a combination of two tests is recommended (**Laheij et al., 2000**). The European *Helicobacter pylori* Study Group (EHPSG) also recommend that two or more tests can be performed as the gold standards in comparative studies (**EHPSG, 1997**).

I.7.1 Invasive tests

The invasive methods require gastric biopsy specimens obtained during gastroduodenoscopy. Presently, invasive biopsy tests include staining of histological samples, biopsy urease test, culturing of biopsy specimens and Polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

I.7.1.1 Gastric biopsies

The most accurate method for detecting *H. pylori* in tissue is a combination of culture and histologic staining (Warthin Starry stain, Giemsa stains or hematoxylin and eosin stain) of the biopsy specimens obtained during endoscopy. With histologic staining, a histopathologist can document *H. pylori* infection and at the same time assess the atrophic changes in the stomach. However, the reliability of detecting *H. pylori* infection depends on factors such as the site, patching distribution of *H. pylori*, number and size of the biopsy specimens, as well

as the stain used, and also the high level of expertisin staining play an important role on the visualization of the bacteria (**Woo et al., 1996; El-Zimaity and Graham, 1999**).

Despite the fact that culture will provide unequivocal evidence of the presence of *H. pylori*, successful recovery of the bacteria from biopsies will depend on transporting and processing of the samples, selection of media and culture conditions (**Piccolomini et al., 1997**). This method enables the growth of fresh clinical isolates which can be tested for antibiotics susceptibility which can be useful in treatment management. The other advantage is to use the culture obtained for research, especially in molecular epidemiological study. Essentially, obtaining the culture enables fingerprinting of the isolate and typing of the isolate with respect to the virulence genes (**Grove et al., 2001**).

I.7.1.2 Molecular biology techniques

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is particularly useful for molecular epidemiology and for fingerprinting *H. pylori* isolates. This technique has been used to genotype *H. pylori* in paraffin-embedded gastric biopsy specimens (**Scholte et al., 2002**), which may be useful in the post-treatment period, to differentiate recurrence of infection from re-infection with another strain of *H. pylori* (**Hildebrand et al., 2001**). Recently, molecular techniques such as real time PCR and fluorescent in situ hybridisation (FISH) were evaluated for use in detection of *H. pylori* in gastric biopsy samples. The *cagA* and *vacA* genotypes were tested by melting curve using the real-time PCR and compared to the gastritis status and cell proliferation status (**Ruzsovics et al., 2001**). **Rusmann et al. (2001)** demonstrated that this bacterial pathogen was detected in 63 biopsy specimens as compared to 67 cultured positive specimens by Fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) with rRNA-targeted fluorescence-labeled oligonucleotide probes specific for *H. pylori*.

I.7.2 Non-Invasive tests

Non-invasive tests obviate the need for endoscopy which can inflict physical stress on the patient. Moreover, invasive tests could yield possible false negative results due to the patchy distribution of the bacteria in the stomach (**Pronovost et al., 1994**). Clinical tests like the Urea breath test and serology test are well-established screening procedures which help to reduce the cost and workload of invasive endoscopy, given the special niche of *H. pylori*, attempts are continuously made to improve the non-invasive diagnostic tests (**Laheij et al., 1998; Vaira et al., 1998**).

I.7.2.1 Urea breath tests (UBT)

The UBT are easy, straightforward and accurate non-invasive tests for *H. pylori* infection. The test is based on the principle that in the presence of *H. pylori* urease activity, CO₂ is liberated from urea and produces ammonia to buffer its acidic environment. Ingestion of C-labelled urea results in the excretion of labelled CO₂ which can be detected in the expired breath. C13 and C14 UBT are semi-quantitative tests of active *H. pylori* infection (**Debongnie et al., 1991; Chang et al., 2002**).

C-UBT, containing the nonradioactive isotope, has high diagnostic accuracy in children (**Delvin et al., 1999**). However, this method has its drawbacks: 1. It is difficult to perform in noncompliant children who are unwilling to ingest the C13-urea, 2. Age of children may make exhaled breath collection difficult, 3. Mental or physical disturbances may present further difficulty. This was illustrated in the study by **Imrie et al. (2001)** which showed that borderline or false positive results occurred more frequently in children younger than 2 years compared with older children.

I.7.2.2 Serological tests

H. pylori elicits a local mucosal and a systemic antibody response. Serologic testing is based on the detection of anti-*H. pylori* IgG antibody in the patient's serum (**Blecker et al., 1995; Wang et al., 2003**). The simplicity and cost-effectiveness have enabled the serological tests to be widely employed for epidemiological research to assess the prevalence of *H. pylori* infection in various populations (**Brown et al., 2002; Chong et al., 2003**). The commonly employed sero-diagnostic technique is the enzyme-linked immuno-sorbent assay (ELISA). The sensitivity and specificity of ELISA is dependent on the nature of the bacterial antigen preparation. Therefore, considerable research effort has been placed in search of a suitable antigen (**Ho and Marshall, 2000**). Commercial tests, the *Pylori* set and the Helico-G use an acid extract of *H. pylori* antigen. The HM-CAP uses a mixture of high molecular weight *H. pylori* cell associated proteins, consisting mainly of urease and cell wall adhesin (**Evans et al., 1989**).

The performance of serologic tests in diagnosis of treatment success is hampered by the lingering serological response after successful eradication therapy or spontaneous healing which will lead to false positive results. Furthermore, studies have shown that the cut-off values for children and adults may differ (**Kindermann et al., 2001, Kolho et al., 2002**). **Crabtree et al. (1991)** showed that if the adult cut-off value was used, 50% of the children with *H. pylori* gastritis would have been considered sero-negative. Similarly,

Sunnerstram et al. (1999) also recommended a lower cut-off value for children than for adults. It is clear that the choice of cut-off value is a mean of adapting the serological test to the patient population analysed. Hence, when children are tested for *H. pylori* antibodies, it is important to choose a method which has already been validated in the paediatric population. Immuno-blotting is highly sensitive and more specific than ELISA. It provides a full serologic profile of the immunogenic proteins that can be obtained from an individual. This method can be used to complement ELISA, especially when ELISA results are doubtful (**Raymond et al., 2000**).

I.7.2.3 Stool antigen test (HpSA)

In 1998, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of a new enzyme immunoassay for the detection of *H. pylori* antigen in stool for diagnosis and eradication efficacy of *H. pylori* infection in adult population. *H. pylori* stool antigen test (HpSA) has been devised to detect the presence of *H. pylori* antigen by an ELISA method using monoclonal/polyclonal antibodies (**Vaira et al., 1999; Suzuki et al., 2002**). Many studies have reported that HpSA test is useful for the initial diagnosis of *H. pylori* infection (**Vakil et al., 2000**). However, its application in monitoring the efficacy of eradication therapy has been controversial as the assay can detect dead or partially degraded bacteria long after the successful eradication, leading to false positive results (**Kabir, 2001**). Nevertheless, a recent study by **Tanaka et al. (2003)** has shown that the HpSA test is a useful method for initial diagnosis and after eradication therapy. They reported a high sensitivity (98.3%) and specificity (95%) prior to treatment. The sensitivity and specificity at the end of eradication therapy were 90% and 97.7%, respectively. Accessibility and non-invasiveness have made this new test an invaluable diagnostic tool in the paediatric population. Data concerning reliability of the test in children has yielded satisfactory results (**Van Doorn et al., 2001; Koletzko et al., 2003**). In the study by **Ni et al. (2000)**, involving 53 children, the performance of HpSA was evaluated and compared with 6 other diagnostic tests (Culture, biopsy urease test, histology, PCR, UBT and serology). The diagnostic accuracy of HpSA (sensitivity 92.6%, specificity 100%) was observed to be comparable to the other tests. This non-invasive test was also found to be a useful method for post-treatment eradication testing of infection in children (**Gosciniak et al., 2003**). In addition, the European *H. pylori* Study Group has recommended the stool antigen test and C13-UBT for diagnosis of the infection and eradication assessment in older children (**Malfertheiner et al., 2002**).

I.7.3 Other non-invasive tests

Some studies have looked into the use of saliva and urine as possible non-invasive means to detect antibody to *H. pylori* infection (**Yamamoto et al., 2000**). It was observed that the evaluation result for salivary assay was not satisfactory (**Luzza et al., 2000**). However, **Yamamoto et al. (2000)** recorded a sensitivity of 92% and a specificity of 93.1% with the urine based ELISA kit. Culturing of *H. pylori* from a gastric string which was to be swallowed by the individual has also been considered as a substitute for endoscopy biopsy (**Ferguson et al., 1999; Samuels et al., 2000**). The study of **Samuels et al. (2000)**, demonstrated that *H. pylori* was isolated from 32/33 patients from a swallowed string coupling with the use of selective bacterial culture media. The string test also showed potential use as the culture obtained can be used for molecular epidemiological studies and the routine determination of antibiotic susceptibility prior to further therapy (**Wang et al., 2003**).

I.8 Treatment

I.8.1 First-line therapy

Triple therapy based on a PPI combined with clarithromycin and amoxicillin and/or metronidazole is the established first-line therapy over the past years around the world (**Caselli et al., 2007**). Standard triple therapy started from eradication rates of more than 90%, and has now decreased to 70–80% (**Paoluzi et al., 2010**). In a recent randomized, open-label, non-inferiority, phase 3 trial, the efficacy of standard triple therapy was low with 55% eradication rate compared with the quadruple therapy (**Malfertheine et al., 2011**). Several attempts, such as the extension of treatment duration, have been undertaken to improve the efficacy of the standard PPI triple therapy. However, the increased length of therapy only results in a modest or insignificant rate of treatment success. Only some studies from the USA found a limited advantage of the 14 days regimen compared to the 7 days regimen. A recent meta-analysis including 21 studies from all over the world compared 7 days and 14 days treatments. This meta-analysis yielded relative risks (RRs) for eradication of 1.05 (95% CI 1.01– 1.10) for 7 day compared with 10-days triple therapy and 1.07 (95% CI 1.02–1.12) for 7 days compared with 14 day therapy. The eradication rates were 73 and 78%, respectively. Taken together, the extension of the PPI-clarithromycin based triple therapy to 14 days slightly improves the eradication success and can be considered in specific clinical situations (**Fuccio et al., 2007**). Finally, a recent meta-analysis including 26 studies was presented at the Digestive Disease Week 2010. This study has yielded very similar results, with a RR of 0.79 (95% CI: 0.71–0.89; $p < 0.0001$) for 14-day therapy with an improvement of eradication rates

of approximately 6%. A similar benefit was seen with 10 days of treatment compared to 7 days (RR 0.84, 95% CI 0.73– 0.96, P $\frac{1}{4}$ 0.01). The improvement of *H. pylori* cure rates for 10 days of triple therapy was 4% (Flores et al., 2010). Concerns need to be expressed for decreased compliance and possibly more side-effects, which may occur with the prolonged treatment regimen (Vakil et al., 2004; Fucciò et al., 2007). At the moment, it seems that standard triple therapy which represents the accepted standard therapy for *H. pylori* since the mid 1990s needs to be reconsidered. At this point of time, it remains the choice of treatment when the *H. pylori* infection is known to be susceptible to clarithromycin and local antimicrobial resistance rates are below 15–20%. In areas with high clarithromycin resistance bismuth containing quadruple is superior to standard triple therapy (Malfertheine et al., 2007).

The original quadruple therapy based on omeprazole, bismuth subcitrate, metronidazole, and tetracycline (OBMT) achieves high eradication rates compared to standard triple therapy (Gene et al., 2003; Laine et al., 2003). In a randomized, open label, non inferiority, phase 3 trial, the efficacy of the quadruple therapy as first-line therapy was proven. In this study, 10 days of treatment with omeprazole and a single three-in-one capsule containing bismuth subcitrate potassium, metronidazole, and tetracycline (quadruple therapy) has been compared with 7 days of omeprazole, amoxicillin, and clarithromycin (standard therapy). The quadruple therapy yielded higher eradication rates compared to standard triple therapy (Malfertheine et al., 2007). Eradication rates were 80% in the quadruple therapy group vs. 55% in the standard therapy group. The study further demonstrated that the efficacy of the quadruple therapy does not seem to be affected by either metronidazole or clarithromycin resistance. The safety and tolerability of the quadruple therapy, which is still one of the unjustified concerns against the quadruple therapy, were similar to standard therapy (Selgrad and Malfertheiner, 2011).

Thus, it has to be concluded that quadruple therapy needs to be considered as first-line therapy in areas with a high prevalence of clarithromycin-resistant *H. pylori* strains. It should be noted that the galenic formulation of three drugs with antibacterial activity provides more consistent results (Gene et al., 2003; Laine et al., 2003; Malfertheine et al., 2007), than the loose combination of these drugs as used in several other studies (Luther et al., 2010). In a Chinese study, a new quadruple regimen adding bismuth potassium citrate to the standard triple therapy, including PPI, clarithromycin and amoxicillin has been introduced. This new regimen showed a higher efficiency than PPI triple therapy and the addition of bismuth and

prolongation of the treatment from 7 to 14 days allowed to overcome clarithromycin resistance in 84% of the patients (**Sun et al., 2010**).

The sequential therapy originally introduced and extensively studied in Italy has constantly demonstrated higher eradication rates than the standard triple therapy. Sequential treatment is a nonbismuth quadruple therapy, consisting of a PPI, amoxicillin, clarithromycin and a nitroimidazole (metronidazole or tinidazole). The sequential therapy lasts up for 10 days and is built up in two parts. During the first 5 days of treatment a PPI and amoxicillin is administered followed by another 5 days therapy with clarithromycin and a nitroimidazole (metronidazole or tinidazole). The interesting aspect of the sequential therapy is that this regimen is generally effective in areas of high clarithromycin resistance and/or dual clarithromycin and metronidazole resistance (**Gatta et al., 2009**). Within the first 5 days of therapy, clarithromycin-resistant strains get eradicated by PPI amoxicillin therapy, and in the remaining 5 days the remnant strains are eliminated by the triple therapy. The sequential therapy has now been evaluated in various randomized trials and the therapeutic success was overall confirmed to be superior with respect to the standard triple therapy (**Gatta et al., 2009**). This regimen provides high eradication rates (>90%) in various countries and continents of the world, though not always in controlled trials (**Sirimontaporn et al., 2010**).

However, it must be noted that it may not work in all geographic areas as recent studies have shown eradication rates of around 80% in areas with high clarithromycin resistance (**Romano et al., 2010; Mahachai et al., 2011**). This may also be related to higher rates of dual resistance in this area. Furthermore, previous studies demonstrated significantly lower eradication rates with the metronidazole-based regimen compared to the tinidazole based regimen (**Vaira et al., 2009**).

Interestingly, the increase of therapy duration from 10 to 14-days confirms that duration prolongation does not improve eradication rates (**Graham and Fischbacht, 2010**). A simplification of the sequential therapy represents the so-called concomitant therapy. Concomitant therapy is a quadruple that contains all four compounds of the sequential and all medications are given together. This regimen is therefore less complex than the sequential therapy and might improve compliance. Interestingly, this therapy regimen was equal to sequential therapy in one study (**Wu et al., 2010**). Concomitant therapy was proven to be effective with eradication rates above 90% (**Okadar et al., 1999; Graham and Fischbacht, 2010**). Up to now, the sequential and concomitant therapies are promising therapeutic approaches also as first-line treatment options. But for a general recommendation of the

sequential therapy or its quadruple variation as first-line treatment, studies from multicenter, multi-region randomized trials are eagerly awaited (Selgrad and Malfertheiner, 2011).

I.8.2 Second-line treatment

An important indication for the bismuth-containing quadruple therapy is its use as empirical second-line therapy after failure of PPI, clarithromycin-containing triple therapy. Several studies have proven the efficacy of quadruple therapy as second-line and/or salvage therapy with eradication rates constantly higher than 80% (Lin et al., 2002). Levofloxacin therapy is a reasonable second-line therapy. The efficacy of levofloxacin-based triple therapy has been proven in a meta-analysis comparing this regimen with quadruple therapy as salvage therapy (Gisbert and Morena, 2006). The overall eradication rate with the levofloxacin regimen was 81 vs. 70% with the quadruple combination, this meta-analysis also revealed fewer side effects and adverse events using levofloxacin-based triple therapy. The increasing *H. pylori* resistance to clarithromycin has prompted authors to investigate the opportunity to incorporate levofloxacin instead of clarithromycin in the standard triple therapy regimen. This suggestion was examined in a recent crossover study, comparing levofloxacin based and clarithromycin-based triple therapies as first-line and second-line treatments for *H. pylori* infection. Clarithromycin-based triple therapy (PPI-AC) achieved a higher eradication rate than levofloxacin-based triple therapy (PPI-AL) as the first-line treatment (87.4% PPI-AC vs. 80.1% PPI-AL). However, in patients who failed with standard triple in first line, PPI-AL was superior as second line when compared to PPI-AC second line after failure with the levofloxacin-containing triple used in first line (Liou et al., 2010).

The study clearly demonstrated that antibiotics which are currently used as rescue medications (i.e. levofloxacin) cannot randomly be replaced and then switched to first line. After failure of recommended first-line therapies, levofloxacin-based triple therapy can be recommended. However, rising rates of levofloxacin resistance as described above need to be taken into account and it has to be noted that quinolone resistance is often associated with resistances to metronidazole and clarithromycin. Moxifloxacin-based regimens have been recently proposed as a treatment option for *H. pylori*. Already in 2005, eradication rates of up to 92% in the moxifloxacin-based triple regimens compared to 79% in the clarithromycin based regimens were demonstrated (Nista et al., 2005). A recent study from Korea has reported a steady increase of moxifloxacin resistance from 5.6% in 2004 up to 28.2% in 2008 with the need to optimize dosage and duration of treatment (Yoon et al., 2009). Treatment for 10 days should be preferred over a 7 day course, and there is evidence that a dose of 800 mg per day is superior to the 400 mg standard dose (Bago et al., 2010; Sacco et al., 2010).

Moxifloxacin based triple therapy remains an alternative as second-line treatment (**Kang et al., 2007; Miehle et al., 2008**). After the failure of second-line therapies, rescue therapy should be guided by antimicrobial resistance testing whenever possible, as recommended in the current European guidelines (**Malfertheine et al., 2007**).

I.8.3 Alternative therapies

While antibiotics are the main agents used in the therapy of *H. pylori* infection, the development of resistance has limited their application. Also, administration of antibiotics perturbs the microbiota, the microorganisms that colonize the human gastrointestinal tract, and thus causes side effects, such as diarrhea. Because of this, alternative therapies, including the use of phytomedicines and probiotics, have been used for the treatment of *H. pylori* infection.

I.8.3.1 Phytomedicines

There is increasing evidence that traditional Chinese medicines (TCMs) are effective in the treatment of various diseases. The efficacy and safety of TCMs for the treatment of *H. pylori* have been reviewed and the average eradication rate was found to be about 72% (**Lin and Huang, 2009**), suggesting that TCMs may not be a stand-alone therapy for *H. pylori* infection. Nevertheless, the role of TCMs in *H. pylori* treatment remains to be clarified. In addition to TCMs, other phytomedicines that have been used for the treatment of *H. pylori* infection are green tea catechins, garlic extract, cranberry juice, and propolis (**Vítor and Vale, 2011**). For example, it has been demonstrated that a combination of catechins and sialic acid can effectively prevent *H. pylori* infection in animals and improve the eradication rate (**Yang et al., 2008; Yang et al., 2013**). As catechins and sialic acid have different anti-bacteria actions, the additive or synergistic effects caused by such a combination may provide a potential strategy for treating *H. pylori* infection in the future. However, since most studies have been carried out *in vitro* or in animals, the efficacy of phytotherapy in humans needs to be verified by suitable clinical trials.

Numerous studies have been carried out to investigate the anti-*H. pylori* activity of plant extracts, partially purified fractions and essential oils. Anti-*H. pylori* activity for the medicinal plant extracts and partially purified fractions is listed in **Table 4**, which has those results categorized as 4 classes according to their minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC): (1) strong activity (MIC: < 10 µg/ml); (2) strong-moderate activity (MIC: 10-100 µg/ml); (3) weak-moderate activity (MIC: 100-1000 µg/ml); and (4) weak activity (MIC: >1000 µg/ml) (**Wang, 2014**). 34 studies including more than 80 plants were collected. Surprisingly (**Tab. 4**), only a few studies exhibited strong (2.9%, 1/34) and strong-moderate (11.8%, 4/34)

activity. Most studies revealed weak-moderate (50%, 17/34) and weak (32.4%, 11/34) activity against *H. pylori*.

Table 4: Anti-*H. pylori* activity of some medicinal plant extracts (Wang, 2014)

Plant	Test sample	MIC/MBC (µg/ml)
<i>Impatiens balsamina</i> L.	Acetone extract	MIC: 0.625-2.5
	Ethanol extract (95%)	
	Ethyl acetate extracts	MBC: 1.25-2.5
<i>Persea americana</i> , <i>Annona cherimola</i> , <i>Guaiacum coulteri</i> , <i>Moussonia deppeana</i>	Methanol extract	MIC: 7.5-15.6
<i>Myristica fragrans</i> (seed), <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> (rosemary leaf)	Methanol extract	MIC: 12.5-25
<i>Curcuma amada</i> Roxb., <i>Mallotus philippinesis</i> (Lam) Muell., <i>Myristica fragrans</i> Houtt., <i>Psoralea corylifolia</i> L.	Ethanol extract (70%)	MIC: 15.6-62.5
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> , <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> (seed), <i>Passiflora incarnata</i> (herb), <i>Origanum majorana</i> (herb) and a (1:1) combination of <i>Curcuma longa</i> (root), ginger rhizome	Methanol extract	MIC: 50
<i>Carum carvi</i> (seed), <i>Elettaria cardamomum</i> (seed), <i>Gentiana lutea</i> (roots), <i>Juniper communis</i> (berry), <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> (flowers), <i>Melissa officinalis</i> (leaves), <i>Mentha piperita</i> (leaves), <i>Pimpinella anisum</i> (seed)	Methanol extract	MIC: 100
<i>Abrus cantoniensis</i> , <i>Saussurea lappa</i> , <i>Eugenia caryophyllata</i>	Ethanol extract	MIC: 40
<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> , <i>Fritillaria thunbergii</i> , <i>Magnolia officinalis</i> , <i>Schisandra chinensis</i> , <i>Corydalis yanhusuo</i> , <i>Citrus reticulata</i> , <i>Bupleurum chinense</i> , <i>Ligusticum chuanxiong</i>	Ethanol extract	MIC: 60
<i>Myroxylon peruiferum</i>	Methanol extract	MIC: 62.5
<i>Aristolochia paucinervis</i>	Rhizome/leave fraction	MIC: 4-128
<i>Cistus laurifolius</i> , <i>Spartium junceum</i> , <i>Cedrus libani</i> , <i>solstitialis</i> , <i>Momordica charantia</i> , <i>Sambucus ebulus</i> , <i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Solvent extract and hexane fraction	MIC: 1.95-250
<i>Larrea divaricate</i> Cav (leaves and tender branches)	Aqueous extract	MIC: 40-100
<i>Acacia nilotica</i> (L.) Delile, <i>Calotropis procera</i> (Aiton)	Methanol/acetone extract	MIC: 8-256
W.T. Aiton, <i>Fagonia arabica</i> L., <i>Adhatoda vasica</i> Nees, <i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i> L.		
<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	Ethanol extract (95%)	MIC: 10-160
<i>Tephrosia purpurea</i> (Linn.) Pers.	Methanol extract and fraction	MIC: 25-400
<i>Terminalia macroptera</i> (root)	Root solvent fraction	MIC: 100-200
Black myrobalan (<i>Terminalia chebula</i> Retz)	Water extract	MIC: 125
		MBC: 150
<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i> leaves	Ethyl acetate extract Methanol extract	MIC: 134-270
<i>Amphipterygium adstringens</i>	Bark petroleum ether	MIC: 160

Generalities on *Helicobacter pylori*

	fraction	
<i>Lycopodium cernuum</i>	Hexane fraction	MIC: 16-1000
		MBC: 125-1000
<i>Ageratum conyzoides, Scleria striatinux, Lycopodium cernua</i>	Methanol extract	MIC: 63-1000
		MBC: 195-15000
<i>Sclerocarya birrea</i>	Acetone/aqueous stem bark extract	MIC: 80-2500
43 plants : Including <i>Artemisia ludoviciana subsp.mexicana</i>	Methanol/aqueous extract	MIC: 312-500
<i>Pteleopsis suberosa</i>	Stem bark methanol extract	MIC: 313-500
<i>Ageratum conyzoides, Scleria striatinux, Lycopodium cernua</i>	Methanol extract	MIC: 32-1000
17 plants : Including <i>Cuminum cyminum L., Cynara scolymus L., Origanum vulgare L.</i>	Ethanol extracts	MIC: 600-10000
<i>Allium sativum</i>	Aqueous extract	MIC: 2000-5000
<i>Menthapiperita, Peppermint oil, Origanum vulgare, Pimpinella anisum, Aniseed oil, Syzygium aromaticum</i>	Essential oil	IC ₅₀ : 160-1460
<i>Chamomila recutita L., Ilex paraguariensis A. St.-Hil.</i>	Ethanol extract (96%)	MIC: < 625-1250
<i>Allium ascalonicum</i> Linn. (leaf)	Methanol extract	MIC: 625- 1250
<i>Sclerocarya birrea</i>	Stem bark acetone/aqueous extracts	MIC ₉₀ : 60-2500
<i>Punica granatum, Quercus infectoria</i>	Ethanol extract	MIC: 160->2500
<i>Mentha piperita, Peppermint Oil, Origanum vulgare, Pimpinella anisum, Aniseed Oil, Syzygium aromaticum</i>	Essential oil	IC ₅₀ : 160-1460
13 plants : Including <i>Anthemis melanolepis</i>	Methanol extract (70%)	MIC: 625-5000
17 plants : Including <i>Cuminum cyminum L.</i>	Ethanol extract	MIC: 75-10000
<i>Plumbago zeylanica L.</i>	Acetone extract	MIC: 320-10240
		MBC: 5120-81920
<i>Anisomeles indica (L.) O. Kuntze, Alpinia speciosa (Wendl.) K. Schum., Bombax malabaricum DC., Paederia scandens (Lour.) Merr.</i>	Ethanol extract (95%)	MIC: 640-10240
<i>Allium sativum</i>	Aqueous extract	MIC: 0.1% (v/v)
13 plants : Including <i>Cymbopogon citratus</i> (lemon grass)	Essential oil	MIC: 0.1% (v/v)

MBC : Minimum bactericidal concentration MIC : Minimum inhibitory concentration

I.8.3.2 Probiotics

Probiotics are living organisms that are administered orally to confer a health benefit on the host. In recent years, their application of probiotics in the treatment of *H. pylori* infection has become an active research field. Several probiotics, including *Saccharomyces boulardii* (*S. boulardii*) and *Lactobacillus* strains, have been combined with antibiotic containing therapies to treat infection. Compared to standard triple therapy, although addition of *S. boulardii* significantly reduced the incidence of antibiotic associated diarrhea, it did not significantly improve the eradication rate of *H. pylori* (Cremonini et al., 2002; Hurduc et al., 2009).

Likewise, addition of *Lactobacillus GG* significantly reduced the incidence of diarrhea, but did not improve the eradication rate of triple therapy (Armuzzi et al., 2001; Cremonini et al., 2002). Addition of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* was reported to significantly increase treatment outcome of triple therapy (Canducci et al., 2000), but, in another study, addition of the combination of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and *Bifidobacterium lactis* failed to show an improvement in *H. pylori* eradication. Intriguingly, in contrast to the capsule sachet based probiotic preparations, fermented milk based probiotics have been reported to improve *H. pylori* eradication rates by about 5%-15%, possibly because some of contain additional components (e.g., lactoferrin and glycomacropeptide) that may inhibit *H. pylori* (Sachdeva and Nagpal, 2009).

Probiotics may inhibit *H. pylori* growth by secreting antibacterial substances. Certain lactobacilli synthesize antimicrobial compounds related to the bacteriocin family (Klaenhamme, 1993; Jack et al., 1995). Other known substances secreted by these bacteria are the endproducts of lactic acid fermentation, such as lactic and acetic acids, and hydrogen peroxide (Vandenbergh, 1993). The production of relatively large amounts of lactate by *Lactobacilli* has been implicated as an inhibitory factor of *H. pylori* (Aiba et al., 1998; Sgouras et al., 2004). Lactic acid, in addition to its antimicrobial effect resulting from the lowering of the pH, could inhibit the *H. pylori* urease. However, the inhibitory effects of *Lactobacilli* on *H. pylori* differ from strain to strain. For example, *L. johnsonii* La10 does not inhibit *H. pylori* although it produces as much lactic acid as *L. johnsonii* La1 (Michetti et al., 1999).

On the other hand, it has been shown that other strains (*L. acidophilus* LB, *L. casei*, *L. johnsonii* La1, and *L. lactis*) exert an inhibitory effect on *H. pylori* by a lactic acid- and pH-independent mechanism (Bernet et al., 1997; Coconnier et al., 1998). The involvement of

proteinaceous compounds in this inhibitory effect has been demonstrated by several authors (Michetti et al., 1999). However, the exact nature of antimicrobial substances secreted by these strains remains to be determined. Other probiotic bacteria, such as *Weissella confusa* (Nam et al., 2002), *L. lactis* (Kim et al., 2003), and *Bacillus subtilis* (Pinchuk et al., 2001), were shown to secrete bacteriocins able to inhibit *H. pylori* growth *in vitro*. In the case of *B. subtilis*, these substances were similar to animocumacins, belonging to the isocoumarin group of antibiotics (Pinchuk et al., 2001).

In **Table 5**; some studies including more than 10 probiotics against *H. pylori* were cited.

Table 5: Mechanisms of inhibition of *H. pylori* by probiotics *in vitro*
(Drahoslava et al., 2007)

Probiotic	Mechanism of inhibition
<i>L. acidophilus</i> 4356	Lactic acid
<i>L. casei</i> 393	Lactic acid
<i>L. salivarius</i> WB1040	Lactic acid
<i>L. casei</i> strain Shirota	Heat-labile substance
<i>L. acidophilus</i> LB	Heat-stable protein
<i>L. lactis</i> BH5	Bacteriocin
<i>L. acidophilus</i>	CRL639 autolysins
<i>W. confusa</i> PL9001	Class II bacteriocin
<i>L. johnsonii</i> La1	Heat-stable substance
<i>L. acidophilus</i>	Lactic acid
<i>L. casei</i> subsp. Rhamnosus	Lactic acid
<i>L. reuteri</i> TM 105	Glycolipid-binding proteins
<i>B. subtilis</i> 3	Anticoumacin A, B, C
<i>L. casei</i> strain Shirota	Lactic acid

Chapter -II-

General facts on probiotics

II.1 History

Although the preservation role of fermented dairy products was widely recognized and appreciated early, scientists first realized in the late 19th century that a wide range of traditional sour milk products had additional benefits in addition to prolonged shelf-life and pleasant sensory properties (**Vasiljevic and Shah, 2008**). The work of numerous scientists, mainly microbiologists, resulted in important developments and expansion of knowledge pertaining to the microbiology of the human body. **Escherich (1885)** was the first to recognize the importance of examining bacteria appearing in normal faeces and the intestinal tract, and consequently understanding the physiology of digestion and the pathology and therapy of intestinal diseases of microbial origin. In 1900, two microbiologists, Tissier and Moro, reported their findings of isolates from the faeces of breast-fed infants. Tissier noted that the anaerobically cultured organism had, in general, staining reactions and morphological appearance similar to those of *Lactobacilli*; however, many of them appeared in bifurcated forms. Thus, he named them *Bacillus bifidus*. Similarly, **Moro (1900)** postulated that the isolate, which he termed *Bacillus acidophilus* due to its unusual acid tolerance, was derived from the mother's breast and normally resided in the neonate's oral cavity and intestinal content. Later, **Tissier (1908)** also showed that *Bacillus bifidus* was the predominant organism in the faeces of breast-fed infants approximately three days postpartum as opposed to bottle-fed neonates, which predominantly contained *B. acidophilus* (**Moro, 1900**). At the same time, Nobel Laureate Ilya Metchnikoff noticed that Bulgarian peasants had an average life-span of 87 years, exceptional for the early 1900s, and that four out of every thousand lived past 100 years of age. One of the major differences in their lifestyle in comparison with the contemporary diet was a large consumption of fermented milk. In his well known auto-intoxication theory (**Metchnikoff, 2004**), Metchnikoff suggested that a human body was slowly poisoned by toxins present in the body produced by pathogens in the intestine and body's resistance steadily weakened by proliferation of enteric pathogens, all of which were successfully prevented by the consumption of sour milk and lactic acid producing bacteria. His work was based on an organism previously isolated by **Grigoroff (1905)**, who cultivated it from "podkvassa" used as a starter for production of the Bulgarian "kisselo mleko" ("sour milk" or "yahourth") and called it *Lactobacillus bulgaricus*. In the process, Grigoroff also identified another organism, *Streptococcus thermophilus*, which received no attention since it was considered a pathogen at that time. Metchnikoff's experiments led him to believe that *L. bulgaricus* could successfully establish itself in the intestinal tract and prevent multiplication and even decrease the number of putrefactive bacteria. However, the

work of **Herter and Kendall (1910)** showed that this organism failed to establish itself in the gut, although other substantial changes in the gut microflora were observed.

Despite the fact that these findings disputed Metchnikoff's theory, scientists continued to investigate possible benefits of bacteria to the human health. Consequently, certain strains of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* were isolated and found to be capable of colonizing human digestive tract where they exerted appreciable physiological activity. **Rettger and Horton (1914)** and **Rettger and Cheplin (1920)** reported that feeding of milk or lactose to rats or humans led to a transformation of the intestinal microflora resulting in predominance of *acidophilus* and *bifidus* type culture. These findings stimulated commercial interest in products fermented by *L. acidophilus* (**Burke, 1938**). Other researches followed suit with Minoru Shirota in Japan, who recognized the importance of the preventive medicine and modulation of the gastrointestinal microflora. In 1930, he succeeded isolating and culturing a *Lactobacillus* strain capable of surviving the passage through the gastrointestinal tract. The culture identified as *Lactobacillus casei* strain Shirota was successfully used for the production of the fermented dairy product called “Yakult”, which initiated the foundation of the same company in 1935 (**Yakult, 1998**). In the period between late 1930s and late 1950s, the research in this area lost its pace likely due to extraordinary conditions (depression, war) the world was facing at that time. The rejuvenated interest in the intestinal human microflora was seen in the late 1950s and early 60s that led to the introduction of the probiotic concept.

II.2 Definition

The word “probiotics” was initially used as an antonym of the word “antibiotic”. It is derived from Greek words pro and biotos and translated as “for life” (**Hamilton-Miller et al., 2003**). The origin of the first use can be traced back to **Kollath (1953)**, who used it to describe the restoration of the health of malnourished patients by different organic and inorganic supplements. A year later, **Vergin (1954)** proposed that the microbial imbalance in the body caused by antibiotic treatment could have been restored by a probiotic rich diet; a suggestion cited by many as the first reference to probiotics as they are defined nowadays.

Similarly, **Kolb (1955)** recognized detrimental effects of antibiotic therapy and proposed the prevention by probiotics. Later on, **Lilly and Stillwell (1965)** defined probiotics as substances produced by one microorganism that promoted the growth of another microorganism. Similar to this approach, **Fujii and Cook (1973)** described probiotics as compounds that either stimulated microbial growth or improved the immune response of the host without inhibiting the growth of the culture *in vitro*.

Another definition offered by **Parker (1974)** resembles more recent description of probiotics. He defined them as organisms and substances, which contribute to intestinal microbial balance. This definition was disputed by many authors since various substances even antibiotics might have been included. Late 1980s and 1990s saw a surge of different definitions of probiotics. Most frequently cited definition is that of **Fuller's (1992)**, who defined them as “a live microbial feed supplement, which beneficially affects the host animal by improving its intestinal microbial balance”. However his definition was more applicable to animals than to humans. Other authors followed this line offering their versions. Some of these definitions are listed in **Table 6**. Although all cited authors agreed that probiotics include live microorganisms, **Salminen et al. (1999)** offered their view incorporating non-viable bacteria in the definition. Following recommendations of a **FAO/WHO** working group on the evaluation of probiotics in food (**2002**), the suggested definition describes probiotics as live microorganisms that when administered in adequate amounts confer a health benefit on the host. Consequently, a wide variety of species and genera could be considered potential probiotics; commercially, however, the most important strains are lactic acid bacteria (LAB) (**Holzappel et al., 1998**).

II.3 Taxonomy and classification

The classification of probiotics is strict and organized: it depends on its genus, its species and strain (**WGO, 2008**). The main strains recognized as probiotics in humans are the most often lactic acid bacteria (*Lactobacilli* and *Bifidobacteria*) and yeasts of the genus *Saccharomyces* (**Robin and Rouchy, 2011**).

II.3.1 Yeasts

There is a great interest in finding yeast strains with probiotic potential. Different yeast species such as *Debaryomyces hansenii*, *Torulaspora delbrueckii*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus* and *Kluyveromyces lodderae* (**Kumura et al., 2004**). Kumura and his collaborators have shown tolerance to passage through the gastrointestinal tract or inhibition of enteropathogens. However, *Saccharomyces boulardii* is the only yeast with clinical effects and the only yeast preparation with proven probiotic efficiency in double-blind studies (**Sazawal et al., 2006**).

II.3.2 Lactic Acid Bacteria (LAB)

The classification of LAB genera was based on morphology, mode of glucose fermentation, growth at certain temperatures, and range of sugar utilization. Even though the taxonomy has been revised since then, characters used by Orla-Jensen are still very important in current classification of LAB. They constitute a group of bacteria that have morphological,

metabolic and physiological similarities, and are also relatively closely related phylogenetically.

Table 6: Descriptions of probiotics (Vasiljevic and Shah, 2008)

Year	Description
1953	Probiotics are common in vegetable food as vitamins, aromatic substances, enzymes and possibly other substances connected with vital processes
1954	Probiotics are opposite of antibiotics
1955	Deleterious effects of antibiotics can be prevented by probiotic therapy
1965	A substance secreted by one microorganism which stimulates the growth of another
1971	Tissue extracts which stimulate microbial growth
1973	Compounds that build resistance to infection in the host but do not inhibit the growth of microorganisms <i>in vitro</i>
1974	Organisms and substances that contribute to intestinal microbial balance
1992	Live microbial feed supplement which beneficially affects the host animal by improving microbial balance
1992	Viable mono- or mixed culture of live microorganisms which, applied to animals or man, have a beneficial effect on the host by improving the properties of the indigenous microflora
1996	Live microbial culture or cultured dairy product which beneficially influences the health and nutrition of the host
1996	Living microorganisms which, upon ingestion in certain numbers, exert health benefits beyond inherent basic nutrition
1999	Microbial cell preparations or components of microbial cells that have a beneficial effect on the health and well-being of the host
2001	A preparation of or a product containing viable, defined microorganisms in sufficient numbers, which alter the microflora (by implantation or colonization) in a compartment of the host and by that exert beneficial health effect in this host
2002	Live microorganisms that when administered in adequate amount confer a health benefit on the host

The general description of the bacteria within the group is Gram-positive, non-sporulating, non-respiring cocci or rods, which do, through fermentation of carbohydrates, produce lactic acid as their major end product. The common agreement is that there is a core group consisting of four genera: *Lactobacillus*, *Leuconostoc*, *Pediococcus* and *Streptococcus*. Recent taxonomic revisions have proposed several new genera and the remaining group now comprises the following: *Aerococcus*, *Alloiococcus*, *Carnobacterium*, *Dolosigranulum*, *Enterococcus*, *Globicatella*, *Lactococcus*, *Oenococcus*, *Tetragenococcus*, *Vagococcus*, *Weissella*. *Lactobacilli*, *Carnobacteria* and some *Weissella* are rods while the remaining genera are cocci (Jin et al., 2009). For identification of LAB, phenotypic methods have been most commonly used (Corsetti et al., 2001). More recently, genetic techniques, such as 16S

rDNA sequencing have been developed which allows a more consistent and accurate identification of individual strains (**Buddhiman et al., 2008**). Determination of short sequences of 16S rDNA is today used as a simple way for species determination of isolates of LAB (**Schleifer and Ludwig, 1995**).

The taxonomy of LAB has been based on the Gram reaction and the production of lactic acid from various fermentable carbohydrates. Their classification into different genera is largely based on morphology, mode of glucose fermentation, growth at different temperatures, and configuration of the lactic acid produced, ability to grow at high salt concentrations, and acid or alkaline tolerance (**Khalid, 2011**). For some of the newly described genera (**Pilar et al., 2008**), additional characteristics such as fatty acid composition and motility are used in classification. The measurements of true phylogenetic relationship with rRNA sequencing have aided the classification of lactic acid bacteria and clarified the phylogeny of the group. Most genera in the group form phylogenetically distinct group, but some, in particular *Lactobacillus* and *Leuconostoc* are very heterogeneous and the phylogenetic cluster do not correlate with the current classification based on phenotypic characters. New tools for classification and identification of LAB are underway (**Sascha and Magdalena, 2010**). The most promising for routine used are nucleic acid probing techniques, partial rRNA gene sequencing using the PCR, and soluble protein patterns. The growth is optimum at pH 5.5-5.8 and the organisms have complex nutritional requirements for amino acids, peptides, nucleotide bases, vitamins, minerals, fatty acids and carbohydrates (**Khalid, 2011**).

LAB are Gram-positive usually non- motile, non-spore-forming rods and cocci. They lack the ability to synthesize cytochromes and porphyrins (components of respiratory chains) and therefore cannot generate ATP by creation of a proton gradient. The LAB can only obtain ATP by fermentation, usually of sugars. Since they do not use O₂ in their energy production, LAB happily grow under anaerobic conditions, but they can also grow in oxygen's presence. They are protected from oxygen by products (e.g. H₂O₂) because they have peroxidases. These organisms are aero tolerant anaerobes (**Michaela et al., 2009**). Two main sugar fermentation pathways can be distinguished among lactic acid bacteria. Glycolysis (Embden-Meyerhof pathway) results in almost exclusively lactic acid as end product under standard conditions, and the metabolism is referred to as homolactic fermentation (**Derek et al., 2009**).

The 6 phosphogluconate/phosphoketolase pathway results in significant amounts of other end products, such as ethanol, acetate, and CO₂ in addition to lactic acid and the

metabolism is referred to as heterolactic fermentation. Various growth conditions may significantly alter the end-product formation by some LAB. These changes can be attributed to an altered pyruvate metabolism and/or the use of external electron acceptors such as oxygen or organic compounds (Michaela et al., 2009)..

II.3.2.1 Physiology and morphology

Orla-Jensen used a few characters as classification basis: morphology (cocci or rods, tetrad formation), mode of glucose fermentation (homo- or heterofermentation), growth at certain “cardinal” temperatures (e.g., 10°C and 45°C), and form of lactic acid produced (D, L, or both) (Kenji et al., 2009). As well be seen, these characters are still very important in current lactic acid bacteria classification. After the work by Orla-Jensen, the view emerged that the core of lactic acid bacteria comprised four genera: *Lactobacillus*, *Leuconostoc*, *Pediococcus* and *Streptococcus* (Sangoyomi et al., 2010). Orla-Jensen noted LAB as a “great natural group” indicating a belief that the bacteria included were phylo-genetically related and separated from other groups. At that time, only phenotype characters could be examined and evaluated phylogenetic markers. Today, we have means to examine, in detail, macromolecules of the cell, believed to be more accurate in defining relationships and phylogenetic positions. These are, of course, the nucleic acids. Fortunately, nature has provided us with different kind of nucleic acids for different kind of taxonomic studies. Close relations (at species and subspecies level) can be determined with DNA-DNA homology studies (Todd, 1993). For determining phylogenetic positions of species and genera, ribosomal RNA (rRNA) is more suitable, since the sequence contains both well-conserved and less- conserved regions. It is now possible to determine the sequence of long stretch of rRNA (~1500 bases of 16S rRNA) from bacteria (Huili et al., 2011). Comparisons of these sequences are currently the most powerful and accurate technique for determining phylogenetic relationships of microorganisms (Philippe et al., 2009). With this technique, a clearer picture of phylogeny of LAB is emerging, and the ideas of Orla-Jensen can be examined with some accuracy. In addition, rRNA sequencing is becoming an important aid in the classification of LAB, as exemplified by the descriptions of new genera (De Klerk et al., 1967; Dower et al., 1988).

The physiology of LAB has been of interest ever since it was recognized that these bacteria involved in the acidification of food and feed products. Increased knowledge of LAB physiology, such as metabolism and nutrient utilization has been one way to achieve more controlled processes. Today, modern genetic techniques are considered to be promising in this regard. However, effort in this direction will not be fruitful unless there is a sound understanding of the physiology of these bacteria. The designation LAB perhaps implies that

these bacteria have a somewhat “simple” metabolism, resulting in one or few fermentation end products. This may also be the case in laboratory environment that we often impose to them. However, it is clear that LAB have a very diverse metabolic capacity, which enables them to adapt to a variety of conditions (Delphine et al., 2011).

II.3.2.2 Ecology and habitat

In general, LAB occur in habitats with a rich nutrition supply. They occur on decomposing plant material and fruits, in dairy products, fermented meat and fish, beets, potatoes, mash, sauerkraut, sourdough, pickled vegetables, silage, beverages, plants, water, juices, sewage and in cavities (mouth, genital, intestinal and respiratory tract) of human and animals. They are part of the healthy microbiota of the human gut. Apart from dental caries, *Lactobacilli* are generally considered apathogenic. *Lb. plantarum* could be associated with endocarditis, septicemia and abscesses. Some species are applied as starter cultures for food fermentation. Because of the acidification they prevent food spoilage and growth of pathogenic microorganisms (Hammes et al. 1995). Some LAB are employed as probiotics, which are potentially beneficial bacterial cells to the gut ecosystem of humans and other animals (Tannock, 2005). *Oenococcus oeni* strains induced strain-specific cytokine patterns measurable immunomodulatory potential (Foligne' et al., 2010). LAB can also be found on grapes, in grape must and wine, as well as beer. Undamaged grapes contain $<10^3$ CFU per g and the initial titer in must is low (Lafon-Lafourcade et al., 1983). Because of the acidic conditions (pH: 3.0–3.5) grape must provides a suitable natural habitat only for a few microbial groups which are acid tolerant such as LAB, acetic acid bacteria and yeasts. While many microbes are inhibited by ethanol concentrations above (4%), ethanol tolerant species survive in young wine or wine. Besides yeasts, some *Lactobacillus* species (e.g. *Lb. hilgardii*) and *Oenococcus oeni* can grow at higher ethanol concentrations. While only a few LAB species of the genera *Lactobacillus* (Lb.), *Leuconostoc* (Lc.), *Pediococcus* (P.), *Oenococcus* (O.) and *Weissella* (W.) and the acetic acid genera *Acetobacter*, *Gluconobacter* and *Gluconoacetobacter* can grow in must and wine, more than 90 yeast species have been found. Malolactic fermentation by LAB is occasionally desirable during vinification, but they can also produce several off-flavours in wine. The genera *Carnobacterium*, *Streptococcus* and *Bifidobacterium* have not been isolated from must and wine, but sometimes also species of the genus *Enterococcus* (*E. faecium*) could be detected in wine (Perez-Martin et al., 2014). The table 7 present different ecological environments of LAB.

Table 7: Different ecological environments of LAB

Genus	Habitat	Reference
<i>Lactococcus</i>	Milk and vegetables	Novel (1993)
<i>Streptococcus thermophilus</i>	Dairy products: yoghurt, artisanal sourdoughs	Jeantet et al. (2007)
<i>Lactobacillus</i>	Surface of plants, dairy products, meat, water, mouth, tract bowel and vagina	Prescott et al. (2003)
<i>Leuconostoc</i>	Fresh vegetables and meat products	Dellaglio et al. (1995)
<i>Pediococcus</i>	Fermented meat products and milk	Larpent (1996)

II.3.2.3 Properties

The most important genera of LAB are: *Lactobacillus*, *Lactococcus*, *Enterococcus*, *Streptococcus*, *Pediococcus*, *Leuconostoc*, and *Bifidobacterium* based on their GC (guanine–cytosine) pair content, Gram-positive bacteria are divided into two major phylogenetic branches. In contrast to other above-mentioned genera, *Bifidobacterium* exhibit a relatively high guanine plus cytosine (G + C) content of 55–67 mol% in the DNA and form part of the so-called Actinomycetes branch. The “true” LAB form part of the so-called *Clostridium* branch, which is characterized by a G + C content of < 55 mol% in the DNA (**Schleifer and Ludwig, 1995**). However, *Bifidobacterium* shares certain physiological and biochemical properties with typical LAB and some common ecological niches such as the gastrointestinal tract. Therefore, for practical and traditional reasons, *Bifidobacterium* are still considered a part of the LAB group (**Stiles and Holzappel, 1997**). Members of the LAB are usually subdivided into two distinct groups based on their carbohydrate metabolism. The homo-fermentative group consisting of *Lactococcus*, *Pediococcus*, *Enterococcus*, *Streptococcus* and some *Lactobacilli* utilize the Embden Meyerhof–Parnas (glycolytic) pathway to transform a carbon source chiefly into lactic acid. As opposed to homofermentors, heterofermentative bacteria produce equimolar amounts of lactate, CO₂, ethanol or acetate from glucose exploiting phospho-ketolase pathway. Members of this group include *Leuconostoc*, *Weissella* and some *Lactobacilli*. The species belonging to *Enterococcus* genus are frequently found in traditional fermentations and may be included as a component of some mixed starters. However, their deliberate utilization in dairy fermentations still remains controversial, especially since some of the species have been now recognized as opportunistic human pathogens associated with hospital-acquired- and urinary tract infections (**Franz et al., 1999**).

II.3.2.4 Different genus of LAB and their metabolic properties

II.3.2.4.1 *Lactobacillus*

Lactobacillus is one of the most important genus involved in food microbiology and human nutrition, owing to their role in food and feed production and preservation, as well as their probiotic properties. In October 2016, this genus contained in total 189 validly described species (**König and Fröhlich, 2017**). In addition, several species consist of well characterized subspecies. *Lactobacillus* species live widespread in fermentable material. *Lactobacilli* contribute to the flavour of fermented food by the production of diacetyl, H₂S and amines. They play a role in the production as well in the spoilage of food (sauerkraut, silage, dairy and meat as well as fish products) and beverages (beer, wine, juices) (**Kandler and Weiss 1986; Hammes et al., 1991**). *Lactobacilli* are straight Gram-positive non-motile or rarely motile rods (e.g. *Lb. mali*), with a form sometimes like *Coccobacilli* (**Fig. 8**). Chains are commonly formed. The tendency towards chain formation varies between species and even strains. It depends on the growth phase and the pH of the medium. The length and curvature of the rods depend on the composition of the medium and the oxygen tension. Peritrichous flagellation occurs only in a few species, which is lost during growth in artificial media. They are aciduric or acidophilic. The maximum for growth pH is about 7.2 (**König and Fröhlich, 2017**).

Lactobacilli are strict fermenters. They can tolerate O₂ or live anaerobic. They have complex nutritional requirements for carbohydrates, amino acids, peptides, fatty acids, nucleic acid derivatives, vitamins and minerals. Some species possess a pseudocatalase and some strains can take up porphorinoids and then exhibit catalase, nitrite reductase and cytochrome activities (**Rodas et al., 2006**).

They gain energy by homofermentative or heterofermentative carbohydrate fermentation in the absence or presence of oxygen. An energy source is also the conversion of carbamyl-phosphate to CO₂ and NH₃ during arginine degradation. They possess flavine-containing oxidases and peroxidases to carry out an oxidation with O₂ as the final electron acceptor (**Khalid, 2011**).

The pathways of sugar fermentation are the Embden-Meyerhof pathway converting 1 mol hexose to 2 mol lactic acid (homolactic fermentation) and the phosphoketolase pathway (heterolactic fermentation) resulting in 1 mol lactic acid, ethanol/acetate and CO₂. Pyruvate produced during hexose fermentation may be converted to lactate, but also to other products such as diacetyl or acetic acid, ethanol and formate/CO₂ (**Khalid, 2011**).

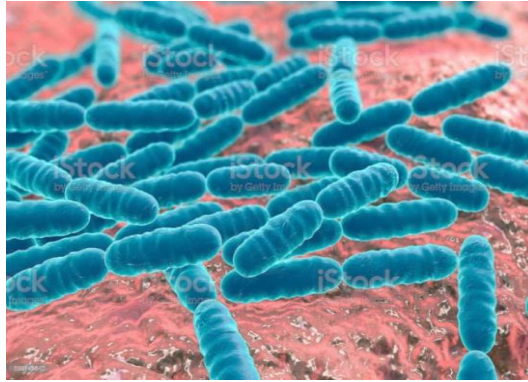


Figure 8: Micrographs of strains *Lactobacillus* by scanning electron microscope (G×30000)
(Guiraud, 2003)

In the presence of oxygen, lactate can be converted to pyruvate and consequently to acetic acid and CO₂ or acetate and formate. The conversion of glycerol to 1,3-propanediol with glucose serving as electron donor was observed in *Lb. brevis* isolated from wine (Schütz and Radler 1984). The homofermentative species possess anfructosediphosphate aldolase, while the heterofermentative species have a phosphoketolase. The facultative heterofermenters possess an inducible phosphoketolase. Heterofermentative species can also use pentoses as substrate. Some homofermenters use pentoses homofermentatively (Rodas et al., 2006). Strains of *Lactobacillus kunkeei* turned out to be fructophilic LAB (Endo et al., 2012). Sucrose is also used for the formation of dextrans with the help of dextran sucrose. Fructose can serve as electron acceptor and mannitol is formed by heterofermentative species. Monomeric sugars and saccharides are taken up by permeases or the phosphotransferase system. They are split inside the cell by glycosidases. Galactose-6-phosphate from lactose phosphate is fermented via the tagatose-6-phosphate pathway (Kandler and Kunath, 1983). Several organic acids such as citric acid, tartaric acid or malic acid are degraded. Several amino acids are decarboxylated to biogenic amines (Radler, 1975).

II.3.2.4.2 *Bifidobacterium*

Bifidobacteria were first isolated and described in 1899–1900 by Tissier, who described rod-shaped, non gas-producing, anaerobic microorganisms with bifid-morphology, present in the faeces of breast-fed infants, which he termed *Bacillus bifidus*. *Bifidobacteria* are generally characterized as Gram-positive, non-spore forming, non-motile and catalase negative anaerobes (Fig. 9) (Sgorbati et al., 1995).

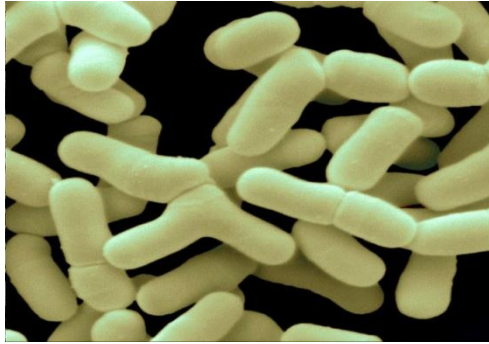


Figure 9: Micrographs of strains *Bifidobacterium* by scanning electron microscope (G×30000) (Wallace et al., 2003)

They have various shapes including short, curve drods, club-shaped rods and bifurcated Y-shaped rods. Presently, 30 species are included in the genus *Bifidobacterium*, 10 of which are from human sources (dental caries, faeces and vagina), 17 from animal intestinal tracts or rumen, two from waste water and one from fermented milk. *Bifidobacteria* are phylogenetically grouped in the actinomycete branch of Gram positive bacteria (Sgorbati et al., 1995), In addition, there are notable differences in physiological and biochemical properties, including cell-wall constituents, they are saccharolytic organisms that produce acetic and lactic acids without generation of CO₂, except during degradation of gluconate (Gomes and Malcata, 1999). Heterofermentation is initiated by splitting fructose-6-phosphate into one C₂ and one C₄ moiety. The conversion of the C₂ moiety to acetate is paralleled by the formation of heptose-7-phosphate from the C₄ moiety concomitant with the formation of a triose moiety derived from an additional molecule of fructose-6-phosphate (De Vuyst, 2000). The heptose-7-phosphate is subsequently split into two molecules of acetate and one molecule of pyruvate. The second triosemoiety left from fructose-6 phosphate is converted into lactate. Therefore, the fermentation of two moles of hexose results in three moles of acetate and two moles of lactate (Oberman and Libudzisz, 1998). The key enzyme in such glycolytic fermentation, fructose-6-phosphate phosphoketolase, may be used as a taxonomic character in identification of the genus, but does not enable interspecies differentiation. Besides glucose, all *Bifidobacteria* from human origin are also able to utilize galactose, lactose and, usually, fructose as carbon sources. The lactose transport system for *B. bifidum* DSM 20082 was identified recently as a proton symport, based on inhibition of lactose uptake by inhibitors of ATP synthesis and by compounds that interfere with proton and metal ionophores (Krzewinski et al., 1996). *Bifidobacterium* spp. are, in some instances, also able to ferment complex carbohydrates; a recent study (Crociani et al., 1994), in which 290 strains of 29 species of *Bifidobacteria* from human and animal origin were surveyed for

their ability to ferment complex carbohydrates, has confirmed this potential. The substrates fermented by the largest number of species were D-galactosamine, D-glucosamine, amylose and amylopectin. Porcine gastric mucin was fermented only by *B. bifidum*, whereas *B. infantis* was the only species that could ferment D-glucuronic acid. Strains of *B. longum* fermented arabinogalactan and arabic, ghatti and tragacanth gums. The optimum pH for growth is 6–7, with virtually no growth at pH 4.5–5.0 or below or at pH 8.0–8.5 or above. Optimum growth temperature is 37–40°C, with maximum growth at 43–45°C and virtually no growth at 25–28°C or below (**Crociani et al., 1994**).

II.3.2.4.3 *Leuconostoc*

Leuconostoc thrive on plants and sometimes in milk, milk products, meat, sugar cane and other fermented food products. One species, *Lc. mesenteroides*, has been isolated from must. It is nonhemolytic and nonpathogenic to plants and animals (**Garvie, 1986**). *Leuconostocs* are heterofermentative cocci producing only D-lactic acid from glucose and are unable to produce ammonia from arginine (**Bjorkroth and Holzappel, 2006**). *Leuconostocs* form spherical or lenticular cells, pairs or chains (**Fig. 10**). The peptidoglycan belongs to type A. Sugars are fermented by the 6-P-gluconate/phosphoketolase pathway with D-lactic acid, ethanol/acetate and CO₂ as end products. NAD⁺ or NADP⁺ will serve as coenzyme of the glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase. During malolactic fermentation malate is degraded to L-lactate and CO₂. Cells are nonproteolytic. Nitrate is not reduced. Cells grow in a glucose medium as elongated cocci. Cells are found singly or in pairs, and form short to medium length chains. On solid media, cells form short rods. *Leuconostocs* share many features with the heterofermentative *Lactobacilli* (**Dellaglio et al., 1995**). Dextrans, which are of industrial importance, are produced by leuconostocs, especially *Lc. mesenteroides*, from sucrose as substrate. *Leuconostoc* species were divided into six different groups according to the fermentation of 19 carbohydrates (**Garvie, 1960**). Electrophoretic mobilities of enzymes e.g. lactate dehydrogenase (LDHs), cell protein pattern, cellular fatty acids, DNA base composition and DNA homology are applied for differentiation of the species (**Dellaglio et al., 1995**). Citrate metabolisms of *Lc. mesenteroides subsp. mesenteroides* might be plasmid linked (**Cavin et al., 1988**). No other phenotypic features were found to be coded on plasmids, while plasmids of *Lactobacillus* and *Pediococcus* code for sugar utilisation, proteinase, nisin, bacteriocins production, drug resistance, slime formation, arginine hydrolysis and bacteriophage resistance (**Dellaglio et al., 1995**).

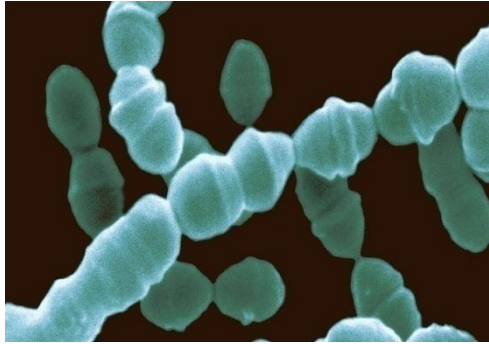


Figure 10: Micrographs of strains *Leuconostoc* by scanning electron microscope (G×30000)
(Bukhari et al., 2015)

II.3.2.4.4 *Lactococcus*

The genus *Lactococcus* was proposed by Schleifer and colleagues in 1985 to reclassify some species of the genera *Streptococcus* (Lancefield group N lactic *Streptococci*) and *Lactobacillus*. It has been defined on the basis of chemotaxonomic studies confirmed by 16s rRNA sequencing (Collins et al., 1989). The *Lactococcus* genus includes five species, *L. garvieae* (formerly *E. serolicida*), *L. piscium*, *L. plantarum*, *L. raffinolactis* (formerly *S. raffinolactis*) and *L. Lactis*, which is differentiated into subspecies *L. lactis subsp. cremoris*, *L. lactis subsp. hordniae* (formerly *Lactobacillus hordniae*) and *L. lactis subsp. lactis* (formerly *Lactobacillus xylosus*, *Streptococcus lactis*) (Odamaki et al., 2011). *Lactococci* are Gram positive cocci and belong to the group of LAB (Fig. 11). They are homofermentative and exclusively produce L(+) lactic acid. They are not β hemolytic and they are poorly α hemolytic. *Lactococci* are generally found on plants and the skins of animals. *L. plantarum* is mainly isolated from plants, *L. garvieae* from fish, animals and milk, and *L. piscium* from salmon (Williams et al., 1990).

The presence of *Lactococci* in raw milk is due to contamination from forage during milking. The two *Lactococci* most commonly found in raw milk, cheese and other dairy products are *L. lactis subsp. lactis* and *L. lactis subsp. cremoris*. These two subspecies generally reach a high level ($>10^8$ CFU g^{-1}) as early as the first day of manufacturing and maintain it throughout the ripening period of many raw milk cheeses such as Camembert (Corroler et al., 1999), Serra (Macedo et al., 1996), Venaco (Casalta, 2003) and Pecorino Sardo (Ledda et al., 1996). *L. raffinolactis* has occasionally been found in raw milk and cheeses (Lopez-Diaz et al., 2002). *L. garvieae* may also be isolated from raw milk (Villani et al., 2001) and raw milk cheeses: PDO Salers (Callon et al., 2004), Egyptian cheeses (El-

Baradei *et al.*, 2005), Jben cheese (Ouadghiri *et al.*, 2005), Italian Toma Piedmontese PDO cheeses (Fortina *et al.*, 2003).



Figure 11: Micrographs of strains *Lactococcus* by scanning electron microscope (G×30000) (Menad, 2017)

A study of 35 European artisanal dairy products indicated *Lactococci* as the most commonly found LAB genus, accounting for 38% of the bacterial isolates identified (Cogan *et al.*, 1997). *L. lactis subsp. lactis* and to a lesser extent *L. lactis subsp. cremoris* have long been extensively used in starter cultures or dairy fermentation (i.e. in cheeses, sour cream and butter), composed of single or multiple strains with or without other LAB (Beresford *et al.*, 2001). Their main role in dairy fermentation is acidification, mainly by producing L-lactic acid. They contribute to the development of texture by producing exopolysaccharides, or to flavor by producing aromatic compounds (alcohols, ketones, aldehydes) or by citrate, amino acid or fat metabolism (Smit *et al.*, 2005). They can also be used for food preservation due to their ability to produce organic acids and bacteriocins, nisin being the best characterized and recognized (Delves-Broughton *et al.*, 1996). Their use as probiotics has been also considered (Ouweland *et al.*, 1999). The annotation of the genomes of different subspecies will undoubtedly open up new prospects for identifying new useful functions in the species (Kok *et al.*, 2005). It will also be a great help in assessing the safety of *Lactococci* (Kok *et al.*, 2005).

II.3.2.4.5 *Streptococcus*

The genus *Streptococcus* consists of Gram-positive, non motile, spherical or ovoid cells that are typically arranged in pairs or chains when grown in liquid media (Fig. 12). All species are facultatively anaerobic, some requiring additional CO₂ for growth. They are non-sporing, catalase negative, homofermentative and have complex and variable nutritional requirements. They metabolise carbohydrates by fermentation resulting mainly in lactic acid but no gas. Their temperature optima are usually around 37°C, but maximum and minimum

temperatures vary somewhat amongst species. Many species are pathogenic to man and animals and some are highly virulent (Jones 1978; Colman et al., 1990).



Figure 12: Micrographs of strains *Streptococcus thermophilus* by scanning electron microscope (G×30000) (Le Guerhier, 2013)

II.3.2.4.6 *Pediococcus*

Pediococci occur on plant material, fruits and in fermented food. They are non-pathogenic to plants and animals. Cells are spherical and never elongated as it is the case with *Leuconostocs* and *Oenococci*. The cell size is 0.36–1.43 μm in diameter. Cell division occurs in two directions in a single plane. Short chains by pairs of cells or tetrads are formed (Fig. 13) (Garvie, 1986). Tetrad-forming homofermentative LABs in wine are *Pediococci*. *Pediococci* are non motile and do not form spores or capsules (Simpson and Tachuchi, 1995). Glucose is fermented by the Embden–Meyerhof–Parnas pathway to DL or L- lactate. A wide range of carbohydrates is used such as hexoses, pentoses, disaccharides, trisaccharides and polymers such as starch.. The phospho transferase system is used for glucose transport. Species producing DL -lactate possess an L- and D-LDH. Pyruvate can be converted mainly by *P. damnosus* to acetoin/diacetyl. *P. pentosaceus* and *P. damnosus* can degrade malate. They are nonproteolytic and nitrate is not reduced. *Pediococci* are catalase negative. Some strains of *P. pentosaceus* produce pseudocatalase. *Pediococci* do not reduce nitrate. *Pediococci* can have plasmids, which code for production of bacteriocins or fermentation of carbohydrates. *P. pentosaceus* has three different plasmids for the fermentation of raffinose, melibiose and sucrose (Simpson and Tachuchi, 1995).

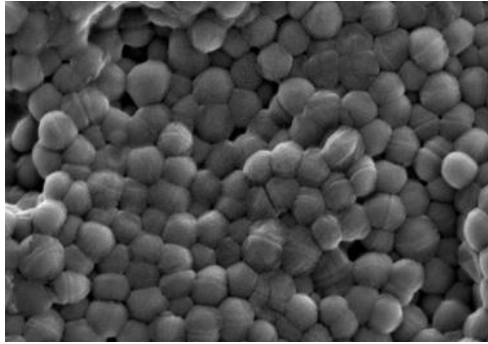


Figure 13: Micrographs of strains *Pediococcus* by scanning electron microscope (G×10000)
(Herdian *et al.*, 2018)

II.3.2.4.7 *Oenococcus*

Oenococci have been isolated from must and wine (Garvie, 1986). They form spherical or lenticular cells, pairs or chains. Murein belongs to type A (Fig. 14) (König and Fröhlich, 2017). Only NAD⁺ will serve as coenzyme of the glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (Bjorkroth and Holzapfel 2006). Petri *et al.* (2015) applied MALDI-TOF-MS and nested SAPD-PCR for the discrimination of *Oenococcus oeni* isolates at the strain level. *Oenococci* have been separated from the genus *Leuconostoc* by 16S rDNA sequence analysis (Dicks *et al.* 1995). Only three species *O. oeni* (Dicks *et al.*, 1995), *O. kitaharae* (Endo and Okada 2006) and *O. alcoholitolerans* (Badotti *et al.*, 2015) have been described (König and Fröhlich, 2017), and can easily be distinguished. *O. kitaharae* (type strain: DSM 17330 T) has been isolated from a composting distilled shochu residue. L-Malate is not decarboxylated to L-lactate and CO₂ in the presence of fermentable sugars. Cells do not grow below pH 4.5 and in 10% ethanol. Growth is not stimulated by tomato juice. *O. kitaharae* possess several functions in cellular defence (bacteriocins, antimicrobials, restriction- modification systems), which are lacking in *O. oeni* living in must with fewer competitive microbes (Borneman *et al.*, 2012). *O. alcoholitolerans* was isolated from an ethanol production plant in Brazil. Distinctive phenotypic characteristics are the ability to metabolise sucrose but not trehalose (Badotti *et al.*, 2015). The usage of glucose, cellobiose, trehalose, and mannose was demonstrated (Jamal *et al.*, 2013). *O. oeni* can grow at pH 3.0 and 10% ethanol. Many strains of *O. oeni* can even grow at 14% of ethanol (Bordas *et al.*, 2013). Heat shock proteins and special membrane lipids are produced under these environmental conditions (Coucheney *et al.*, 2005). Changes in the expression level of the geranylgeranyl pyrophosphate synthase gene was detected under ethanol stress (Cafaro *et al.*, 2014). Vigentini *et al.* (2016) isolated *O. oeni* strains from wineries of the Aosta Valley developing at 10 C in Petit Rouge wine.

Oenococci can be distinguished from less acid tolerant *Leuconostoc* species by using saccharose, lactose and maltose as substrate (Garvie, 1986).

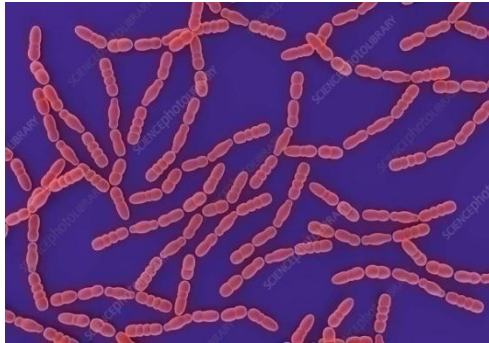


Figure 14: Micrographs of strains *Oenococcus* by scanning electron microscope (G×10000)
(Bastard et al., 2016)

II.3.2.4.8 *Weissella*

Based on rDNA analysis, *Lc. paramesenteroides* (“*Lc. paramesenteroides* group”) was reclassified as *W. paramesenteroides*. Five heterofermentative *Lactobacilli* (*Lb. confusus*, *Lb. halotolerans*, *Lb. kandleri*, *Lb. minor*, *Lb. viridescens*) were also assigned to the genus *Weissella* (Bjorkroth and Holzapfel 2006). *Weissella*s are spherical, lenticular or irregular rods (Fig. 15). They are heterofermentative species, which produce D, L -lactic acid, while *W. paramesenteroides* forms D -lactic acid from glucose. They have been isolated from food and meat. *Weissella*s produce greenish oxidized porphyrins in meat products by H₂O₂ accumulation. The genus *Weissella* contained 21 validly described species (König and Fröhlich, 2017).

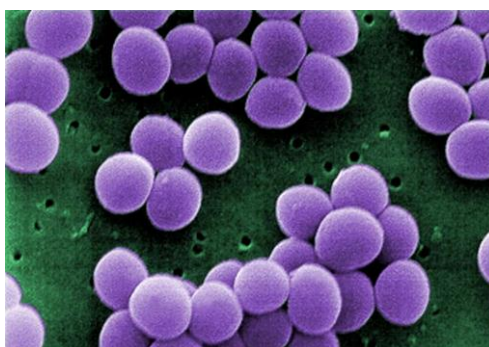


Figure 15: Micrographs of strains *Weissella* by scanning electron microscope (G×30000)
(Lakra et al., 2020)

II.4 Beneficial effects

LAB are useful probiotics, their beneficial effects were revealed by a Russian Scientist Metchnikof (1845–1919) who proposed that extended longevity of people of Balkan could be attributed to their practice of ingesting fermented milk products (Hove et al., 1999). LAB are

useful for human being and animals presenting many bioactivities such as epithelial barrier enhancement, effect on intestinal mucosa adhesion, competitive exclusion to eliminate pathogenic microorganisms, antimicrobial substances production, immunomodulatory activity, probiotics on toll-like receptors (TLRs), effect on nucleotide oligomerization domain-like receptors (NLRs), also on lactose intolerance, prevention of diarrhea (infective diarrhea antibiotic-associated diarrhea, *Clostridium difficile* infected diarrhea, traveler's diarrhea), prevention of inflammatory bowel syndrome, prevention of urogenital infections, gastric ulcer treatment, food allergy, obesity management, hypo-cholesterolemic effect, prevention of diabetes, liver diseases, cancer prevention, increased synthesis of short-chain fatty acids, maintaining of oral health (dental caries and orthodontic treatment) (Das et al., 2022).

II.4.1 Effects on gastrointestinal tract

About 10 billions of bacteria belong to 500 species coexist in human gastrointestinal tract. 20 genera are dominant among these including LAB. these are *Bacteroids*, *Lactobacillus*, *Clostridium*, *Fusobacterium*, *Bifidobacterium*, *Eubacterium*, *Peptococcus*, *Peptostreptococcus*, *Escherichia*, and *Veillonella* (Hove et al., 1999). Microbial balance is very important for maintaining the intestinal homeostasis. Live LAB intake through dairy products have myriad beneficial effects on gastrointestinal tract of human beings ranges from correction of lactose malabsorption, alleviation of viral and drug induced diarrhea, post operative pouchitis, irritable bowel syndrome, inflammatory bowel syndrome, antineoplastic effects on human cell line, maintenance of normal insulin level in blood and also helpful to enhance the absorption of fatty acids through intestine (Harish and Varghese, 2006). LAB produce these beneficial effects by restoration of normal intestinal flora, elimination of intestinal pathogens, reinforcement of intestinal barrier capacity to foreign antigens, stimulation of non specific immunity such as phagocytosis, stimulation of humoral immunity and production of anti-inflammatory products (Heyman, 2000).

II.4.2 Effects on lactose intolerance and malabsorption

Lactose intolerance is the inability to digest lactose into its constituent's, i.e., glucose and galactose owing to low level of β -galactosidase enzyme in the brush border of duodenums. It commonly occurs in children. Symptoms of lactose intolerance appear from 30 min to 2 hours after consumption of food that contain lactose in it. Symptoms include, bloating, cramping, flatulence, and loose stool (Strzalkowska et al., 2018). There are three clinical forms of lactose intolerances, i.e., primary lactose intolerance occurs after weaning, secondary lactose intolerance due to diarrhea, inflammatory bowel disease and HIV infection

and third type is congenital lactose intolerance which has genetic origin. Lactose malabsorption is the condition in which lactose is digested into its constituents but because of deficiency of anatomical and cofactors these constituents are not properly absorbed by the intestine (**Rusnyk and Still, 2001**). Lactose intolerance problem appears to occur less frequently among cattle raising cultures because these cultures usually drink milk but culture groups those do not drink milk have high incidences of lactose intolerance. It has been found that people with lactase deficiency tolerate the lactose in yogurt better than the same amount of lactose in milk this probably due to the assumption that either yogurt supply lactase enzyme or bacteria which produce lactase enzyme (**Masood et al., 2011**).

II.4.3 Effects on diarrheal diseases

Diarrhea is the common problem of both developed and developing countries but incidences are more common in developing countries due to the poor life style and poor hygiene conditions. People at high risk of diarrhea are small children, elders, persons with intestinal infections and HIV carriers (**Farthing, 2000**). According to a report published by **WHO in 2000**, diarrhea accounts for 4% of total deaths and 5% of disabilities worldwide. Mortality rate is 2.2 millions globally annually and morbidity rate is 4 billion annually. There are several causes of diarrhea but most common among them is fecally contaminated food and water (**WHO, 2000**). There are many forms of diarrhea such as Rota virus induced diarrhea, antibiotic induced diarrhea, bacterial diarrhea travelers and diarrhea fungal diarrhea (**Harish, 2006**). *Lactobacillus GG* strain has been to be very effective against viral and idiopathic diarrhea as identified by Harish and Vargese in their studies (**Harish and Vargese, 2006**). **Canani et al. (2007)** investigated the effects of lactic acid bacteria (*Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, *Lactobacillus plantrum*, *Bifidobacterium*, and *Enterococcus faecium SF68*) on children of 6 to 36 months of age with diarrheal complication and found that these were effective in preventing diarrheal complications. *Lactobacillus GG* was found to be more effective antidiarrheal agent *Streptococcus faecium* strain SF68 was effective against diarrhea associated with respiratory tract infection. Due to these beneficial effects of LAB in diarrheal disease especially in children, the use of LAB containing food such as yogurt and fermented milk should be promoted in children.

II.4.4 Role of LAB in treating ulcer

Myllyluoma et al. (2007) in their study reported the beneficial effects of LAB in gastric ulcer. They proposed that these effects were due to the destructive actions of LAB on *H. pylori*. If LAB are used in combination of anti-ulcerative therapy then results are astonishingly fast recovery and improved efficacy of therapy. The use of *Lactococcus*

rhamnosus as an adjuvant therapy during *H. pylori* eradication has been proved. *Lactococcus rhamnosus* not only is used as adjunct in anti-ulcerative therapy but also reduced ethanol-induced mucosal lesion. Pre-treatment with *Lactococcus rhamnosus* also significantly increases the basal mucosal prostaglandin E2 (PGE2) level, also attenuates the suppressive actions of ethanol on mucus- secreting layer and transmucosal resistance and reduces cellular apoptosis in the gastric mucosa. Hence we can say that *Lactococcus rhamnosus* is an antiulcerative in many ways as reported by researchers (**Lam et al., 2007**).

II.4.5 Effects of LAB on human immune system

Immunity is defined as the resistance of body against foreign invaders or anybody abnormalities. Immunity is basically of two types: innate and acquired immunities. Farmer is nonspecific type of immunity and latter is specific type of immunity. Innate immunity includes mechanical barriers, antiseptic actions of body fluids, inflammatory response while acquired immunity consists of lymphocytes, specific types of proteins and antibodies to defend the body, these pathways are help full to maintain the body functional (**Arora, 2007**).

Antibodies are the major component of immune system. These may be monoclonal and polyclonal. For exemple when *Staphylococcus aureus* is injected in its inactive state can generate IgA, the antibodies produced in this way are polyclonal and can provide immunity against various antigens. To provide a cheap source of immunization cow milk can be used. This can provide immunity against *Staphylococcus aureus* infections as reported by **Plat-Sinnige et al. (2009)**. Also *Lactobacillus keiranofaciens* M1 has strong potential to induce production of tumor necrosis factor (TNF)- α , interleukin (IL)-1 β , IL-6, and IL-12 in RAW (macrophage cell line) 264.7 cells and murine peritoneal macrophages. In addition to this blocking toll-like receptor (TLR)-2 showed a significant inhibition of IL-6 and TNF- α production. From these findings it is indicated that they have a potential beneficial effect on promotion of cell-mediated immune responses against tumors and also against intracellular pathogenic infections (**Hong et al., 2009**). Specific auto antibodies have physiologic control via antibodies (**Fetissov et al., 2008**).

Waard et al. (2001) have performed a series of experiments on *L. casei* Shirota. From their experiments they have demonstrated that *L. casei* Shirota has prominent effects on cellular innate immunity via phagocyte activation, this in turn enhances TH1 cell activity. From this they concluded that *L. casei* Shirota has a direct or indirect effects on TH1 cell activity. Stronger role in immunity by LAB is further strengthened by the studies of Sun et al, they concluded that LAB strain is responsible for certain immune responses (**Sun et al., 2005**).

II.4.6 Antifungal activity

LAB have been found to show antifungal activity. Fungal diseases are difficult to treat. Different strains of LAB have been screened out to identify their potential anti-fungal activity. Among various strains of LAB, *Lactobacillus fermentum* has been marked possessing a strong anti-fungal property, especially against *Candida albicans* and *Candida glabrata*. As LAB possesses anti-mycotic property they can be used as probiotics against various lethal fungal diseases. Fungal infection causes by *Candida glabrata* and *Candida albicans* are common. LAB use as probiotics may address these issues in a better way (Rönnqvist et al., 2007). Hydrogen peroxide has deleterious effects on fungi. It is also effective against bacterial infections. Some types of LAB produce hydrogen peroxide. These strains possess antibacterial as well as anti-fungal activity. Mijac et al. (2006) in their work demonstrated that *Lactobacilli* are the special type of LAB which have this unique property of producing Hydrogen peroxide. These bacteria can be used in a wide range of infections including vulvovaginal candidiasis (VVC) and trichomoniasis (TV). In fact vagina is the main site of infection in females. Different types of fungal infections are common to this area. The use of LAB as probiotics may contribute a lot of ease in therapy of these infections (Mijac et al., 2006). *Lactobacillus casei* and *Lactobacillus acidophilus* possess good antifungal properties and are able to protect immuno compromised people from opportunistic infections by *Candida albicans* as described by Polishchuk et al. (1999) and Wagner et al. (2000). LAB show antifungal activity by possessing antiadhesive actions against *Candida albicans* as described by Anokhina et al. (2007). It is obvious that LAB have pronounced property as anti-fungal agent. It is to be investigated that whether these *Lactobacillus* are effective orally or vaginally.

II.4.7 Role of LAB in preventing colon cancer

Kim et al. (2006) found that LAB such as *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* ATCC 9595 was useful in preventing colon cancer in human being. They conducted experiments on two cell lines of cancer, i.e., PANC-I (pancreas) and HI-29 (colon). They found that LAB successfully decreased the cancer growth. The anticancer activity of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* was might be due to the induction of apoptosis by two exopolysaccharides of bacteria namely rEPS (released exopolysaccharides) and cbEPS (cell bound exopolysaccharides). rEPS was more effective in preventing cancer than cbEPS. Uncontrolled growth of colon cells may be affected by different strains of LAB. Various types of LAB were investigated by Baricault et al. (1995), the most important strains with anticarcinogenic property were *Lactobacillus helveticus*, *Bifidobacterium*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, or a mixture of *Streptococcus*

thermophilus and *L.bulgaricus*. From these *Lactobacillus helveticus* is the most effective one in inhibiting the uncontrolled growth of colonic cells. Effects of LAB on colon cancer may vary from strain to strain. Some strains may be helpful in minimizing mutagenic threat and other may potentiate this abnormality.

II.4.8 Inhibition of intestinal pathogens

Probiotic cultures produce a wide range of antibacterial compounds including organic acids (e.g., lactic acid and acetic acid), hydrogen peroxide, bacteriocins, various low molecular mass peptides, and antifungal peptides/proteins, fatty acids, phenyllactic acid, and OH-phenyllactic acid. Lactic and acetic acids are the main organic acids produced during the growth of probiotics and their pH lowering effect in the gastrointestinal tract has a bactericidal or bacteriostatic effect. Low-molecular-mass compounds such as lactic acid have been reported to be inhibitory towards Gram-negative pathogenic bacteria (**Alakomi et al., 2000**). Moreover, a heat-stable, low-molecular-weight antibacterial substance different from lactic acid was present in the cell-free culture supernatant resulting in the inactivation of a wide range of Gram-negative bacteria and inhibition of the adhesion and invasion of Caco-2 cells by *Salmonella enterica* Serovar typhimurium (**Coconnier et al., 2000; Lie et al., 2002**). Also, probiotics like many other LAB can produce various bacteriocins. Bacteriocins are ribosomally synthesized antimicrobial peptides effective against other bacteria, either in the same species (narrow spectrum), or across genera (broad spectrum) with immunity to their own bacteriocins (**Cotter and Ross, 2005**). Recently, **Corr et al. (2007)** showed that *L. salivarius* was capable of protecting mice against *Listeria monocytogenes* by direct antagonism mediated by the bacteriocin Abp118. In some instances, the inhibition of gastrointestinal pathogens is multifactorial including all mentioned factors (**Fayol-Messaoudi et al., 2005**). The production of these antimicrobial compounds appeared to be stimulated by the presence of pathogens (**Rosslund et al., 2005**). In general, many mechanisms have been suggested by which probiotics prevent the detrimental effect of intestinal pathogens including competition for limited nutrients, inhibition of epithelial and mucosal adherence of pathogens, inhibition of epithelial invasion by pathogens, production of antimicrobial substances and/or the stimulation of mucosal immunity (**Rolfe, 2000**).

Helicobacter pylori is an intestinal pathogen, long-term infection by which leads to chronic gastritis, peptic ulcer and increases the risk of gastric malignancies (**Plummer et al., 2004**). Currently *H. pylori* infection is treated by a combined therapy consisting of two antibiotics and a proton pump inhibitor, which, although in many cases appeared very effective, presents a very expensive treatment with many side effects including antibiotic-

associated diarrhoea and likelihood of induction of the antibiotic resistance in intestinal pathogens (Malfertheiner et al., 2002). The clinical outcome of *H. pylori* infection depends on several factors including the strain of *H. pylori*, extent of inflammation and cell density (Ernst and Gold, 2000). The risk associated with the development of peptic ulcer and gastric cancer is directly proportional to the level of infection (Tokunaga et al., 2000). One of the measures, which may help reduce the rate of *H. pylori* infection, is a diet modulation with the inclusion of probiotics (Khulusi et al., 1995). Probiotic organisms do not appear to eradicate *H. pylori*, but they are able to reduce the bacterial load and inflammation in animal and human studies. It has been suggested that the suppression effect is strain dependent (Sgouras et al., 2005).

II.5 Mechanism action of LAB

Major probiotic mechanisms of action include enhancement of the epithelial barrier, increased adhesion to intestinal mucosa, and concomitant inhibition of pathogen adhesion, competitive exclusion of pathogenic microorganisms, production of anti-microorganism substances and modulation of the immune system (Fig. 16).

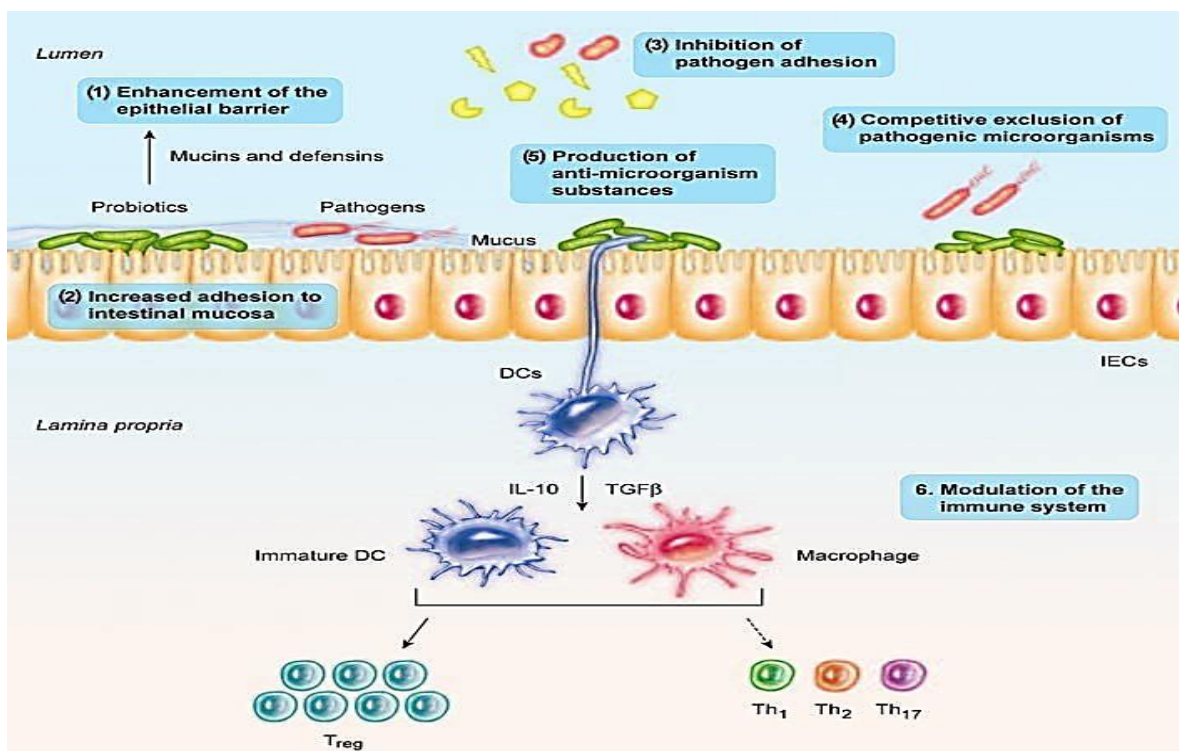


Figure 16: Mechanism action of LAB (De Bermudez-Brito et al., 2012)

DCs: Epithelial and dendritic cells IECs: Intestinal epithelial cells

Chapter -III-

Medicinal Plants

III.1 *Allium sativum* .L (Garlic)

III.1.1 History

Garlic is native to central Asia. It is descended from the species *Allium longicuspis*, which grows wild in central and south western Asia. It has been a culinary and medicinal staple in Asia, Africa and Europe for more than 6,000 years. Cultivated garlic was thought to fall into two main types of *Allium sativum*: hardneck garlic (*Allium sativum* var. *ophioscorodon*), also known as “bolting” or “top-setting,” and softneck garlic (*Allium sativum* var. *sativum*), or “non-bolting.” Experts do not agree about whether these types are different subspecies. Hardnecks produce a flowers stalk, called a scape, and are most closely related to wild garlic. Softnecks do not have this woody stalk, and they comprise most “super market” garlic varieties. New evidence suggests that a third type, “weakly bolting” garlics, are genetically softnecks that exhibit characteristics of hardnecks under certain environmental conditions. Softneck garlic produces more cloves per bulb and stores longer than hardneck garlic. Softnecks lack a hard stalk, which makes them easy to braid together for storage. However, in cold climates like Alaska, hardneck types are much harder and more flavorful, produce much larger bulbs, and can be quite productive with optimal cultivation (Aaron, 1997).

III.1.2 Origin and distribution

Garlic is a perennial that originally came from central Asia, and is now grown throughout the world (Wolfgang, 2008). According to FAO (2019), China is the highest producer of garlic in the world, it is also massively produced in the United States and Mediterranean countries (Tab. 8). Among the latter, Spain is the highest European producer.

III.1.3 Botanical description

Allium sativum L., is a monocotyledonous perennial plant, giving cloves (garlic clove, bulbils) appreciated in the culinary field for their characteristic taste and smell. Their underground part consists of a compound bulb with numerous fibrous rootlets and their bulb extends above the surface into a stem surrounded by green, linear, flat and smooth leaves, measuring 1 to 2.5 cm wide and 30 to 60 cm long. The inflorescences are umbels, and small bulblets are produced in the inflorescences, concerning the flowers are variable in number and sometimes absent and rarely open, they may wither in the egg, they are installed at the end of thin pedicels and consist of a 6-piece perianth about 4-6 mm long, pink or white in color, bell-shaped; 6 stamens; and a trilocular superior ovary. Finally the fruit is a small capsule of loculicidal dehiscence (Fig. 17) (Farnsworth et al., 1992).

The pods have 12 to 16 bulbs. The latter have a diameter of 5 to 10 mm and are composed of an outer shell, an epidermis containing a chlorophyll-free mesophyll; parenchyma and a base of lower epidermal cells (WHO, 1999).

Table 8: World garlic production statistics in 2019: the top 10 producers (FAOSTAT, 2019)

Country	Production in 2019 (Tons)
China	23 258 424
India	2 910 000
Bangladesh	466 389
Republic of Korea	387 671
Egypt	318 800
Spain	271 350
United States	237 340
Algeria	223 311
Azberkistan	216 272
Ukraine	215 070

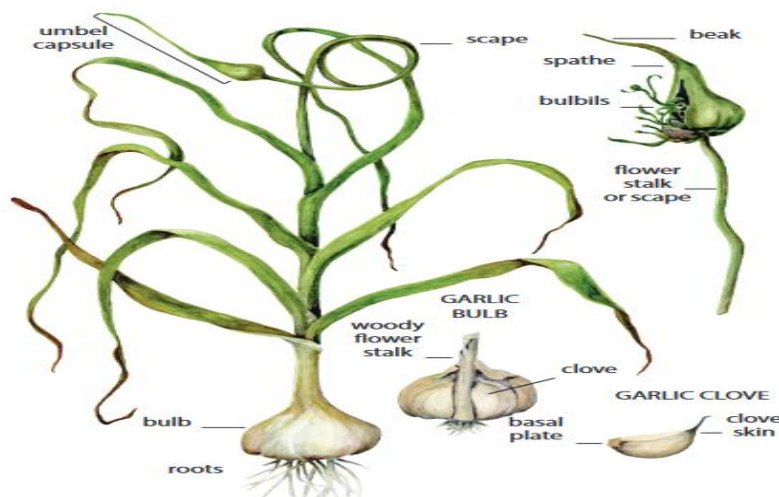


Figure 17: *Allium sativum* L. plant (Dethier, 2010)

III.1.4 Taxonomy and classification

Formerly classified in the lily (*Liliaceae*) family, garlic was at one time known as *Allium controversum*, which hints at the problems classifying the herb. Most sources recognize one major hardneck variety, *A. sativum* var. *ophioscorodon*, and one major softneck variety, *A. sativum* var. *sativum*. One other little-known variety, *A. sativum* var. *pekinense* (Peking garlic) also exists (Ourouadi et al., 2016). It belongs to the genus *Allium*. Recent taxonomy revisions place garlic in the family of *Alliaceae*, which is made up of approximately 700 Species (Apawu, 2009). A great number of species in this genus are perennial plants with underground storage organs consisting of bulbs or rhizome (Abdul Ghani, 2010). The most common edible members include chives, (*A. Schoenoprasum* L.),

leek (*A. porrum* L.), and onion (*A. Cepa* L.). It belongs to the species *sativum* and has the scientific name *Allium sativum* L. (Apawu, 2009). *Allium sativum* is a diploid species ($2n = 2x = 16$) in the subgenus *Allium* of the *Alliaceae* (formerly in the *Liliaceae*, and then the *Amaryllidaceae*). The other cultivated plants in this subgenus are leek, usually tetraploid, or elephant garlic, usually hexaploid (both *A. Ampeloprasum* L.). Leek and garlic have flat and folded leaves. Elephant garlic and garlic form a bulb, but leek does not. Elephant garlic bulbs consist of 2 to 6 large cloves and several small cloves, while garlic bulbs usually have more cloves of a relatively consistent size, especially for bolting types. Bolting garlic, leek, and elephant garlic have a solid scape, unlike the hollow scape of the most economically important *Allium*, onion (*A. cepa* L.) (Simon and Jenderek, 2003).

The systematic classification of garlic is shown in **Table 9**. It was recently, subject of an ever-controversial amendment, with some scientists classifying the *Allium* in the subfamily *Liliaceae*, or *Amaryllidaceae*, and not in a separate family *Alliaceae* (Lambinon et al., 2004).

Table 9: Classification of *Allium sativum* (Lambinon et al., 2004)

Domain	Eukaryota
Kingdom	Plantae
Phylum	Spermatophyta
Subphylum	Angiospermae
Class	Liliopsides
Subclass	Liliidae
Order	Liliales
Family	<i>Alliaceae</i>
Genus	<i>Allium</i>
Species	<i>Allium sativum</i>

III.1.5 Habitat and ecology

Garlic can be grown on variety of soils but thrives better on fertile, well-drained loamy soils. Heavy clay soils may result in misshapen bulbs and make harvesting difficult. Garlic is a frost-hardy plant requiring cool and moist period during growth and relatively dry period during maturity of bulbs (Singh, 2018). Bulbing takes place during longer days and at high temperatures. Exposure to low temperature subsequent to bulb formation favors the process. Adequate vegetative growth promotes bulb formation. Bolting does not seem to be influenced by temperature, and some clones never produce flowers (Purseglove, 1975). It was also observed that long days and high temperatures encouraged bulb development. Abdel (1973) found yield and survival higher at lower temperatures. Moravec et al. (1974) observed

that during cool growing, seasons the yield differences between the cultivars were more conspicuous, whereas warm wet weather reduced it. These results showed that low temperature is a pre-requisite for higher yields in garlic. As soon as bulbing commences, leaf initiation ceases (Singh, 2018). Because of this reason and to get high yield, garlic should be planted early to promote vegetative growth under short photoperiod and cool temperature. In regions having temperate climate, garlic is often planted in late autumn to facilitate top growth at higher temperature in spring. In general, garlic needs irrigation at an interval of 8 days during vegetative growth and 10 to 15 days during maturation (Singh, 2018).

III.1.6 Varieties

Several botanical varieties of garlic are described in the literature, including *A. sativum* var. *sativum* L., which rarely or never flowers; *A. sativum* var. *ophioscorodon* (Link) Doll (the varietal name meaning “serpent garlic”), which regularly flowers; and *A. sativum* var. *pekinense* (Prokh.) Makino, which rarely flowers, like *A. sativum* var. *sativum*, but has wider, leaves (Ourouadi et al., 2016). Based on genetic DNA analysis there are 10 major garlic varieties or types (Tab. 10) within two main categories: hard neck and soft neck. These varieties are the result of random mutations of yesteryears of these two principals categories (Sethi et al., 2014).

III.1.7 Chemical composition

III.1.7.1 Physicochemical

In human nutrition, the energy value of garlic is 138.7 kcal/100 g, garlic clove contains water, storage polysaccharides, proteins mainly enzymes (alliinase, peroxidases), free amino acids, and organo-sulphur compounds which are responsible for the characteristic smell and taste of garlic. Certain vitamins (A, B1, B2 and C), phytic acid, β -pistosterol and selenium are also present (Meredith, 2008). Garlic comprises higher concentration of sulfur compounds which yield characteristic flavor and taste and are also responsible for beneficial effects (Medjoudj, 2007). The essential components of fresh garlic are shown in the Table 11. Garlic cloves contain rather large amounts of vital minerals and trace elements like calcium, phosphor, potassium, sodium, magnesium, aluminium, iron, copper, manganese, chromium, molybdene, selenium, germanium and iodide (Tab.12) (Sendl, 1995).

In addition to these, about seventeen amino acids that include alanine, arginine, aspartic acid, asparagine, histidine, leucine, methionine, phenylalanine, praline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, and valine have been identified and isolated (Agarwal,1996).

Table 10: Varieties of garlic (Sethi et al., 2014)

N°	Variety	Height (ft)	Bulbils	Bulbs	Clove skin	Double clove	Typical named selection
01	Rocamboles	3-4	Numerous, purple color	Off-white Purple streak	Brownish and easy to peel	Prone to double clove	German Red, German Brown, Spanish Roja, Russian Red, Killarney Red, Montana Gian
02	Purple stripe	3-5	Numerous, purple color	Purple streak 8- 12 cloves	Brownish and difficult to peel	Rarely occur	Chesnok Red, Persian Star
03	Glazed purple stripe	3-5	Numerous, intensely purple color	Purple streak 8- 12 cloves	Brownish and difficult to peel	Rarely occur	Purple Glazer, Red Rezan
04	Marbled purple stripe	3-5	Numerous, purple color	Purple stripes 4-7 cloves	Brownish	Rarely occur	Siberian, Brown Tempest, Krasnodar Red
05	Porcelaine	4-6	Numerous, small, white color	4-6cloves	Difficult to peel	Rarely occur	Romanian Red, Georgian Crystal, Music, Polish Hardneck, Zemo, Georgian Fire, Northern White, German White, Krasnodar White
06	Artichoke	/	Purple	Whitish to purple blush 12-20 cloves	Difficult to peel	/	Inchellium Red, California Early, Susanville, California Late, Early Red Italian, Machashi, Red Toch
07	Asiatic	3	Dark purple, larger	4-8 cloves	Difficult to peel	Present	Asian Tempest, Japanese, Wonha, Sakura, Pyong Vang
08	Turban	/	Numerous, purple, small	Dark purple, 7-11 cloves	Brownish Easy to peel	Not present	Red Janice, Blossom, Xian, Tzan, Chinese Stripe
09	Creole (warm climate)	/	Small and white to pink	8 to 12 cloves	Dark purple, sweet in taste, Difficult to peel	/	Ajo Rojo, Burgundy, Creole Red
10	Silver skin (warm climate)	/	/	8-40	Difficult to peel	/	Silver White, Nookota Rose, Mild French, S and H Silver, Idaho Silver

Table 11: Chemical composition of fresh garlic g/100g (Lefief, 2012)

Components	Value (g)	Vitamins	Value (mg)
Water	63.7	B1	30
Proteins	7	B2	1.2
Starch	22.1	B3	0.65
Fibers	3	B5	0.60
Carbohydrates	24.5	B6	0.20
Reducing sugars	2.4	C	0.10
Lipids	0.5	E	0.08

Table 12: Trace elements of fresh garlic (Sendi, 1995)

Trace element	Amount per 100 g fresh garlic
Sodium (Na)	8.0 mg ± 2
Potassium (K)	373.0 mg ± 9
Calcium (Ca)	18.0 mg ± 3
Phosphorus (P)	64.0 mg ± 3
Iron (Fe)	2.2 mg ± 5
Magnesium (Mg)	8.0 mg ± 4
Manganese (Mn)	1.3 mg ± 2
Zinc (Zn)	0.9 µg ± 5
Cobalt (Co)	0.9 µg ± 3
Selenium (Se)	77.1 µg ± 2
Fluorine (F)	22.0 µg ± 2
Iodine (I)	94 µg ± 4

III.1.7.2 Phytochemical

Bulbs of *A. sativum* are reported to contain hundreds of phytochemicals including sulfur-containing compounds such as ajoenes (E-ajoene, Z-ajoene), thiosulfinates (allicin), vinyldithiins (2-vinyl-(4H) -1,3-dithiin, 3-vinyl-(4H)-1,2-dithiin), sulfides (diallyl disulfide (DDS), diallyl trisulfide (DTS)) (Tab. 13) (Al-Snafi, 2013). And phenolic acids such as caffeic acid, p-coumaric acid, ferulic acid, and sinapic; acid pyrocatech acid; coffee acid and p-hydroxybenzoic acid (Brewer, 2011). However, Berginc et al., (2010) showed that garlic contain also flavonoids such as nobiletin, tangeretin, rutin. Chekki et al. (2014) reported that the content of flavonoids in garlic was 132 mg.kg⁻¹ and Fratianni et al. (2016) identified some of these flavonoids such as epicatechin (1.178 mg.kg⁻¹), rutin (43.43 mg.kg⁻¹), luteolin (0.15–22.92 mg.kg⁻¹), hyperoside (0.37–20.24 mg.kg⁻¹), quercetin (6.55–10.17 mg.kg⁻¹), apigenin (3.24mg.kg⁻¹) and naringenin (11.75–56.71 mg.kg⁻¹).

Alliin, the main cysteine sulfoxide is transformed to allicin by allinase enzyme after cutting of the garlic and breaking down the parenchyma. S-propyl-cysteine sulfoxide (PCSO),

allicin and S-methyl cysteine-sulfoxide (MCSO) are the main odoriferous molecules of freshly milled garlic homogenates. PCSO can produce more than fifty metabolites depend on water content and temperature as well as allinase enzyme that can act on the mixture of MCSO, PCSO, and alliin to produce other molecules, such as allyl methane thiosulfinates, methyl methanethiosulfonate, and further corresponding thiosulfinates (R-S-S R'), by which R and R' are allyl, propyl, and methyls groups (Zeng et al., 2017). S-alk(en)yl-l-cysteine sulfoxides are the secondary metabolites obtained from cysteine which accumulate in the plants of *Allium* genus (Souza et al., 2011). Garlic formulations consist of several organosulfur compounds, N-acetylcysteine (NAC), S-allyl-cysteine (SAC) (Asdaq and Inamdar, 2011), and S-ally mercapto cysteine (SAMC), which are derived from alliin (Tran et al., 2018). Notably, SAC has antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, regulated redox, pro energetic, antiapoptotic, and signaling capacities (Liu et al., 2015), while SAMC shows an anticancer activity through preventing the cancer cells multiplication (Cao et al., 2017).

Allicin (allyl thiosulfinate), is a sulfenic acid thioester and its pharmacological effect is attributed to its antioxidant activity as well as its interaction with thiol-containing proteins (Miron et al., 2000). In the allicin biosynthesis, cysteine is transformed to alliin that is hydrolyzed by the allinase enzyme (Borlinghaus et al., 2014). This enzyme composed of pyridoxal phosphate (PLP) which splits alliin and produces ammonium, pyruvate, and allyl sulfenic acid that are highly reactive and unstable at room temperature, where two molecules were combined to form allicin (Miron et al., 2000; Shimon et al., 2007).

Table 13: Structures of some sulfur-containing compounds isolated from garlic (El-Saber Batiha et al., 2020)

Compounds	Molecular formula	Structure
Alliin	C ₆ H ₁₁ NO ₃ S	
Allicin	C ₆ H ₁₀ OS ₂	
E-Ajoene	C ₉ H ₁₄ OS ₃	
Z-Ajoene	C ₉ H ₁₄ OS ₃	
2-Vinyl-4H-1,3-dithiin	C ₆ H ₈ S ₂	
Diallylsulfide (DAS)	C ₆ H ₁₀ S	
Diallyldisulfide (DDS)	C ₆ H ₁₀ S ₂	
Diallyltrisulfide (DTS)	C ₆ H ₁₀ S ₃	
Allylmethylsulfide (AMS)	C ₄ H ₈ S	

A summary of the phenolic acid constituents and the chemical structures of some flavonoid in garlic are presented in **Table 14** and **Table 15**.

Table 14: Phenolic acid constituents in fresh garlic (Kim et al., 2013)

Acid derivatives	Selected acids	Content of acids (mg.kg ⁻¹)
Hydroxybenzoic acid derivatives	p-Hydroxybenzoic acid	/
	Gallic acid	2.06 ± 0.09
	Vanillic acid	/
	Chlorogenic acid	/
	Caffeic acid	7.48 ± 0.23
	p-Coumaric acid	1.25 ± 0.03
Hydroxycinnamic acid derivatives	Ferulic acid 1.	1.57 ± 0.02
	m-Coumaric acid	4.84 ± 0.04
	o-Coumaric acid	0.66 ± 0.03
	Total hydroxybenzoic acid derivatives	2.06 ± 0.09
Total hydroxycinnamic acid derivatives		15.80 ± 0.08
Total phenolic acids		17.86 ± 0.07

Table 15: Chemical structures of some flavonoid in garlic (Brunetti et al., 2013)

Compounds	Structure
Quercetin	
Apigenin	
Luteolin	
Epicatechin	
Rutin	

III.1.8 Pharmacological properties

In recent years, natural plant products are gaining popularity in preventing various diseases. Garlic is one of the most extensively researched products for investigating its beneficial effects. Potential health benefits of *Allium* vegetables, in particular garlic has its origin in antiquity. It has acquired a reputation as a formidable prophylactic and therapeutic medicinal agent in the folklore of many cultures, over the centuries. The bioactive

components of garlic are mainly responsible for the healing properties (Santhosh et al., 2013). Main pharmacological effects of garlic are attributed to its organosulphur compounds, and allicin is the chief biologically active component of garlic (Arzanlou and Bohlooli, 2010). Garlic have been stated to have several biological activities including antioxidant, antidiabetic, antimicrobial, and antiviral activities (Tab.16) (El-Saber Batiha et al., 2020).

Table 16: Pharmacological activities of garlic (El-Saber Batiha et al., 2020)

Pharmacological Activities	Mechanism of Action
Antidiabetic	❖ Decreasing the insulin secretion from pancreatic cells, increasing liver metabolism, and thus enhancing the short-acting insulin production
Antihypertensive	❖ Inhibiting the angiotensin converting enzyme
Hypolipidemic, Hypocholesterolaemic	❖ Decreasing serum TC, TG, and LDL levels and moderately elevating HDL cholesterol
Anti-Atherosclerotic, antithrombotic	❖ Preventing ADP-activated platelets binding to immobilized fibrinogen and platelet aggregation, inhibiting GPIIb/IIIa receptor and increasing cAM
Antioxidant	❖ Modulation of ROS, increasing glutathione and cellular antioxidant enzymes ❖ Controlling ROS generation and preventing mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) ❖ Suppressing the enzymatic activity of cytochrome P450-2E1, reducing the generation of reactive oxygen and nitrogen species
Antibacterial	❖ Chemical interaction with enzymes containing thiol
Antifungal	❖ Irreversible ultrastructural changes in the fungal cells, loss of structural integrity and affected the germination ability
Antiviral	❖ Chemical interaction with enzymes containing thiol ❖ Enhancing Natural killer-cell (NK-cell) activity that destroys virus infected cells
Antiprotozoal	❖ Preventing the parasite's RNA, DNA and protein synthesis ❖ Inhibiting the human glutathione reductase and <i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> trypanothione reductase
Anti-inflammatory	❖ Enhancing the immune cell activity f, inhibiting the SDF1 α chemokine and Transendothelial migration of neutrophils ❖ Diminishing the expression of the inflammatory cytokines (e.g., NF- κ B, IL-1 β , and TNF- α), and ROS generation by suppressing CYP 2E1 hepatic enzyme ❖ Blocking the NF- κ B activity
Anti-cancer	❖ Enhancing p38 expression and cleaved caspase 3 ❖ Stimulating apoptosis in human leukemic cells, promoting the peroxide production, caspase-3-like, and caspase-8 activities
Immunomodulatory	❖ Suppressing BuChE (Butyrylcholinesterase) and AChE

	(Acetylcholinesterase)
Anti-obesity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Decreasing the fat accumulation in 3T3-L1 adipocytes and dramatically decreases the body weight gain ❖ Decreasing the C/EBPα, PPARγ2, and LPL expression and the PPARγ effect in human adipocytes
Cardiovascular Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Decreasing the levels of blood total lipids, triglyceride, and cholesterol by reducing the mRNA expression of sterol regulatory element binding protein ❖ Reduce cardiac hypertrophy remodeling induced by isoproterenol by increasing Na⁺/K⁺-ATPase protein level ❖ Protecting the heart function Activating sirtuin 3-manganesesuperoxide dismutase pathway by ❖ Deacetylating manganese superoxidedismutase ❖ Protecting heart rate variability, cardiac dysfunction, and mitochondrial dys function ❖ Protecting the heart tissue ❖ Reducing oxidative stress ❖ Protecting against cardiotoxicity

III.1.8.1 Antioxidant

Asdaq and Inamdar (2001) reported that the frequent garlic intake promotes internal antioxidant activities and reduces oxidative adverse effects either by increasing the endogenous antioxidant synthesis or reducing the production of oxidizers such as oxygen-free radical species (ORS). It is demonstrated that garlic protects against gentamycin as well as acetaminophen induced hepatotoxicity by improving antioxidant status, and regulating oxidative stress (**Wallock-Richards et al., 2014**). As reactive oxygen species (ROS) seems to be at the core of many ailments, it is justified to assume that the antioxidant effect of garlic might be through modulation of ROS, increasing glutathione and cellular antioxidant enzymes (**Shokrzadeh and Ebadi, 2006**). Moreover, garlic extract was found to increase the activities of some antioxidant enzymes (e.g., superoxide dismutase (SOD)) and decrease glutathione peroxidase (GSH-Px) in hepatic tissues of rats. Notably, several reports indicated that AGE rich in flavonoid, phenol, and different sulfur compounds e.g., SAC shows high radical scavenging activity (**Jang et al., 2017**). Additionally, AGE acted by stimulating the expression of different antioxidant enzymes, namely glutamate-cysteine ligase modifier (GCLM) and heme oxygenase-1 (HO-1) subunit by the nuclear factor erythrobia-2 related factor 2 (Nrf2)-antioxidant response element (ARE) pathway that is responsible for human endothelial cells protection against oxidative stress (**Liu et al., 2018**). Alliin, the major compound isolated from AGE, showing wide-spectrum antioxidant activities by controlling ROS generation and preventing mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK). Moreover, it was

reported to prevent ROS production by inhibiting NADPH oxidase 1, and thus, inhibiting the osteoclast fusion caused by receptor activator of nuclear factor-kappa B ligand (RANKL) (Chen et al., 2016). Allicin, DDS, and DTS are the main antioxidative compounds that showed an antioxidant effect in lower doses at the physiological level (Gruhlke et al., 2010). Saponins extracted from garlic were reported to scavenge intracellular ROS and protect mouse-derived C₂C₁₂ myoblasts towards growth inhibition and H₂O₂-induced DNA damage (Shang et al., 2019). Interestingly, Abdel-Daim et al. (2018) reported that DAS exhibited potent antioxidant and cytoprotective activities and these activities may be due to suppressing the enzymatic activity of cytochrome P450-2E1 and thereby reducing the generation of reactive oxygen and nitrogen species or by inducing the mRNA expression of Nrf2 and heme-oxygenase enzyme.

III.1.8.2 Antibacterial

The antibacterial activity of garlic is attributed to allicin activity that was reported toward a wide variety of microorganisms including antibiotic-resistant, Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria such as *Shigella*, *E. coli* (Ross et al., 2001), *S. aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (Kuda et al., 2004), *Streptococcus mutans*, *S. faecalis*, *S. pyogenes*, *Salmonella enterica*, *Klebsiella aerogenes* (Cutler and Wilson, 2004), *Vibrio*, *Mycobacteria*, *Proteus vulgaris*, and *Enterococcus faecalis* (Wallock-Richards et al., 2014). Various garlic extracts (aqueous, chloroform, methanolic, and ethanolic) were reported to inhibit the growth of several pathogenic bacteria with varying degrees of susceptibility. For instance, a study revealed that ethanolic garlic extract showed higher inhibitory effect against *E. coli* and *Salmonella typhi* than the aqueous extract that showed little or no inhibition effect (Mikaili et al., 2013). Meriga et al. (2012) reported that aqueous garlic extract showed antibacterial activity toward Gram-negative (*Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *E. coli*) as well as Gram-positive (*B. subtilis* and *S. aureus*) strains, whereas methanolic garlic extract showed antimicrobial activity against all tested strains except *S. aureus*. Moreover, garlic extracts prevented the growth of enterotoxigenic *E. coli* strains and other pathogenic intestinal bacteria, which are the main cause of diarrhea in humans and animals. Besides the antibacterial activity of garlic, it was reported to prevent the toxins produced by bacterial infection (Shokrzadeh and Ebadi, 2006). Allicin showed effectiveness toward methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA) (Wallock-Richards et al., 2014). Allicin's antimicrobial activity is due to its chemical interaction with enzymes containing thiol (thioredoxin reductase), RNA polymerase, and alcohol dehydrogenase by oxidizing protein cysteine or glutathione residues under physiological conditions. Allicin is a dose-related biocide that can influence essential

metabolism of cysteine proteinase, and thus, kill all eukaryotic cells due to the presence of thiol groups in all living cells (Gruhlke et al., 2010). The incidence of stomach cancer is lower in individuals with a high intake of *Allium* vegetables in developed and developing (high risk) countries (Steinmetz and Potter 1991). Because *Allium* vegetables, particularly garlic, have antibiotic activity, Jonkers et al. (1996) observed that the combination of garlic and omeprazole appeared a synergic effect against *H. pylori*. while Sivam et al. (1997) investigated the antimicrobial activity of garlic against *H. pylori* using an aqueous extract of a known variety of garlic (Oswego white). The MIC was found to be 40 mg/ml. At this concentration, the control organism *Staphylococcus aureus* was not inhibited by the garlic extract. Thus *H. pylori* is more susceptible to garlic extract. Cellini et al. (1996) reported a similar study, they tested 16 clinical isolates of *H. pylori* and showed 90% inhibition of the isolates with aqueous garlic extract at 5 mg/ml. The concentration used in that study is the total weight of garlic per milliliter. However, calculations show that the MIC reported in the two studies are comparable. It is plausible that the sensitivity of *H. pylori* to garlic extract at such a low concentration may be related to the reported lower risk of stomach cancer in those with a high *Allium* vegetable intake. The inhibitory concentration of garlic reported in the two studies above is achievable in the stomach by consuming a medium size clove of garlic or equivalent amount of garlic supplements. Thus, this finding may identify a strategy for low-cost intervention for stomach cancer, with few side effects, in populations at high risk, particularly in the case of high resistance to antibiotics (Sivam, 2001).

III.2 *Allium cepa* L. (Onion)

III.2.1 History

Onion is one of the oldest vegetables known to mankind dating back to 3,500 years. Onion plant is the most frequently portrayed plant in Egyptian tomb paintings. An inscription on the Great Pyramid of Cheops indicates ,100 talents of silver had been spent on onions, garlic, and radishes with which the slave labor were reimbursed, in lieu of money, for their part in building the pyramid in 2500 BC (Abdel-Maksouda, 2011). The Greeks and Romans had a love-hate relationship with this plant, admiring its therapeutic powers and detesting its pungent smell. In order to give his warriors energy and power for combat, Alexander the Great fed them this plant (Charles, 2013). The ancient Egyptians loved onion and one of the varieties evoked as a deity and worshipped. The Egyptians ate it raw. Onion was one of the staple foods for the slaves who built the Giant Pyramid (Abdel-Maksouda, 2011). Later the Israelites mourned the loss of Egyptian onions on their way to the Promised Land. The

English name onion is believed to have been derived from the Roman name *unionem* or *unio*, referring to its single bulb. Romans introduced onion to Britain, and Emperor Nero took it for cold, coughs, and sore throats. It was regarded as an aphrodisiac and a symbol of fertility (Charles, 2013).

III.2.2 Origin and distribution

Onion appeared first time in Asia. According to Vavilov (1951), it was originated in Pakistan. Jones and Mann (1963), observed that the area comprising Pakistan, Iran and mountain areas to the North as primary centre of origin of onion. *A. cepa* is a bulbous plant widely cultivated in almost every country of the world. According to the last available FAO statistics (2019), in 2016 the top producers of onions were China (23.849.053 tons) and India (19.415.425 tons), followed by Egypt and USA (about 3.000.000 tons), Iran, Turkey, Russian Federation, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Brazil (from 2.345.768 to 1.657.441 tons). Onions produced in European countries accounted for 10.9% of the world production, being Asia (65.5%) the most important producer. Because of its worldwide distribution, a great number of cultivars can be identified: ‘Stardust,’ ‘Snowpack,’ ‘Redlight,’ ‘Hytech’ (Böttcher et al., 2018), ‘Tropea,’ ‘Montoro’ (Tedesco et al., 2015), ‘Festival,’ ‘Castillo’ (Marotti and Piccaglia, 2002), ‘Nazik Red’ and ‘Ailsa Craig’ (Bennett et al., 2000). At present, approximately 13,000 onion accessions are held in gene banks worldwide. A high genetic variability can be observed regarding the morphological features (Böttcher et al., 2018).

III.2.3 Botanical description

Onion (*Allium cepa* L.) belongs to the family *Alliaceae* or *Amaryllidaceae* which is one of the most important monocotyledonous crops; included to the genus *Allium* and recent estimations accept about 750 species in the genus *Allium*, among which onion, Japanese bunching onion, leeks, and garlic are the most important edible *Allium* crops, and about 60 taxonomic groups at sub-generic, sectional and sub-sectional rank (Baloch 1994; Rabinowitch and Currah 2002). Onion from central Asia, the supposed onion ancestor had probably migrated to the Near East, then it was introduced to India and South-East Asia; and into the Mediterranean area and from there to all the Roman Empire (Grubben and Denton, 2004). Bulbing onions have cylindrical, hollow leaves and an enlarged bulb that develops at ground level. The roots come off the bottom of the bulb. The flowers are produced in the second growing season (following a required "rest" period) in a rounded umbel (cluster with all flower stems originating from the same point) on a stalk 2-4 ft (0.6-1.2 m) tall. The umbels are about 2 in (5 cm) in diameter and consisting of many small purplish flowers, are quite showy (Fig. 18) (Ross, 2001).

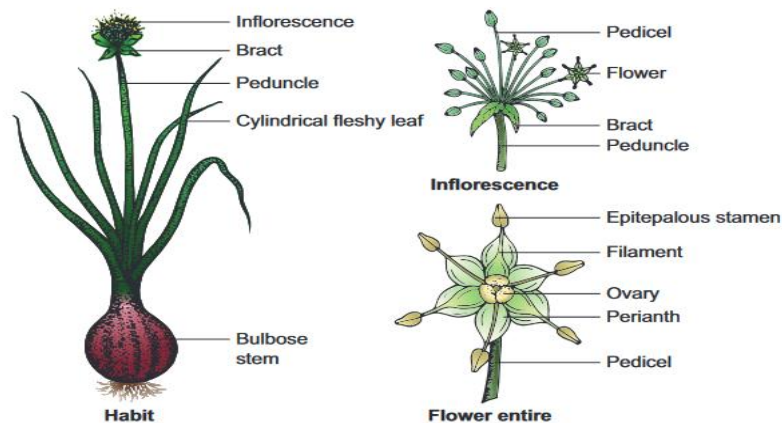


Figure 18: *Allium cepa* L. plant (Ross, 2001)

Onion is distributed throughout temperate regions of the world including Europe, Asia, North America and Africa (Khare, 2002). Onion bulb size and colour varies from variety to variety, cultivation practices, region, and climatic condition (Nath et al., 2010).

III.2.4 Taxonomy and classification

Allium cepa L. is considered to be a member of the *Liliaceae* (Strasburger et al., 1978), which comprises of 250 genera and 3700 species. Because of their bulbs, tubers and rhizomes, these plants are able to survive under unfavorable conditions (winter or dryness). Plants of the *Liliaceae* show very different habits and contain various classes of chemical compounds (Hegnauer, 1963). Therefore, the classification of the *Liliaceae* has been discussed for a long time: Hurchinson (1959) signed *Allium cepa* L. to the subfamily *Allioideae*, belonging to the *Amaryllidaceae*. Because of the lack of alkaloids, which are normally typical of *Amaryllidaceae*, the *Allioideae* were also classified as a member of *Liliaceae* (Hegnauer, 1963). Finally, plants of the genus *Allium* were classified in the independent family *Alliaceae* (Tab. 17) (Dahlgren et al., 1985).

III.2.5 Habitat and ecology

Onion can be grown in a wide range of climatic environments, but it thrives best at mild climate without excessive rainfall or extremes of heat and cold. Onion is a cool season crop that has some frost tolerance but is best adapted to a temperature range between 13 and 24°C. Optimum temperatures for early seedling growth are between 23 and 27°C; growth is slowed at temperatures above 30°C. Acclimatized plants are able to tolerate some freezing temperature. Best production is obtained when cool temperature prevails over an extended period of time, permitting considerable foliage and root development before bulb formation starts. After bulb formation begins, high temperature and low relative humidity extending into the harvest and curing period are desirable (Jilani et al., 2010).

Table 17: Classification of *Allium cepa* (Dahlgren et al., 1985)

Section	Spermatophyta
Subsection	Angiospermae
Class	Mono cotyledoneae (= Liliariae)
Subclass	Liliidae
Order	Liliales (= Liliiflorae)
Family	Alliaceae
Subfamily	Allioideae
Tribe	Allieae
Subtribe	Alliinae
Genus	<i>Allium</i>
Species	<i>Allium cepa</i>

III.2.6 Varieties

Onion varieties differ in size, colour of skin, pungency, and maturation. Common onions are normally available in three colour varieties (**Tab. 18**); yellow or brown onions (called red in some European countries) are full flavour red and are the onions of choice for everyday use. With its pungent aroma and strong flavour, it is a good all-round onion. Their varieties are grown in countries like Australia, Nigeria and they vary from cream gold and muray brown (**Mower, 2013**). Other varieties of onion crop also include Red onion; these are sometimes called Spanish onions, which have purplish red skin and white flesh tinged with red. This onion tends to be medium to large size and can have a mild to sweet flavour but after being stored for a short time can become quite pungent. They are often consumed raw, grilled or lightly cooked with other foods or added as colour to salads, these variety of onion plant can be stored three to four months under ideal condition, and their varieties include red shine, red wing and red emperor. Although white onions are considered to be the strongest in flavour after brown onions, their varieties vary in size, skin characteristics and flavour; they include Bianca, Gladalan white and white Spanish (**Okey et al., 2015**).

III.2.7 Chemical composition

III.2.7.1 Physicochemical

Onion is relatively high in food value, generally consisting of carbohydrates, moisture, protein, fat, minerals, fibers, calcium, phosphorus, iron and vitamin C. This composition substantially varies in different types of onion red, white and yellow onion varieties and it also depends on the climatic conditions, cultural practices, bulb stage and its period of storage (**Tripathi, 2006**). Also the fructo-oligosaccharides, fructose, sucrose and glucose are the principal non-structural sugars in onion bulb tissue. Onions bulbs contain remarkable mineral composition, particularly potassium and phosphorus (**Benite et al., 2011**). The richest

minerals found in the ‘Red Amposta’ are phosphorus, potassium, soluble proteins, water, sodium, magnesium, calcium, and soluble sugar (**Tab.19**) (**Abou Azoom et al., 2015**).

Table 18: Varieties of onion (Lawande, 2012)

Varieties	Characteristics
White (south port white Globe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Medium to large in size ❖ Globular in shape with rounded or slightly tapered ends ❖ The bulb is encased in a bright white, papery, parchment-like skin that is flaky, dry, and thin ❖ Underneath the skin, the white, almost translucent flesh is firm, crisp, and juicy with many layers of thin white rings ❖ White onions are crunchy and tender with a pungent, mildly sweet flavor and have a mellow, non-abrasive aftertaste
Red (red Wethersfield)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Small to medium in size, averaging 10-15 cm in diameter round to slightly oval in shape ❖ The bulb is wrapped in red-purple thin, papery, parchment-like skin that is delicate and easily flakes off when touched underneath the skin, there is a burgundy wine colored sheath that protects the flesh, and the dark purple flesh is firm, crisp, and coarse with many layers of white and purple rings ❖ Red onions are crunchy, pungent, sweet, and slightly spicy
Yellow or brown (yellow Globe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Medium to large in size, averaging 5-10 cm in diameter and are globular in shape with rounded to slightly tapered ends ❖ The bulb is encased in a light yellow to copper, dry, papery skin ❖ The flaky, layered skin surrounds a white to cream-colored translucent flesh ❖ The ringed flesh is firm, crisp, and juicy ❖ Yellow onions are crunchy with a pungent flavor when raw

III.2.7.2 Phytochemical

Onion is an important source of phytochemical contents such as flavonoids. It is especially rich in three important phytochemicals, namely flavonoids, organosulfur compounds, and fructans. Such substances are known for their positive health benefits. Onions are the main suppliers of flavonoids and organosulfur compounds which are potent antioxidants (**Kandoliya et al., 2015**). It is rich in various organo-sulphur compounds which are responsible for its distinctive flavour, odour, pungency and medicinal properties. In addition to the organic sulphur components it was also a good source of secondary metabolites like flavanoids (flavanols, quercetin and kaempferol), phenols, sterols, saponins, pectic and volatile essential oils. The particular odour of onion is produced when the bulbs are cut or injured due to the enzyme allinase action that convert the trans-S-(1-propenyl) cysteine sulfoxide to propanethial-S-oxide. This pungent flavour is preferred by different people of many countries. In addition to the above constituents it also acts a source of trace mineral that helps in cells response to insulin (**Tripathi, 2006**).

Table 19: Chemical composition of onion bulb (Tripathi, 2006)

Nutrients	Value (g/100g)	Minerals	Value (mg/100g)	Vitamins	Value (mg/100g)
Water	78.32-87.31	Calcium	18-25	Vitamin C	10-70
Food energy	38-46 (Kcal/100g)	Iron	0.15-0.24	Vitamin B1	0.04-0.06
Proteins	1.12-232	Magnesium	8-12	Vitamin B2	0.02-0.03
Total Lipids	0.5-0.9	Phosphorus	25-30	Vitamin B3	0.080.09
Ash	0.3-0.4	Potassium	120-175	Vitamin B5	0.12-0.13
Carbohydrates	7.64-12.13	Sodium	2-4	Vitamin B6	0.14-0.15
Total fibers	1.0-1.8	Zinc	0.15-0.2	Vitamin B9	15-22 (µg /100g)
Saturated fatty acid	s0.02-0.04	Copper	0.03-0.04	Vitamin B12	0 (µg /100g)
Monosaturated fatty acids	0.02-0.04	Manganese	0.12-0.14	Vitamin A	2-6 (µg /100g)
Poly unsaturated fatty acids	0.05-0.07	Selenium	0.4-0.6 (µg/100g)	Vitamin E	0.01-0.03 (µg /100g)
Pyruvic acid	6.5-14.9 (µmole/ml)	/	/	Vitamin K	0.03-0.05 (µg /100g)

Organosulfur constituents of onions are mainly comprised of four diallylsulfides: diallyltetrasulfide (DTTS), diallylmonosulfide (DMS), diallyltrisulfide (DTS) and diallyldisulfide (DDS). Di- and tri-sulfides were the principal compounds extracted by steam distillation of volatile fraction of onion. The primary sulfur-containing components in onions are alk(en)yl-L-cysteine sulfoxides (ACSOs) such as alliin, they act as biosynthetic intermediates for ACSOs and also act as storage peptides. Volatile compounds including allicin and lipid-soluble sulfur compounds such as diallyl disulfide (DDS) and diallyl sulfide (DAS) originate from different metabolic pathways in the vegetables (Lancaster and Shaw, 1989). The unique smell and taste of onion oil is due to the presence of these compounds (Lanzotti, 2006). Other than the above mentioned constituents, the presence of some steroidal saponins and saponins has also been reported in onions. These components play an important role in pharmacological and biological activities and have antibacterial, antithrombotic, anti-inflammatory, antitumor, antifungal and hypocholesterolemic properties (Fenwick et al., 1985).

The presence of volatile S-compounds causes onions to have a pungent flavor. Onions are known as an excellent source of flavonoids which are the part of flavonols family of polyphenols. The flavonoid subclass which includes quercetin is considered a leading and prominent nutritional flavonoid of onions. Other flavonols such as quercetin, isorhamnetin,

and kaempferol were also found in onions (Fenwick et al., 1985; Dorsch and Wagner, 1991; Dorant et al., 1996). The secondary metabolites (phenolics) present in onions have an antioxidant effect and cause aromatic hydroxylated rings (Nuutila et al., 2003). The phenolics are important antioxidant contents of plants (Colina-Coca et al., 2014).

The other sources of phytochemicals in onion bulbs are the fructans. The fructans mainly contain fructo-oligosaccharides such as nystose, inulin, fructo-furanosylnystose and kestose. It has been reported that onion samples exhibit the presence of 10 various organic acids; myristic acid (0.004g), palmitic acid (0.034g), stearic acid (0.004g), saturated acid (0.043g), oleic acid (0.013g), linoleic acid (0.013g), linolenic acid (0.004g), monounsaturated acid (0.013g), polyunsaturated acid (0.017g) and glutamic acid (0.258g) (Mallor et al., 2011).

A study analyzed onion landraces for their unique composition of phenols. The most abundant phenol found in all landraces was gallic acid, its amount varies from 55.66 to 64.90µg/g DW respectively. Quercetin has an important role among identified phenols. Quercetin is the aglycone component of many other flavonoid glycosides such as quercetrin and rutin. They are present in citrus fruits, buckwheat, and onions (Farhat et al., 2020).

Table 20: Phytochemical composition of various onion species (Shabir et al., 2022)

Flavonols and Anthocyanins	Cepa (Yellow variety) (mg/100 g)	Cepa (Red variety) (mg/100 g)
Quercetin 3, 40-diglucoside	100.40 ± 0.05	331.93 ± 0.12
Quercetin 40-monoglucoside	140.43 ± 0.10	298.87 ± 0.13
Myricetin	8.63 ± 0.01	9.31 ± 0.02
Quercetin aglycone	60.51 ± 0.06	70.10 ± 0.08
Isorhamnetin	2.21 ± 0.01	13.73 ± 0.01
Peonidin 30-glucoside	1.11 ± 0.00	Nd
Peonidin 30-glucoside acetate	Nd	0.67 ± 0.3
Malvidin 30-glucoside	0.53 ± 0.00	0.24 ± 0.00
Cyanidin 30-glucoside	7.85 ± 0.11	0.11 ± 0.00
Cyanidin 30-glucoside acetate	0.76 ± 0.00	3.44 ± 0.03
Petunidin 30-glucoside	0.12 ± 0.00	Nd
Petunidin 30-glucoside acetate	Nd	0.17 ± 0.02

Nd: Not determined

III.2.8 Pharmacological properties

Onion has been used for healing both internally and externally. Internally, onion has been recommended to treat colds, cough, bronchitis, whooping cough, asthma and other respiratory problems. It is believed to help in congestion of the lungs and expands the airways. Onion is also used internally to relieve excess gas and calm an upset stomach. A

mixture of rue and onion is used torid of parasites of the digestive system. Onion is also thought to stimulate appetite. When applied externally, fresh onion juice prevents bacterial and fungal infections (Tab. 21). It can be applied to wounds and stings on the skin, to remove warts and to stimulate hair growth. The major benefits of onion on human health are described here in brief (Tripathi, 2006).

Table 21: Pharmacological activities of onion (Kumari et al., 2022)

Pharmacological Activities	Mechanism of Action
Antidiabetic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>In vitro</i>: Onion extract demonstrated inhibitory activity (IC₅₀) against sucrase (0.40 mg/ml) >α-glucosidase (1.27 mg/ml) >maltase (2.02 mg/ml) >α-amylase (3.00 mg/ml) ❖ <i>In vivo</i>: 0.5 g onion extract/kg body weight significantly decreased the rise in blood glucose levels ❖ Onion extracts inhibited α-amylase, 1mg/ml extract Established <i>invitro</i> antidiabetic activity
Neuroprotective effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Onion extract exhibit AChE inhibitory activity (IC₅₀: 37.11 µg/ml) ❖ AChE activity was inhibited significantly by onion extract, the 10 g/kg (104%) and 20 g/kg (98%) body weight groups ❖ Improved cognitive functioning ❖ Inhibitory effect on AChE and BuChE enzymes ❖ Thus, it is helpful in the treatment of Alzheimer’s and neurological diseases
Antioxidant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Protects cells and tissues from reactive oxygen species (ROS) ❖ Stabilize free electrons generated by ROS <i>in vitro</i>
Antibacterial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Onion extract were effective against <i>B. cereus</i> (MBC 0.6mg/ml) ❖ <i>S. aureus</i> was sensitive to onion extract ❖ Onion extract have antimicrobial activity against <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> and <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (DZI: Diameter of Zone Inhibition: 9 and 8mm) ❖ Onion extract exhibited synergistic antibacterial and anticandidal activity ❖ Silver nanoparticles using onion extract exhibited excellent antibacterial activity against all the tested microorganisms in a dose-dependent manner (25–100 µg/ml), the inhibition zones ranged from 14 to 17mm, 13–19 mm, 14–17 mm, 14.5–19.3 mm, 13–17.5 mm and 14.6–18 mm against <i>Bacillus sp.</i>, <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>, <i>Corynebacterium sp.</i>, <i>Escherichia coli</i>, <i>Salmonella sp.</i>, and <i>Vibrio cholerae</i>, respectively
Antifungal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Onion bulbs, enhances the potential fungicidal activity ❖ The main active antifungal agents from onion extracts are diallyl trisulphide (DTS), DDS and DAS
Antiviral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The major onion flavonoid, also possesses antiviral activity and enhances the bioavailability of some antiviral drugs ❖ Onion have a pronounced anti-HIV activity ❖ Onions posses <i>in vitro</i> anti-adenoviral activity
Antiparasitic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Onion was successful against <i>Schistosoma mansoni cryptosporidium parvum</i> infection in mice in an experiment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Effective in the treatment of worm infections
Anti-inflammatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Reduces the swelling, pain and symptoms associated with severity of inflammation
Anti-cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Antigenotoxic activity observed ❖ Reduced intracellular ROS at 1–100 µg/ml concentrations ❖ Reduced H₂O₂ and hydroxynonenal induced DNA damage in human leukocytes ❖ Lipopolysaccharide induced mRNA expression of heme Oxygenase-1 (HO₁) and glutathione S-transferase (GST) detoxification genes were significantly reduced by treatment with onion extract (50–250 µg/ml) ❖ Exhibited anticancer effect on HeLa cells with IC₅₀ values of 4.8 and 6.3 µM for spiraeoside and quercetin, respectively
Anti-obesity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ In the cell model, triglyceride accumulation was reduced after treatment with onion extract (25 µg/ml to 100 µg/ml) ❖ In the animal model, the onion extract group showed a significant reduction in body weight and retroperitoneal and mesenteric fat ❖ <i>In vitro</i>: Onion extract decreased the lipids of 3T3-L1 cells and down regulated the expression of lipogenesis related genes such as peroxisome proliferator activated receptor-γ, fatty acids synthase, and acetyl-CoA carboxylase, thus inhibiting lipid accumulation ❖ <i>In vivo</i>: The weight of onion extract-fed mice decreased significantly, at the higher dose (144 mg/kg), onion extract significantly decreased serum TG, TC, and LDL C ❖ Onion extract reduced accumulation of lipids in liver
Cardiovascular Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Onion extract may improve endothelial function and have a cardioprotective role ❖ In mice, arterial thrombosis was delayed in onion extract group. Levels of tissue factor, onion extract (100 µl) also reduced thrombin-induced phosphorylation of Jun N terminal kinase and extracellular signal regulated kinase ❖ Onion extract increased LDL receptor (LDLR), sterol regulatory element-binding protein (SREBP)-2, and hydroxyl-3-methylglutaryl coenzyme reductase (HMGCoAR) genes, which were reduced by HFD ❖ Onion extract had a cholesterol lowering effect in these mice and liver via fecal excretion

III.2.8.1 Antioxidant

Onion due to its high nutritional properties, proved as a potential source of antioxidants that provide protection against harmful free radicals that damages the biological membrane. The effect includes lowering the blood cholesterol level (low density lipoprotein) by inhibiting the lipid peroxidation (Halliwell, 1992). In addition, antioxidants present in onion extract are responsible for free radical scavenging and chelation of transition metal ions, inhibition of oxidases such as lipoxygenase (Udayan, 2005).

III.2.8.2 Antimicrobial

Onions have been shown to possess antibacterial and antifungal properties. Volatile oil of onion has been shown to be highly effective against Gram positive bacteria, dermatophytic fungi, growth and aflatoxin production of *Aspergillus* fungi genera (Bison, 1994). In addition to inhibitory effects against pathogenic bacteria, onions have been found to promote beneficial microorganisms. Onion has been described as a potent antimicrobial agent to fight against infectious diseases. Many bacteria, fungi, and viruses were found to be susceptible to different solvents extracts of onion. Sulphur compounds have proven to be the principal active antimicrobial agent present in onion (Rose et al., 2006). Liguori et al. (2017 and Vazquez-Armenta et al. (2014) have reconsidered the effect of organosulphur-containing compounds on the growth of microorganisms. The effectiveness of onion extract against bacterial growth of *B. cereus*, *L. monocytogenes*, and *P. aeruginosa* and was as effective as quercetin in inhibiting the growth of *S. aureus* and *M. luteus* (Santas et al., 2010). Moreover, Benkeblia (2004) observed that essential oil of three types of onion (yellow, green and, red) displayed marked antimicrobial activity against specific pathogens, including *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Salmonella enteritidis*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Penicillium cyclopium*, and *Fusarium oxysporum*. Azu et al. (2007) found that onion was effective against *P. aeruginosa* isolated from patients suffering from urinary tract infections indicating its potential in the management of such condition.

Epidemiological studies have demonstrated that onion can protect against the *H. pylori* infection and, therefore, to reduce the risk of gastric neoplasia, since *H. pylori* is deeply involved in stomach cancer development (You et al., 1998). In addition to organo-sulphur compounds, it has been recently reported that certain quercetin oxidation products found in onion also present antibacterial activity against *H. pylori* (Ramos et al., 2006).

III.3 *Trigonella Foenum-graecum* L. (Fenugreek)

III.3.1 History

Trigonella Foenum-graecum L. originates from the generic name *Trigonella*, which is said to be a combination of the Latin words *Foenum graecum*, which is Latin for Greek hay or grass, and *Trigonella*, which refers to the shape of the flower. Fenugreek appears in writing for the first time around 4000 BC. Before its therapeutic benefits were understood, fenugreek was first utilized as a fodder crop in ancient Egypt and Greece. The fresh leaves or sprouted seeds were used as a vegetable in Dynastic Egypt, and the seeds were used to prepare a tonic by first roasting them before boiling them. It was also a key component of kuphi, an

incense used to embalm the dead. It was found in the tomb of King Tut (1323 BC). It has been cultivated since 1000 BC in Egypt (**Charles, 2013**). The Middle Eastern greeting "May you tread in peace on the soil where it provided new strength, and fearless spirit, and gladiators, fierce and rough, helbah grows" refers to fenugreek, also known as helbah. The Greek physician Dioscorides, who worked as an army physician for Emperor Nero, recommended in his book *De Materia Medica* that fenugreek powder soaked in wine be used to treat headaches and to relieve the agony of gout. As a remedy for deafness, Pliny recommended the powder/wine concoction (*Historia Naturalis*, AD 77) (**Charles, 2013**). Fenugreek was grown by Benedictine monks in the ninth century under the patronage of Emperor Charles. Due to its unpleasant smell, the fenugreek seed paste used to treat baldness in Europe during the Middle Ages was referred to as "Greek dung." In the 16th century, it was brought to Britain. All over the Arab world, as well as in Europe, Ethiopia, the Soviet Union, India, and China, it was grown. Fenugreek was highly appreciated by the Arabs. For both culinary and medicinal uses, it was grown in the Mediterranean region, West Asia, and India. It is a little crop in North America and Europe. It is grown as a speciality crop in Australia. During the Sung Dynasty in the eleventh century, it was brought to China. Fenugreek, according to the great English culinary writer Elizabeth David, "is to curry what malt vinegar is to English salads." (**Charles, 2013**).

III.3.2 Origin and distribution

Fenugreek, is an ancient and annual legume crop mainly grown for multiple uses in many parts of the world. Landraces and species of *Trigonella* have been found on the continents of Asia, Europe, Africa and Australia. Fenugreek was also cultivated in parts of Europe, northern Africa, west and south Asia, North and South America and Australia (**Acharya, 2006**).

Different authors have widely divergent opinions about the probable ancestry of fenugreek. **Vavilov (1927)** has suggested that it is native to the Mediterranean region, while **De Candolle (1964)** and **Fazli and Hardman (1968)** proposed an Asian origin for the crop. **De Candolle (1964)**, **Fazli and Hardman (1968)** and **Acharya (2006)** notice that fenugreek grows wild in Punjab and Kashmir, in the deserts of Mesopotamia and Persia, in Asia Minor and in some countries in Southern Europe such as Greece, Italy and Spain. **De Candolle (1964)** believes that the origin of fenugreek should be Asia rather than Southern Europe, because if a plant of fenugreek nature was indigenous in Southern Europe. It would be far more common and not be missing in the insular floras of Sicily, Ischia and the Balearic Isles (**Petropoulos, 2002**). Many authors maintain that the direct ancestor of

cultivated fenugreek is the wild *T. gladiata* Ste. that differs from *T. Foenum -graecum* in respect of the entire aggregate of characters, of which seed tuberculation and the small size of the pods are only the most striking. It is possible that the species *T. Foenum graecum* evolved from *T. gladiata*, which had possibly given rise to some new extinct forms of *T. Foenum-graecum* (Petropoulos, 1973; Petropoulos, 2002; Ahmad et al., 2016).

III.3.3 Botanical description

Fenugreek is an annual herb, with a well-developed taproot and a spreading, it has a fibrous root system, its stem is green to purple, smooth, and erect up to 140 cm high, it present a light green leaves which are alternate and pinnate, consisting of three ovate leaflets, its inflorescence is a terminal, compound umbel, their flowers are white to whitish-yellow, while the fruit is light green to yellow brown, ovoid-cylindrical, and slightly curved, with 20–30 small, smooth brownish seeds, and the pod shape also gives the name “goat’s horn” to the plant (Fig. 19) (Moradi kor et al., 2013).

III.3.4 Taxonomy and classification

The exact number of species of Fenugreek has been debated. Taxonomists such as Linnaeus suggested that as many as 260 species of Fenugreek may exist, of which a total of only 18 species of *Trigonella* are currently recognized. Most species, including fenugreek, are diploids with $2n= 16$ chromosomes. However, some species of *Trigonella* may contain 18, 28, 30, 32 or 44 chromosomes (Acharya et al., 2007).

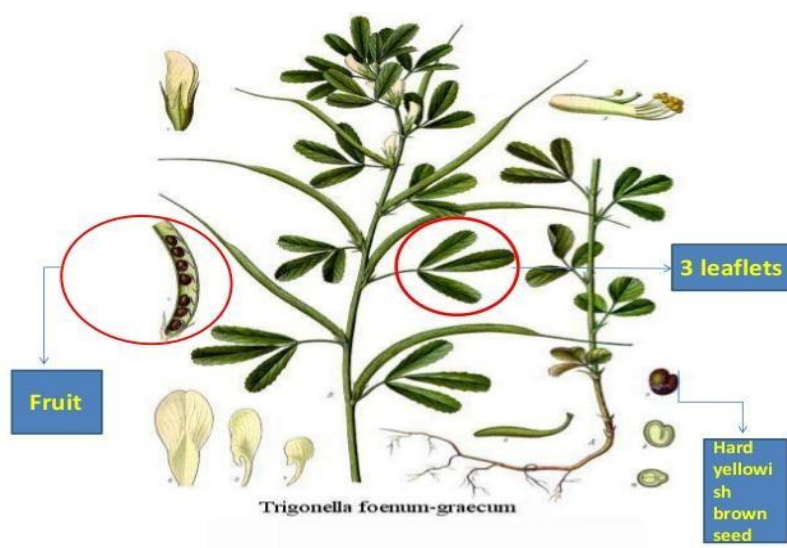


Figure 19: *Trigonella Foenum-groecum* L. plant (Gupta, 2006)

The taxonomical position is presenting in the **Table 22:**

Table 22: Classification of *Trigonella Foenum-graecum* L. (Nathiya et al., 2014)

Kingdom	Plantae
Super division	Angiosperms
Division	Eudicots
Class	Rosids
Order	Fabales
Family	<i>Fabaceae</i>
Subfamily	<i>Faboideae</i>
Tribe	<i>Trifolieae</i>
Genus	<i>Trigonella</i>
Species	<i>Foenum</i>

III.3.5 Habitat and ecology

Although the main area cultivated with fenugreek is concentrated in some countries of Asia and Africa, however it has been distributed in many countries throughout the world under different environments. This wide distribution of its cultivation in the world is characteristic of its adaptation to variable climatic conditions and growing environments (Tab. 23) (Petropoulos, 2002). Duke (1986) reports that fenugreek, ranging from cool temperate steppe to wet through tropical very dry forest life zone, is reported to tolerate an annual precipitation of 3.8–15.3 dm and an annual mean temperature of 7.8 – 27.5°C. There are indications of the possible benefit of colder nights on the sapogenin content of the seed (Fazliand Hardman, 1968). Depending on the geographical source of the seed its sapogenin content, calculated as diosgenin, varied from 0.8–2.2 percent expressed on a moisture free basis (Fazliand Hardman, 1968). The highest sapogenin content was found in an Ethiopian sample and the lowest in a sample from Palestine (Petropoulos, 2002).

Table 23: Some ecological factors of fenugreek growth (Mehrafarin et al., 2011)

Ecological factor	Descriptions and reports
Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Temperate climate with mild winters and cool summers ❖ Moderate or low rainfall ❖ Fairly drought resistant and fairly frost sensitive ❖ It can tolerate 10° C of frost
Altitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Up to 1300 - 1400 m ❖ In Ethiopia to 3000 m but its main zone of distribution in that's country is between 2150-2400 m
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Well-drained loams and generally slightly alkaline soils are ideal. ❖ Lime application in some strongly acid condition may be necessary ❖ Heavy and wet soils limit fenugreek growth ❖ Optimum pH 8 – 8.5

	❖ Potash has been used to adjust soil pH to increase nutrients uptake of fenugreek
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III.3.6 Varieties

Diverse fenugreek genotypes are present in the world, differing in growth habits, morphology, seed quality and crop yield. Since fenugreek is a self-pollinating plant, breeders successfully developed varieties by using breeding techniques. Some of the most important fenugreek varieties diffused throughout the world are summarized in **Table 24**.

III.3.7 Chemical composition

Fenugreek is a unique functional food crop (**Meghwal and Goswami, 2012**). The chemical constituents of both seed and leaves have made them valuable as food and medicine, in addition to being a rich source of nutrients (macronutrients and micronutrients), it delivers various phytochemicals (non-nutritive plant chemicals that have protective or disease preventive properties) which confer the medicinal values as well as impart the popular spicy flavor. The nutritional value includes several aspects that may be grouped into two categories: organoleptic properties and nutritious contents (**Meghwal and Goswami, 2012**).

Table 24: Varieties of fenugreek (**Chaudhary et al., 2018**)

Fenugreek Variety	Country
CO-1, Rajendra Kanti, RMT-1, LamSel 1, Pusa Early Bunching	India
UM-9, UM-17, UM-18, UM-23, UM-25, UM-26, UM-27, UM-32, UM-33, UM-36, UM-50, UM-52, UM-58, UM-67, UM-70, UM-75, UM-77, UM-79, UM-83, UM-84, M-105, UM-112, UM-113, UM-114, UM-115, CVT UM-5, CVT UM-17, CVT UM-32, CVT UM-34, CVT UM-35, CVT UM TC 2336, CVT TG 1084, CVT GF 1, CVT CC, CVT NLM, NLM, CO 1, Local check, CT Lam Sel 1	India
RG-07, TG-3, TG-13, TG-18, TG-24, TG-34, UM-5, UM-6, UM-17, UM-20, UM-34, UM-35, UM-38, NI-01, MP-14, IC-99, LamSel 1, Local Bobes, Pusa Earlier, Bangalore-Local	India
T-8	India
HM-46	India
IC-74	India
Gharbin-6	Egypt
Ali Lunghe, Ali Corte	Italy
Ionia	Greece
Gouta	France
Fluorescent, Ethiopian	England
Barbara, Margaret, Paul	England
Fluorescent, Ethiopian, Kenyan, Moroccan	England

III.3.7.1 Physicochemical

Naidu (2011) reported that the proximate composition of fenugreek seeds, husk and cotyledons had protein content, fibers, comprising insoluble fibers and soluble fibers. In terms of protein contents, fenugreek has a chemical composition that mimics milk in its ratio between protein and amino acids contents (**Acharya et al., 2004**). Fenugreek endosperm is rich in protein such as globulin, histidine, albumin and lecithin (**Naidu et al., 2011**).

The biochemical benefits of fibers present in fenugreek include: binding to toxins in the food and helps to protect the colon mucus membrane from cancer causing toxins; facilitating insulin secretion as a result of 4-hydroxyisoleucine; helping to lower rate of glucose absorption in the intestines controlling blood sugar levels and water retention capacity for easy bowel movement. Non-starchy polysaccharides increase the bulk of the food and rise movements. Also, non-starchy polysaccharides assist in smooth digestion whereas high fibers of fenugreek helps in relieving constipation ailments (**Naidu et al., 2011**). Fenugreek contains saponins, hemicelluloses, mucilage, tannins and pectin and these compounds help to decrease the level of LDL in blood by inhibiting bile salts re-absorption in the colon. Also, fenugreek husk is a valuable source of dietary fibers and phenolic acids; therefore, it could be an effective source of natural antioxidants and natural ingredients in functional foods (**Naidu et al., 2011**).

Fenugreek is no exception from other vegetable in high contents of vitamins and minerals; it is relatively low in mineral content when compared with the vitamin content. However, it has some of them in good amounts such as phosphorus and sulphur (**Hegazy and Ibrahim, 2009**). High occurrence of calcium, iron and zinc has also been reported in curry made from fenugreek (**Jani et al., 2009**). With reference to micronutrient content, fenugreek is especially rich in choline. Both the seed and leaves contain high levels of vitamin C, nicotinic acid and riboflavin, while the seed is rich in thiamin and folic acid but the leaves contain little of folic acid, β - carotene, a precursor of vitamin A is present in the leaves at relatively high amount (**Tab. 25**) (**Sharma, 1986**).

III.3.7.2 Phytochemical

The main chemical components of fenugreek are total polyphenols, flavonoids, saponin, fixed oils, and some identified alkaloids (**Gupta, 2006**).

Stem: Fenugreek contains a number of steroidal sapogenins, also diosgenin was found in the oily embryo and two furastanol glycosides, F-ring opened precursors of diosgenin have been reported, as also hederagenin glycosides. The alkaloid trigonelline, trigocoumarin, trimethylcoumarin, nicotinic acid and about 28% mucilage; 5% of a stronger-smelling, bitter

fixed oil, 22% proteins; a volatile oil; two alkaloids (Trigonelline and choline) are present in stem (**Yadav et al., 2019**).

Table 25: Nutrient composition of fenugreek seed
(**Żuk-Gołaszewska and Wierzbowska , 2017**)

Nutrient	Units	Value per100g
Water	g	8.84
Energy	Kcal	323
Proteins	g	23.00
Total lipids (fats)	g	6.41
Carbohydrates	g	58.35
Total fibers dietary	g	24.6
Calcium	mg	176
Vitamin C	mg	3.0
Vitamin B6	mg	0.600
Vitamin B12	mcg	0.00
Vitamin A	mg/RAE	3
Vitamin A	IU	60
Vitamin D	IU	0
Total saturated fatty acids	g	1.460

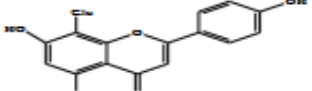
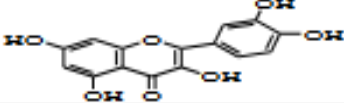
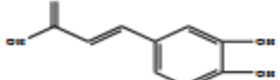
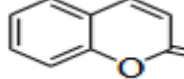
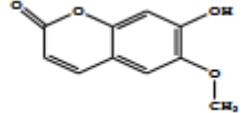
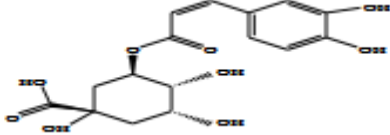
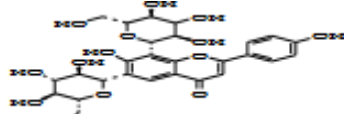
Leaves: The leaves contain 7 saponins, known as graecunins. These compounds are glycosides of diosgenin (**Yadav et al., 2019**).

Seeds: Fenugreek Seeds are aromatic, bitter, carminative, galactogouge, antibacterial and maybe eaten raw or cooked. Bulk. The chemical components of fenugreek seeds include alkaloids; flavonoids; free amino acids (4-hydroxyisoleucine, arginine, lysine, histidine); saponins; glycosides; mucilage, bitter fixed oil, volatile oils. Bitterness is mainly due to the oil, steroidal saponins and alkaloids (**Helambe et al., 2011**).

Seeds contain 0.1% to 0.9% diosgenin and are extracted on a commercial basis. Plant tissue cultures from seeds grown under optimal conditions have been found to produce as much as 2% diosgenin with smaller amounts of gitongenin and trigongenin. The seeds also contain the saponin fenugrin B. Several coumarin compounds have been identified in fenugreek seeds as well as a number of alkaloids (eg. trigonelline, gentianine, carpaine). A large proportion of the trigonelline is degraded to nicotinic acid and related pyridines during roasting. These degradation products are, in part, responsible for the flavor of the seed. The seeds also yield as much as 8% of a fixed, foul-smelling oil. Three minor steroidal sapogenins also have been found in the seeds: smilagenin, sarsapogenin, and yuccagenin (**Tab. 26**) (**Helambe et al., 2011**).

Polyphenol compounds rhaponticin and isovitexin were noted as major bioactive compounds in seeds of fenugreek. In addition, fenugreek seed extracts have a number of phenolic constituents similar to beta-D-glucopyranoside, methyl, alpha-d-mannopyranoside, methyl, and diethyl phthalate. Fenugreek also represents a significant source of antioxidants (Naidu et al., 2011). The main flavonoids identified in this plant include glycoside, orientin, isoorientin, vitexin, epigenin, and quercetin (Mirzaei Hari and Venkatesh, 2012). Trigonelline is the alkaloid of this plant that up to 36% concentration of it has been extracted. Other alkaloids of the seed include gentanin and carpaine choline (Salehi Surmaghi, 2008).

Table 26: Major phytochemical constituents of fenugreek (Patil and Jain, 2014)

Polyphenolic Compounds	Structure
Vitexin	
Quercetin	
Caffeic acid	
Coumarin	
Scopoletin	
Chlorogenic acid	
Vicenin-2	

III.3.8 Pharmacological properties

Fenugreek has a beneficial effect in cleansing the blood and as a diaphoretic. It is able to perspire and help eliminate toxins from the body, because of the pungent smell of fenugreek, which smells great on the skin and sweat under the arm. Fenugreek is also known for its lymphatic cleansing activity, although its vital role is to irrigate cells with nutrients and remove toxic waste, dead cells, and retained proteins from the body (Al-Habori and Raman, 2002). On the other hand, blockages in the lymphatic system can mean poor fluid circulation, fluid retention, pain, and loss of energy and disease anywhere in a person's body as it

maintains the condition of mucus in the body, especially the lungs, by helping to get rid of congestion (Wani and Kumar, 2018).

Table 27: Pharmacological activities of fenugreek (Chaudhary et al. 2018)

Pharmacological Activities	Mechanism of Action
Antidiabetic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Decrease of glycaemia, improvement of symptoms in type-2 diabetes patients ❖ Diabetes control in type 1 diabetes patients ❖ Increase of insulin secretion ❖ Increased number of insulin receptors ❖ Increase of insulin secretion in animals
Antioxidant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Fenugreek extract has been shown to restore the altered activity of cellular antioxidant enzymes including superoxide dismutase (SOD), glutathione reductase (GR), catalase and glutathione peroxidase (GPx) in tissue such as heart, muscle and brain during diabetes ❖ Administration of fenugreek seed-derived soluble dietary fibers (SDF) to type-2 diabetic rats for 28 days enhanced total antioxidant status besides decreasing serum glucose
Antibacterial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Fenugreek extract show an antibacterial effect against <i>E. coli</i> (MIC = 125 µg/ml) , <i>Bacillus</i> (MIC = 250 µg/ml) and <i>S. aureus</i> (MIC = 125 µg/ml) <i>Pseudomonas syringe</i> DZI = 3–5 mm ❖ Also fenugreek was effective against <i>E. coli</i> (DZI = 8.5 mm) , <i>P. vulgaris</i> (DZI = 6.7 mm), <i>P. auriginosa</i> (DZI = 11 mm), <i>S. aureus</i> (DZI = 15.3 mm), <i>P. vulgaris</i> (DZI = 0.2 cm), <i>E. aerogens</i> (DZI = 0.2 cm) , <i>B. cereus</i> (DZI = 0.2 cm), <i>E. coli</i> (DZI = 0.3 cm) and <i>Klebsiella sp.</i> (DZI = 0.2 cm) ❖ Aqueous extract of fenugreek exhibit an antibacterial activity against <i>S. aureus</i> (DZI = 9 mm), <i>K. pneumonia</i> (DZI = 10 mm), <i>B. subtilis</i> (DZI = 11 mm), <i>E. coli</i> (DZI = 5 mm) and <i>S. typhi</i> (DZI = 8 mm)
Antifungal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ All parts of the fenugreek plant showed antifungal potential against fungal strains including <i>Botrytis cinerea</i>, <i>Fusarium graminearum</i>, <i>Alternaria sp.</i>, <i>Pythium aphanidermatum</i> and <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> and the magnitude of effect depends upon fungal species and plant parts
Anti-inflammatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Extract of fenugreek seed inhibited the production of phorbol-12 myristate-13-acetate-induced inflammatory cytokines such as tumor necrosis factor (TNF)- a in cultured THP-1 cells ❖ Fenugreek extract of decreased paw edema and decreased levels of IL-1a, IL-1b, IL-2, IL-6 and TNF-a. ❖ The extract also decreased the levels of LPO and increased the SOD and GSH levels in cartilage tissue
Anti-cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Fenugreek-derived compound protodioscin displayed a growth inhibitory effect against HL- 60 cells by inducing apoptotic changes fenugreek seed extract inhibited 7,12-dimethylbenz(a) anthracene-induced mammary hyperplasia and decreased its incidence in rats ❖ Fenugreek extracts showed <i>in vitro</i> cytotoxicity against different human cancer cell lines such as IMR-32, a neuroblastoma cell line, and HT29, a cancer cell line

Fenugreek also acts as a throat cleanser and mucus thinner that also reduces the urge to cough. In addition drinking the water in which fenugreek seeds have been soaked helps in softening, dissolving, and the build up and hardening of clumps of cellular debris. Moreover fenugreek has been used to relieve colds, bronchitis, influenza, asthma, catarrh, constipation, sinusitis, pneumonia, sore throat, laryngitis, hay fever, tuberculosis and emphysema (**Al-Habori and Raman, 2002**).

III.3.8.1 Antioxidant

Bukhari et al. (2008) reported that fenugreek seed extract with methanol, ethanol, dichloromethane, acetone, hexane and ethyl acetate has a radical scavenging activity. **Bhatia et al. (2006)** showed a protective effect of fenugreek, on lipid peroxidation and on enzymatic antioxidants. **Naidu et al. (2011)** described that at a concentration of 200 mg, fenugreek seed, extracts of husk and endosperm exhibited 72%, 64%, and 56% antioxidant activities respectively by free-radical scavenging activity. From this study, it was indicated that separation of fenugreek seeds into husk and endosperm could have advantage of process viability with respect to prior selective fractionation of bioactive components for their effective isolation. **Laroubi et al. (2007)** studied the prophylaxis effect of fenugreek seeds on renal stone formation in rats. They found that fenugreek can be used in the treatment of patients with calcic urolithiasis.

In a study, it was observed that antioxidant property was checked by reducing power, NBT (nitroblue tetrazolium) assay and H₂O₂ scavenging. Fenugreek showed a high reducing power and a highest superoxide and free radical scavenging comparing to other plant extracts (**Joglekar et al., 2012**).

III.3.8.2 Antimicrobial

The antimicrobial role of fenugreek is recently being shown **Haouala et al. (2008)**, determine the action of an aqueous extracts from various plant parts of fenugreek in various solvents including methanol, petroleum ether and ethyl-acetate fractions of the aerial parts against fungal strains such as *Fusarium graminearum*, *Botrytis cinerea*, *Alternaria sp.*, *Rhizoctonia solani* and *Pythium aphanidermatum*, it was found that all parts of the fenugreek plant showed antifungal potential and the magnitude of effect varies with plant parts and species of fungus. It could be suggested that fenugreek is an important source of biologically active compounds useful for developing better and novel antifungal drugs (**Haouala et al., 2008**). In a study, honey samples with highest antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Escherichia coli* show maximum pollens from

fenugreek than other plants (**Mercan et al., 2007**). Cysteine-rich peptides, defensins are small with potent antifungal activity. The methanol soluble fraction of fenugreek extract showed nematicidal activity and caused significant mortality of *Meloidogyne javanica* larvae, indicating the potential use against nematodes (**Zia et al., 2001**).

Also germination or sprouting of fenugreek seeds increased their antioxidant profile and antimicrobial activity against *H-pylori* (**Branch, 2013**). Various investigators have also showed effectiveness of fenugreek extracts against *H. pylori* (**Randhir et al., 2004; O'Mahony et al., 2005**). **Randhir and Shetty (2007)** observed that fenugreek seeds naturally had *H. pylori* inhibition and hence investigated if the inhibition improved with fenugreek .

III.4 *Cuminum cyminum* L. (Cumin)

III.4.1 History

Another spice that has a long history of use is cumin. The Greek word kuminon, which is likely descended from the Babylonian kamuna, is where the genus *Cuminum* gets its name (**Charles, 2013**). Its fruits were employed as seasoning by prehistoric Mesopotamian civilizations in the Euphrates and Tigris valleys, and according to the Ebers Papyrus, cumin was utilized as medicinal in predynastic Egypt approximately 1550 BC. Circa 2000 BC, the Mycenaeans employed cumin to flavor food, and around 1323 BC, the Egyptians used it to embalm royal bodies, including King Tut's. Egyptian rulers' bodies were preserved by being mummified with cumin, anise, and marjoram as early as 5000 BC. Later, the kings were treated with cinnamon and cassia (**Charles, 2013**). It was once connected to cupidity by the ancient Greeks. Marcus Aurelius, the Roman emperor from AD 121 to AD 180, earned the moniker "Cumin" for his avarice. Cumin paste can reportedly whiten the skin, and scholars used it to make their faces appear pale to fool their teachers into thinking they were spending long hours in study in AD 77, according to Pliny, who wrote about it in his *Historia Naturalis*. But according to Theophrastus, if you want a fair and plentiful harvest, cumin must be cursed and mistreated while being sown (**Charles, 2013**). Ethiopia and the Nile Valley both saw the spread of cumin. In addition, it has long been a favorite spice in India, where it is listed in Ayurvedic writings for both culinary and medicinal uses. Romans introduced it to the western globe, including Britain, while the Spanish eventually brought it to North America. Cumin was a very important spice in Europe, and both the English and the Romans used it to pay taxes. In the Middle Ages, superstition claimed that cumin prevented birds and lovers from

wandering. The bride and groom were said to have a happy life ahead of them if they carried cumin seeds throughout the wedding ritual (Charles, 2013).

III.4.2 Origin and distribution

Cumin is cultivated and grown in many countries including Malta, India, Sicily, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, and China. The crop is quite easy to grow and adapts well in many climates (Azeez, 2008). The crop was initiated to cultivate in Iran and the Mediterranean region. The use of cumin bring up to the second millennium BC as indicated by the Syrian site Tell ed-Der. Spanish and Portuguese colonists were commenced the crop to start in Americas. The cultivation of cumin also spread in Southern England with turned down the frequency of its occurrence (Chattopadhyay and Maiti 1990). This spice has become popular in the middle ages, probably due to the renewed interest in ethnic dishes and spicy foods (Thamaraikannan and Sengottuvel, 2012).

The plant has pantropical distribution with total world production of approximately 300,000 tons. Though it is indigenous to Egypt, the Mediterranean zone, and South Asian countries (Ebada, 2017; Tabarsa et al., 2020) but now-a-days it is also grown in India, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Iran, Turkey, Morocco, Iraq, Libya, Palestine, Syria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Chile, Mexico, and China (Siow and Gan, 2016; Srinivasan, 2018). India is leading grower and user of *C. cyminum*. In India, Rajasthan (56%) and Gujarat (44%) are the leading cumin producing states (Al-Snafi, 2016; Agarwal et al., 2017; Belal et al., 2017).

III.4.3 Botanical description

Cumin is an aromatic herb of the *Apicaceae* family, and its dried seeds are used as a spice. In India, it is commonly known as cumin orzeera, and is called kummel, comino, zireche sabz, cumino, kemon, zira, and kamun in various other parts of the world. This plant is native to India, Iran, the Mediterranean, and Egypt (Peter, 2003), it is a small, slender, or erect glabrous annual herb up to 0.6 m high, with light brown taproot. its leaves seem to be finely dissected and are alternate, compound of bluish-green hue. while its flowers are bisexual with colors like pink and red growing on the inflorescence compound umbel up to 3.5 mm in diameter. concerning the fruit is sometimes brownish or yellow, ovoid-oblong shaped with slightly curved schizocarp. Regarding the seeds are approximately 2–3 mm long and 2 mm thick with a light brown and a yellow hue. They have slight ridge-like lines overlapping as many oil channels (Fig. 20) (Charles, 2013).

III.4.4 Taxonomy and classification

The scientific name of *Cuminum cyminum* L. (cumin) referred to as *Cuminum odorum* Salisb, *Cuminia cyminum* J.F. Gmel, *Cuminum hispanicum* Bunge, *Ligusticum cuminum* (L.) Crantz and belonging to the *Apiaceae* family. The *Apiaceae* family is a collection of typically aromatic plants having hollow stems and the well known members of this family are anise, asafoetida, caraway, carrot, celery, coriander, cumin, dill, fennel, parsley, parsnip, and sea holly (Gangadharappa, 2017).

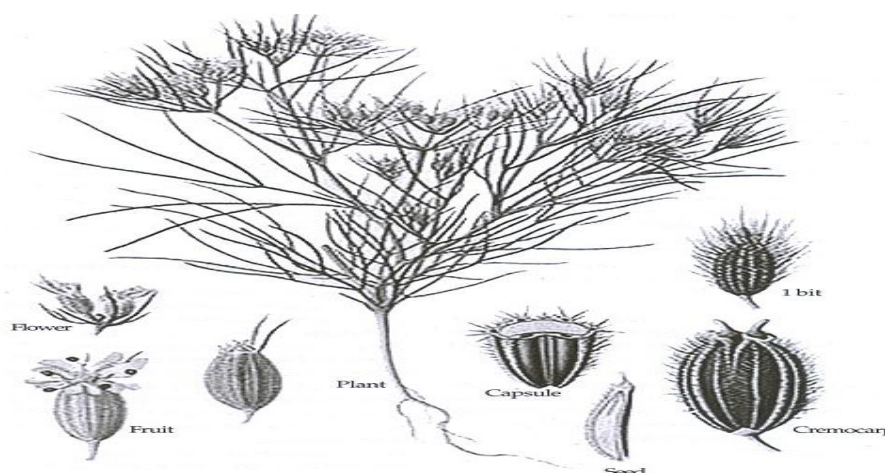


Figure 20: *Cuminum cyminum* L. plant (Krishnamurthy, 2013)

The taxonomical classification of *Cuminum cyminum* L. is presented in the following table:

Table 28: Classification of *Cuminum cyminum* (Agarwal et al., 2017)

Kingdom	Plantae
Subkingdom	Viridiplantae
Infrakingdom	Streptophyta
Superdivision	Embryophyta
Division	Tracheophyta
Subdivision	Spermatophytina
Class	Magnoliopsida
Superorder	Asteranae
Order	Apiales
Family	<i>Apiaceae</i>
Genus	<i>Cuminum</i>
Species	<i>Cuminum cyminum</i>

III.4.5 Habitat and ecology




Cumin needs dry and cool climate for its growth, with a temperature ranging between 25 to 30°C. It grows excellent on sandy loam to loamy soil with a pH 6.8-8.3 range. The seeds are sown in spring at the time April-May and sowing is performed between middle November and in December, they are transplanted. Generally, irrigation is not required for the crop

grown in black cotton soils, but for light soils, 3-4 irrigations are given; first irrigation is carry out at 2-leaves stage (20-30 days after sowing); the second has to carry out at branching or flowering stage (60-70 days) and the third is performed at seed-filling stage (80-110 days). At the time of flowering beginning, sufficient moisture should be present in the soil (Ebrahimie *et al.*, 2003).

III.4.6 Varieties

There are distinct varieties of cumin seeds that vary in their appearance and taste; Cumin (*Cuminum cyminum*), Black Cumin (*Nigella / kalonji*) and Bitter Cumin (Kashmiri Jeera / Shahi jeera) (Tab. 29) (Krishnapura, 2017)

Table 29: Varieties of cumin (Krishnapura, 2017)

Varieties	Characteristics	Photos
Cumin (<i>Cuminum cyminum</i>)	Scientific name: <i>Cuminum cyminum</i> Genus/family: <i>Cuminum</i> /Apiaceae (a member of Parsley family) Native of countries growing: East Mediterranean to South Asia. Now mostly grown in Pakistan, India, Uzbekistan Iran, Turkey, Morocco, Egypt, Syria, Chile, Mexico, and China	
Black Cumin (<i>Nigella/kalonji</i>)	Scientific name: <i>Nigella sativa</i> Genus/family: <i>Nigella</i> / Ranunculaceae Native of countries growing: South to Southwest Asia. Middle Eastern Mediterranean region, South Europe, Northern India, Pakistan, Syria, Turkey, Iran, and Saudi Arabia	
Bitter Cumin (Kashmiri Jeera / Shahi jeera)	Scientific name: <i>Cuminum nigrum or Bunium persicum</i> Genus/family: <i>Cuminum</i> /Apiaceae Native of countries growing: Central Asia to Northern India; Mountainous regions of North India	

III.4.7 Chemical composition

III.4.7.1 Physicochemical

Cumin seeds present a high nutraceutical potential and are widely used as a natural health booster. They are utilized for various purposes, including vegetable, nutrition, medicine, beverages, fragrances, cosmetics, and other industrial purposes. They possess good amount of vitamins, amino acids, minerals, and so on, which render numerous health benefits. The nutritional composition of cumin seeds is depicted in **Table 30**. Cumin contains

quantitatively significant and nutritionally important composition, which not only imparts the specific characteristics like color, aroma, and taste to this plant but also contribute to the development of phytomedicine for human well being (Agarwal et al., 2017)..

Table 30: Nutritional factors cumin seeds (Agarwal et al., 2017)

Principle	Nutrient value	Principle	Nutrient value
Energy	375 Kcal	Sodium	1788 mg
Carbohydrates	44.2 g	Potassium	68 mg
Proteins	17.8 g	Calcium	931 mg
Total fats	22.2 g	Copper	0.8 mg
Cholesterol	0 mg	Iron	66.3 mg
Dietary fibers	10.5 g	Magnesium	366 mg
Vitamin B9	10 µg	Manganese	3.3 mg
Vitamin B3	4.5 mg	Phosphorus	499 mg
Vitamin B6	0.4 mg	Zinc	4.8 mg
Vitamin B2	0.3 mg	Carotene-β	762 µg
Vitamin B1	0.6 mg	Crypto-xanthin-β	0 µg
Vitamin A	1270 mg	Lutein-zeaxanthin	448 µg
Vitamin C	7.7 mg		
Vitamin E	3.3 mg		
Vitamin K	5.4 µg		

III.4.7.2 Phytochemical

Cumin seeds are a rich source of alkaloids, coumarins, anthraquinones, flavonoids, glycoside, proteins, resins, saponins, tannins, steroids, dietary fibers, minerals, fats (especially monounsaturated fat), vitamins B (vitamin B1, vitamin B6, vitamin B3, vitamin B2), vitamin A, vitamin C and E, and so forth. Organic acids such as aspartic, citric, malic, tartaric, propionic, ascorbic, oxalic, maleic, and fumaric acids are also found in cumin seeds (Belal et al., 2017). The fruits contain estrogenic isoflavonoids, luteolin, and apigenin. The seeds exhibit a good amount of flavonoids (4.15– 5.75%), in which luteolin, apigenin, and quercetin are the dominant flavonoids (Kang et al., 2019). Cumin aldehyde is the principal bioactive compound of *C. cyminum* (Ebada, 2017; Nirmala et al., 2020). Apart from this, it also contains cymene, cuminic alcohol (cuminol), γ-terpinene, safranal, limonene, eugenol, β-myrcene, α-Phellandrene, β-Phellandrene, α- and β-pinene (Agarwal et al., 2017).

The strong aroma of roasted cumin seeds is due to the presence of substituted pyrazines, 2-ethoxy-3-isopropylpyrazine, 2-methoxy-3-sec-butylpyrazine, and 2-methoxy 3 methylpyrazine (Srinivasan, 2018). The different bioactives isolated from *C. cyminum* are presented in Table 31. It has also been noticed that most of the bioactivities of cumin are

dominantly cumin aldehyde dependent. Though the compound contributes majorly to various ethnomedicinal, pharmacological, and clinical research but side by side the research should also be carried out on different medicinal aspects of other bioactives as well (Singh et al., 2021).

Table 31: Phytochemical composition of cumin seeds (Li and Jiang, 2004)

Components	Percentage (%)
α -Pinene	0.63
Camphene	0.01
β -Pinene	10.22
Sabinene	0.58
Δ^3 -Carene	0.03
Myrcene	0.83
α -Phellandrene	1.60
α -Terpinene	0.11
Limonene	0.39
β -Phellandrene+1.8-cineole	0.49
γ -Terpinene	0.11
p-Cymene	5.51
Terpinene	17.25
Trans-Sabinenehydrate	0.09
Cis-Sabinenehydrate	0.19
Linalool	0.04
p-Mentha-3-en-7-al	2.91
β -Caryophyllene	0.45
Terpinen-4-ol	0.13
(Z)- β -Farnesene	0.60
α -Terpineol	0.05
Cuminaldehyde	27.6
p-Mentha-1,3-diene-7-al	15.18
p-Mentha-1,4-diene-7-al	9.48
p-Mentha-1,3-diene-7-ol	0.31
Cuminalcohol	0.36
Total	95.1

III.4.8 Pharmacological properties

The pharmacological activities of cumin are presented on **Table 32**.

III.4.8.1 Antioxidant

High antioxidant activity is exhibited by the oil of *C. cyminum* which has been ascribed basically to the occurrence of polyphenolic compounds like flavonoids, linalool, anethole, monoterpene alcohols, and carvacrol (Gohari and Saeidnia, 2011; Bansal et al., 2014). It has been reported that aqueous and methanol extracts of several plant sources have well free

radical scavenging activity as compared to the extracts of dichloromethane or ethyl acetate representing the polar nature of the antioxidant biomolecules (Dua et al., 2012).

Table 32: Pharmacological activities of cumin seeds (Agarwal et al., 2017)

Activity	Action
Skin Disorders and boils	❖ Vitamin-E is good for skin and keeps the skin young and gleaming
Antimicrobial	❖ It inhibits mycelium grow than dtox in production
Antidiabetic	❖ Reduces the blood glucose and inhibits glycosy lated haemoglobin, creatinine, blood urea nitrogen and improved serum insulin and glycogen
Anticancer	❖ Make change to carcinogen metabolism via carcinogen/ xenobiotic metabolizing phase I and phase II enzymes
Antioxidant	❖ Less amount of cumin extract was needed for scavenging the superoxide radicals
Antiosteoporotic	❖ By reduction in urinary calcium excretion and augmentation of calcium content
Immunomodulator	❖ Large quantity of iron, a presence of essential oils and vitamin-C & vitamin-A in cumin boost supour immune system
Ophthalmic effects	❖ By delayed progression and maturation of streptozotocin- induced cataracts
Antiasthmatics	❖ Act as a decongestant
Antiepileptic	❖ Shows the activity against epilepsy induced by pentylenetetrazole (PTZ)
Gastrointestinal disorders	❖ Activates, our salivary glands in our mouth (the mouth-watering flavor),facilitating the primary digestion of the food ❖ Antiulcer by enhancing gastric mucin protection and regeneration ❖ Provide protection against the patotoxicity
Analgesic	❖ Shows the analgesic activity individually or in combination with <i>Coriandrum sativum</i> seed methanolic extract
Astringent	❖ Inhibiting arachidonate induced platelet aggregation
Antitussive	❖ Showed significant reduction of cough number
Antifertility	❖ Anti-implantation effects
Antihypertensive	❖ Improve plasma nitricoxide and decreased the systolic blood pressure
Antiinflammatory	❖ Significantly inhibit them RNA expression sofin ducible nitric oxidesynthase (iNOS), cyclooxygenase (COX-2), interleukin- IL1 and IL-6
Insecticidal effects	❖ Shows toxicity against <i>Anopheles gambiae</i> strain

The significant amounts of antioxidant compounds of *C. cyminum* oil showed a high antioxidant activity, however, the non volatile extracts also shown a good inhibition properties against the free radicals. It is found that there is better antioxidant action in methanol extracts as compared to the n-hexane extracts. On the other hand antioxidant activities and the total phenolic content also found a good correlation among their non volatile extracts. So, it concludes that there is good antioxidant potential in *C. cyminum*. Finally, This

spice can be utilized to yield flavoring agents as well as novel natural antioxidants that can be used in several food products (Nadeem and Riaz, 2012). The oil yield of *C. cyminum* is 2.5 to 4% of the weight of the fruits and the main constituent of essential oil is cuminol (Sepehri et al., 2014). Higher antioxidant power is shown by *C. cyminum* and this property made it a virtuous source of natural antioxidant (Ghasemi et al., 2019). The methanolic extract of this spice revealed a higher antioxidant activities than the essential oil (Einafshar et al., 2012).

III.4.8.2 Antimicrobial

Cumin alcoholic distillate inhibit the development of *Klebsiella pneumonia* and its therapeutic isolates by capsule expression, improvement of cell morphology, and decreasing urease activity. The main active compound of *C. cyminum* is cuminaldehyde for this property (Verma, 2016). The strong antibacterial and larvicidal activity are exhibited by this compound; while *C. cyminum* seed essential oils show an antimicrobial activity against *Escherichia coli*, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, and *Candida albicans* (Pathak et al., 2011). Some other minor constituents have been found in *C. cyminum* oil with limonene, α - pinenes, β - pinenes, and cuminol suggested as the active antimicrobial agents and show antimicrobial activity (Gohari and Saeidnia, 2011). The anti bacterial property was assessed contradiction of a variety of pathogenic Gram (+) and Gram (-) bacterial strains, against *Streptococcus pyogenes* and *Streptococcus mutants*, there were found biofilm formation defensive properties (Bansal et al., 2014). Cumin showed prominent anti-*H. pylori* effects in several studies (Nakhaei et al., 2006; Nostro et al., 2005). *In vitro* study showed anti-*H. pylori* effects of cumin at MIC of 691 $\mu\text{g/ml}$. Nostro et al., (2005) and Nakhaei et al.,(2006) showed that ethanolic extract of the cumin fruit eradicated 90% of the *H. pylori* at 0.075 mg/ml. O'Mahony et al .(2005) showed that 50 mg/ml of the cumin decoction eradicated 100% *H. pylori* in culture medium (Alkofahi and Atta 1999).

Part II:
Experimental
Work

Chapter I:
Material and
methods

I. Material and methods

I.1 Objectives, site and duration of study

I.1.1 Objectives of study

The present study aimed to:

- ✓ Determine the physico-chemical characteristics of four medicinal plants (garlic, onion, fenugreek and cumin).
- ✓ Extract the phenolic compounds from the studied plants.
- ✓ Determine the phytochemical profile (quantitatively and qualitatively).
- ✓ Characterize and identify the phenolic compounds by HPLC method.
- ✓ Estimate the antioxidant properties by measuring radical scavenging activity using the 2, 2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) assay.
- ✓ Isolate and identify *H. pylori* strains from human gastric biopsy.
- ✓ Evaluate the effect of extract plants and probiotics against *H. pylori*.
- ✓ Evaluate the potential of combination between extract plants and probiotics against *H. pylori*.
- ✓ Highlight the *in vivo* antibacterial effect of fenugreek extract and *Bifidobacterium breve* on *H. pylori* colonization using Wistar rats as an animal model.

I.1.2 Site and duration of study

This experimental study was carried out during the period from February 2016 to June 2022 at:

- ✓ Biochemistry and Food Technology laboratory and Microbiology laboratory, Faculty of Nature and Life Sciences, University of Tiaret, Algeria.
- ✓ Advanced Technology Application and Research Center, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Kilis 7 Aralik University, Kilis, Turkey.
- ✓ Faculty of Pharmacy "Iuliu Hat jeganu", University of Medicine and Pharmacy- Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

I.2 Material

I.2.1 Plant material

The plant materials used in the present study were garlic (*Allium sativum* L."var. Cristo") and onion (*Allium cepa* L."var. Rouge Amposta") bulbs, fenugreek (*Trigonella Foenum-graecum* L.) and cumin seeds (*Cuminum cyminum* L.) (**Fig. 21**). All these plants were identified by Dr. Miara Mohamed Djamel and Dr. Ait Hammou Mohamed botanists at Nature and Life Sciences Faculty, University of Tiaret.



Allium sativum L. "var. Cristo"

Allium cepa L. "var. Rouge Amposta"



Trigonella Foenum-graecum L.

Cuminum cyminum L.

Figure 21: Plant materials used in the present study

Garlic and onion were cultivated in organic conditions in the region of Tiaret located on the south-west of Algeria. They were harvested during the period of August 2017, and their bulbs were separated by hand picking (**Annexe 1**).

Fenugreek seeds (*Trigonella Foenum-graecum L.*) were originated from the region of Mostaganem, Algeria, and cumin seeds (*Cuminum cyminum L.*) were grown in the region of Aleppo, Syria (**Annexe 1**).

Samples of fenugreek and cumin were taken from a local market in Tiaret (Algeria) in March 2017 in order to avoid the dust, the loss of aroma and colour which could occur as a result of their exposure to the direct sun light.

I.2.2 Probiotic strains

Twelve probiotic strains were used in this study as shown in **Table 33**; six (06) of them were obtained from the Laboratory of Sciences and Technics of Animal Production, Faculty of Agriculture- Abdelhamid Ibn Badis University, Mostaganem- Algeria; one (01) strain was obtained from the Laboratory of Natural and Local Bioresources, University of Hassiba Benbouali, Chlef-Algeria; the remaining strains were purchased as commercial products (France). The probiotic strains were revived and confirmed using Gram stain, catalase, oxydase and some biochemical tests.

Table 33: Source and origin of probiotic strains used in the present study

Probiotic strains	Source	Origin
<i>Lactobacillus acidophilus</i>	Local dairy product	Laboratory of Sciences and Technics of Animal Production, Mostaganem- Algeria
<i>Lactobacillus fermentum</i>	Local dairy product	
<i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i>	Local dairy product	
<i>Lactobacillus casei</i>	Local dairy product	
<i>Lactococcus lactis</i>	Local dairy product	
<i>Streptococcus thermophilus</i>	Local dairy product	
<i>Lactobacillus rhamnosus LA180</i>	LACTIBIANE	Pharmacy, Lille, France (Annexe 2)
<i>Lactobacillus rhamnosus GG</i>	PROBIOLOG	
<i>Lactobacillus helveticus</i>	LAXATRANSIT	
<i>Bifidobacterium longum</i>	BENEFLORA	
<i>Bifidobacterium bifidum</i>	BENEFLORA	
<i>Bifidobacterium breve</i>	Local dairy product	Laboratory of Natural and Local Bioresources, University of Hassiba Benbouali, Chlef-Algeria

I.2.3 *Helicobacter pylori* strains

Ten fresh gastric biopsy specimens obtained from patients who underwent upper gastrointestinal endoscopy or from symptomatic patients with a positive rapid urease assay at Tiaret Hospital (Youcef Damardji), Algeria were transferred to sterile physiological saline, transported to the laboratory and processed within 4 h after sampling. Biopsy specimens were minced and homogenized in Brain Heart Infusion Broth (0.5 ml) then plated immediately on plates containing Colombia agar supplemented with 5% horse blood. The plates were incubated at 37°C under microaerophilic conditions (15% CO₂) using Campy Gas-Pak system for a maximum of 10 days (**Fig. 22**). Suspected isolates were identified as *H. pylori* by conventional methods using Gram stain, urease, catalase and oxydase tests, API Campy (Bio Merieux. Cedex.France) and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR).

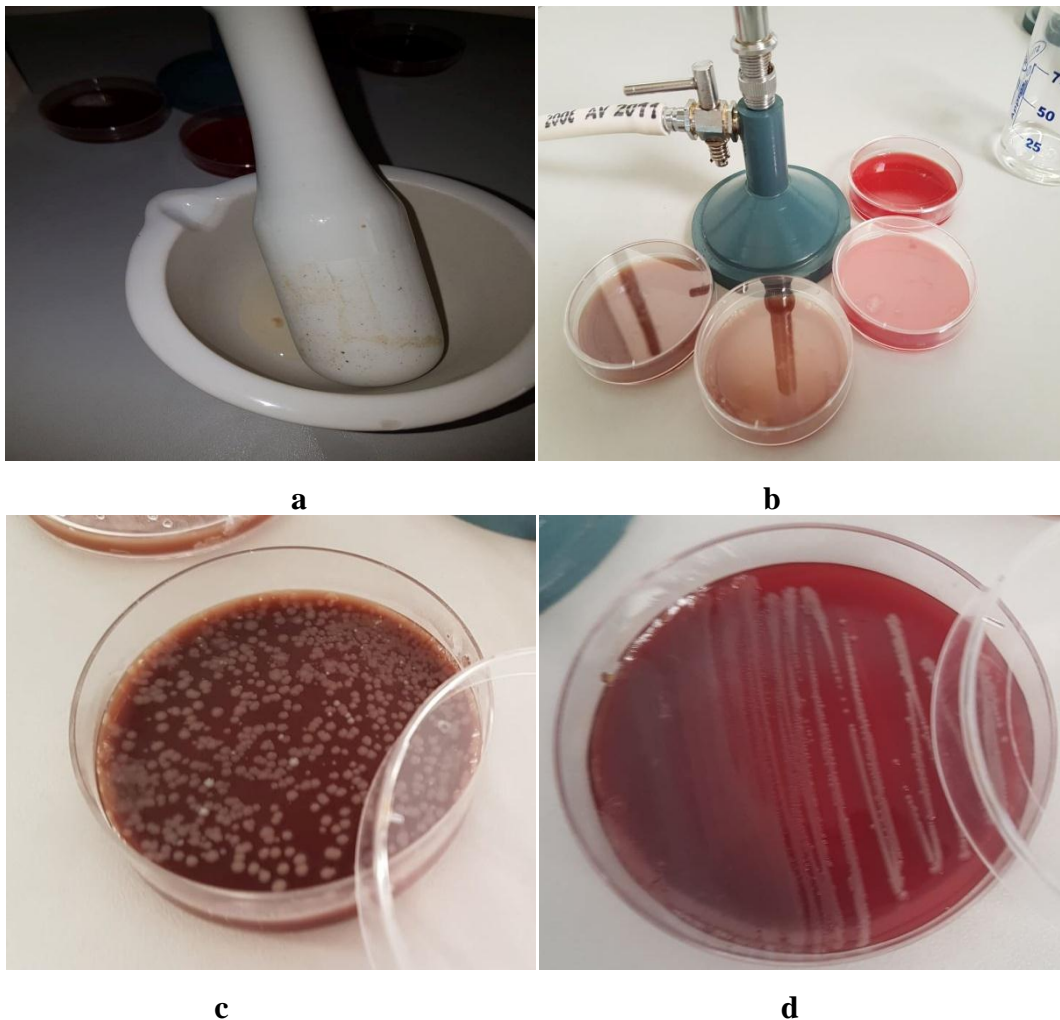


Figure 22: Isolation steps of *H. pylori* strains

a: Mincing and homogenizing of biopsy; **b:** Plating on colombia agar supplemented with 5% horse blood; **c:** Subculturing and purification; **d:** Subculture of *H. pylori*

I.2.4 Animals

Sixty healthy male Wistar rats (200 ± 3.81 g) obtained from the Pasteur Institute of Algiers (Algeria) were used to evaluate the combined effect of plant extract and probiotic bacteria against *H. pylori*. The animals were kept in individual cages under appropriate environmental conditions (temperature $22 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$, 12/12 hours light-dark cycle and relative humidity of $60 \pm 10\%$) for two weeks adaptation period at the Veterinary Sciences Institute, University of Tiaret. They were housed according to relevant Algerian national legislation, were fed a commercial diet and were given water ad libitum, except otherwise stated. Throughout the experiments, all animals received special veterinary care according to the criteria outlined in the internationally accepted principal guidelines of the European Union on Animal Care (CEE Council 86/609, Directive 63/2010 on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes) and under veterinarian supervision and follow-up (**Fig. 23**).



Figure 23: Acclimatisation period of animals used in the present study

I.3 Methods

I.3.1 Experimental protocol

The experimental protocol summarizing the steps followed in our study is shown in **figure 24**.

I.3.2 Selection of varieties of fenugreek and cumin

Different varieties of fenugreek (*Trigonella Foenum-graecum L.*) and cumin (*Cuminum cyminum L.*) from Algeria, Egypt, India, Morocco and Syria were purchased from a local market and analyzed for their weight of 1000 seeds and germination rate in order to select the best ones.

Experimental Work

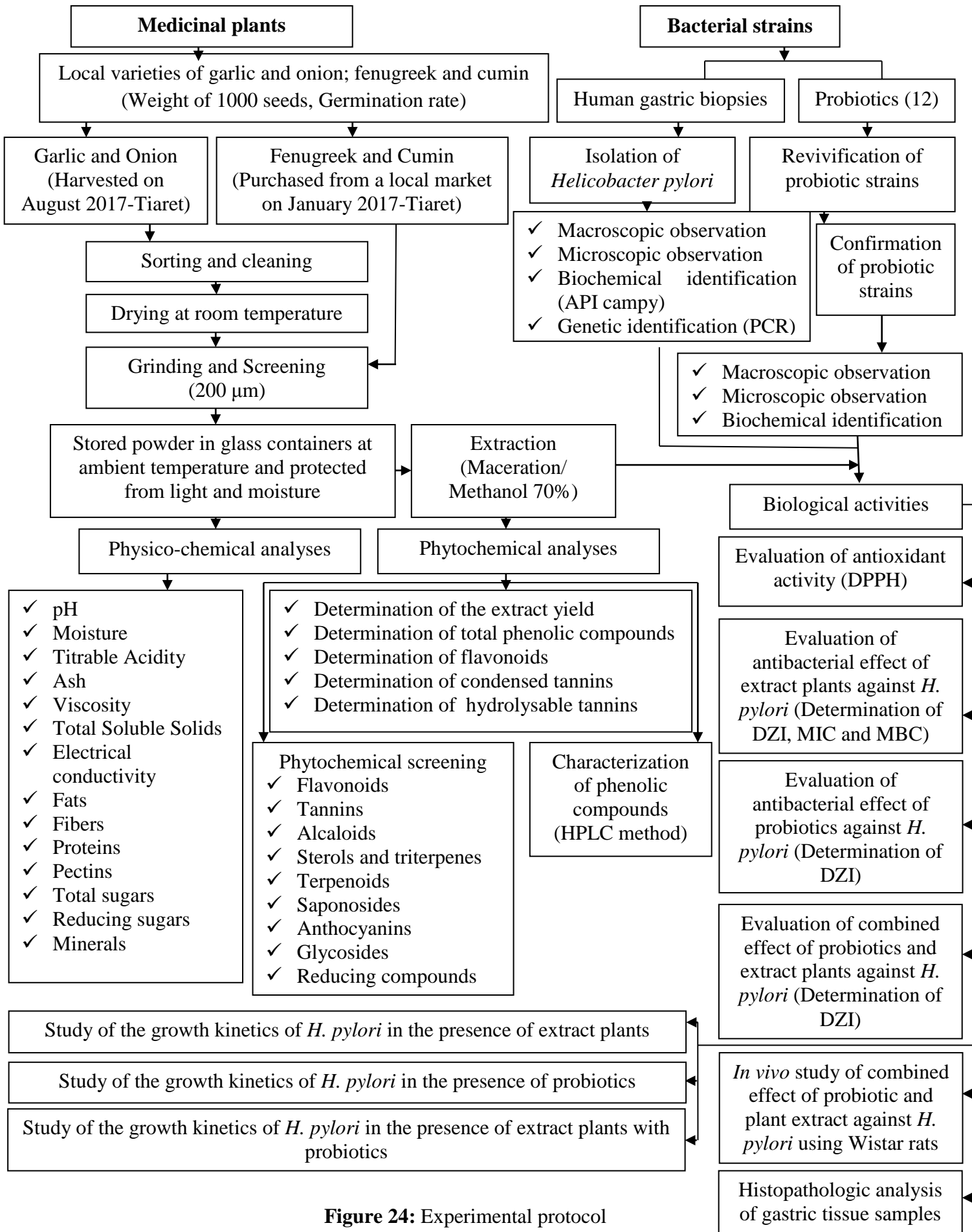


Figure 24: Experimental protocol

I.3.2.1 Weight of 1000 seeds

The number of seeds taken into by hand count on 100 and 1000 seed weight was measured in (g/mg) and used to estimate the seed rate based on fixed number of seeds and test weight (**Deivasigamani and Sawaminathan, 2018**)

I.3.2.2 Germination rate

Seeds were treated with dry heat at 50 °C for 4 days to eliminate residual dormancy that might interfere with germination rate. Two sets of 25 seeds for each cultivar [one from each replication] were placed on Whatman no. 1 filter paper inside a 9 cm Petri dish. The filter paper was moistened with 2.5 ml of distilled water, and the seeds were germinated in the dark at 25 °C and >97% relative humidity (RH) inside a germinator. Seeds showing 2 mm of radicle growth or more were considered germinated. Germination rate was calculated using the following formula and designated as RG index (**Krishnasamy and Seshu, 1989**):

$$\text{Rate of germination (RG)} = \frac{\text{no. of seeds germinated at 48 h}}{\text{no. of seeds germinated at 168 h}} \times 100$$

I.3.3 Sample preparation

Algerian variety of fenugreek and Syrian cumin seeds were the best ones, as compared to other varieties with a highest weight and a better germination rate. In this concept, these varieties were chosen for present study. The collected samples of garlic and onion were sorted, peeled, washed and sliced into chips and dried at room temperature, then all plant samples were powdered and screened at 200 µm (**Fig. 25**).

All the steps of preparation of plants powder are presented in **Annexe 3**.

I.3.4 Physico-chemical analyses

Physico-chemical analyses including pH, moisture, titrable acidity, ash, viscosity, total soluble solids, electrical conductivity, fats, fibers, proteins, pectins, total and reducing sugars and minerals were carried out by the following methods:

✓ pH

100 ml of distilled water was added to 10 g of each fresh sample, after 5 min of shaking the pH electrode was immersing in the solution (**AOAC, 2002**).

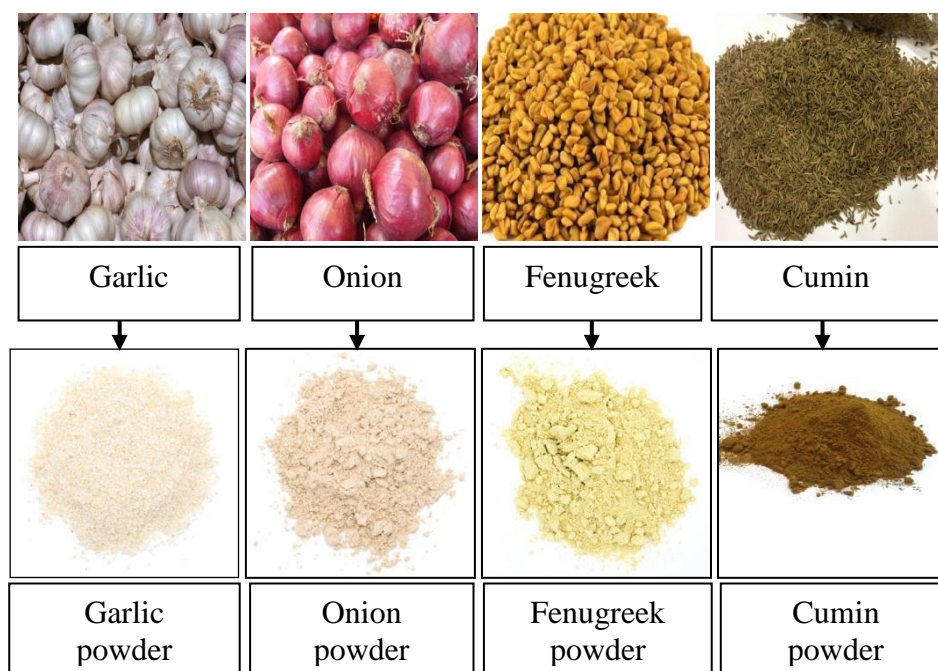


Figure 25: Sample plants preparation

✓ Moisture

10 g sample was dried in hot air oven at a temperature of $105^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 5$ until weight was constant (AOAC, 2000).

The moisture calculation is made according to the following formula:

$$\text{MC (\%)} = \frac{W_1 - W_2}{W_0} \times 100$$

M: Moisture content (%);

W0: Weight of the test portion (g);

W1: Crucible weight plus sample before stoving (g);

W2: Weight of crucible plus sample after stoving (g).

✓ Titratable acidity

Titratable acidity was determined according to AOAC (2000). 5 g of each sample was diluted in 25 ml of distilled water and titrated by NaOH (0.1N) to pH 8.1.

The titratable acidity, expressed in relation to the citric acid content, is calculated by the following formula:

$$\text{TA(\%)} = \frac{V \times N \times 10 \times F}{W} \times 100$$

TA: Titratable acidity (%);

V: Volume of sodium hydroxide used in the evaluation (ml);

N: Normality of sodium hydroxide;

F: Factor of Citric acid conversion which is equal to 0.0064;

W: Sample weight (g).

✓ Ash

10 g of powder sample was weighed into a porcelain crucible and incinerated at 550°C for 6 h in an ashing muffle furnace until ash was obtained. The ash was cooled in desiccator and reweighed (AOAC, 2000).

The following formula is used to calculate the ash content:

$$AC (\%) = [W_1 - W_2 / W_0] \times 100$$

AC: Ash content (%);

W0: Weight of the test portion (g);

W2: Weight of empty crucible (g);

W1: Sample weight after incineration (g).

✓ Viscosity

Viscosity results from the friction of molecules, it results in the greater or lesser resistance of liquids to flow, the absolute viscosity η is usually expressed as centipoise, absolute viscosity is measured by calculating the fall time of a small ball in a column (Hoeppler viscometer) based on Poiseuille's law.

The viscosity was estimated using viscometer at 20 rpm and 25°C:

1. Fill the tube with the sample;
2. Set the temperature at 25°C;
3. When temperature equilibrium is reached, choose a ball for which its flow through the sample in the viscometer tube must be as slow as possible;
4. Then let the ball flow freely and when it reaches the mark on the upper part, start the stopwatch;
5. When the ball reaches the mark located at the bottom of the viscometric tube, note the time of fall of the ball (NF 12092, 2002).

The calculation of the viscosity is done according to the following formula:

$$\eta = t (D0-D1). K$$

η : Viscosity in centipoise (cP);

t: Fall time of the ball in seconds;

D1: Sample density;

D0: Density of the ball;

K: Gravity calibration constant of the tube (0.10277).

✓ **Total soluble solids**

Total soluble solids (TSS) were directly recorded by digital refractometer and the results were expressed as percent soluble solids (°Brix) (AOAC, 2002).

✓ **Electrical conductivity**

Electrical conductivity expresses the ability of the aqueous solution to conduct an electric current. The conductivity meter electrode was immersed in a 20% solid solution. The result of EC was display directly on the conductivity meter (S/m : Siemens per meter) (AOAC, 2002).

✓ **Crude fats**

The crude fats were determined using Soxhlet extraction for 6 hrs, using n-hexane as a solvent:

1. Weigh 10g of each sample powder and put them into a cartridge and close it with a piece of cotton; then place it in the “Soxhlet” extractor.
2. Dry and weigh the flask, add 100 ml of petroleum ether.
3. Fill the extractor with a volume of 50 ml of the same solvent.
4. After four hours of extraction, remove the balloon and place it in a rotavapor to recover the solvent.
5. To determine lipid levels, place the flask in the oven to eliminate traces of the solvent and weigh it (AOAC, 2000).

The lipid level is calculated according to the following formula:

$$LF (\%) = [W_2 - W_1 / W_0] \times 100$$

LF: Level Fat (%);

W0: Weight of the test portion (g) ;

W1: Weight of the empty balloon (g);

W2: Ball weight plus fat (g).

✓ Crude fibers

1 g of powdered sample was digested with H₂SO₄ (1.25%) followed by NaOH (1.25%) solution. After filtration and washing with distilled water and acetone, remaining residues were weighed and putted in muffle furnace at a temperature of 550-650°C till grey or white ash was obtained (**AOAC, 2000**).

The fiber content is calculated according to the following formula:

$$\text{CF (\%)} = \frac{W_1 - W_2}{W_0} \times 100$$

CF: Crude fiber content (%);

W0: Test sample (g);

W1: Crucible weight before steaming (g);

W2: Crucible weight after stoving (g).

✓ Crude proteins

The powdered samples of garlic and red onion were tested for crude protein content according to the Kjeldahl's method as described in **AOAC (2000)**. Briefly, 2 g of each sample were digested with H₂SO₄ by using digestion mixture (catalyst). The digested material was diluted up to 250 ml in volumetric flask. 10 ml of NaOH 40% as well as 10 ml of digested sample was taken in distillation apparatus where liberated ammonia was collected in beaker containing 4% boric acid solution using methyl red as an indicator. The percentage of nitrogen in the samples was assessed by titrating distillate against 0.1N H₂SO₄ solution. Crude protein content was calculated by multiplying nitrogen percent (N %) with factor (6.25).

✓ Pectins

The extraction of the pectins was estimated by a treatment of samples with high temperature using hydrochloric acid (1/30 N) as described by **Multon (1991)**. Pectins were separated from the residue by centrifugation and precipitation with 80% alcohol, the obtained precipitate was filtered to remove soluble impurities, then dried and weighed.

The pectin content is calculated by the following formula:

$$\text{PC (\%)} = [\text{W} \times 200 \times 0.9235] / [50 \times \text{a}]$$

P: Pectin content (%);

W: Weight of precipitate (g);

200: Filtrate volume (ml);

0.9235: Coefficient of transformation of calcium pectate into pectin;

a: Weight of the filtrate (g);

50: Volume of filtrate taken for precipitation (ml).

✓ Total sugars

Totals sugars were determined using a colorimetric tests according to **Dubois (1956)**, using phenol and concentrated sulfuric acid. In brief, 1 ml of sugar solution was added to 1 ml of phenol 5% and 5 ml of concentrated sulfuric acid, then shaken and placed for 10 to 20 min in a water bath at 25 to 30°C. The absorbance was measured at 490 nm. The amount of sugars was determined by reference to a standard curve established with glucose.

✓ Reducing sugars

1ml of the sugar solution was removed and 1ml of DNSA reagent was added after 5 min of heating in a water at 100°C, the absorbance reading was made at 540 nm, the results were expressed in relation to a standard curve using glucose as reference (**Miller, 1972**).

✓ Mineral content

The plant samples were analyzed for their macronutrients (P, Ca, K, Mg and S), micronutrients (Fe, Cu, B and Zn) and heavy metals (Cd, Co, Cr, Mo, Ni and Pb) by using ICP-AES (**Sekeroglu et al., 2012**). Briefly, 0.2 g of samples were put into burning cup and 5 ml HNO₃ 65 % and 2 ml H₂O₂ 30 % were added. After burning in a HP-500 CEM MARS 5 microwave at 200 °C, the solution was cooled at room temperature for 45 min, filtrated by Whatman 42 filter paper. The extracts were cooled by high-deionized water in a 20 ml polyethylene bottles and kept at 4°C for ICP-AES analyses.

I.3.5 Phytochemical tests

The extracts were made using the maceration process, with the same extraction procedures and conditions as reported by **Gezici and Sekeroglu (2019)**. 100 ml of methanol

70 % was added to 10 g of each sample, the solutions were shaken for 24 h at room temperature, the mixtures were then filtered using Whatman paper N°01 and evaporated using rotary evaporator HEIDOLPH (60 W). The dried extract was stored at 4°C for further analyses. Extraction yield (w/w %) was calculated as the ratio of the weight of the extract to the weight of the crude herb powder.

I.3.5.1 Determination of total phenolic content

According to the procedure defined by **Singleton and Rossi (1965)**, the method of Folin-Ciocalteu reagent has been used to estimate the total phenolic content. 0.5 ml of varying concentrations of each used extract and 2.5 ml of Folin-Ciocalteu (1/10 dilution in water) were mixed with 1ml of sodium carbonate (20%). This mixture was incubated in the dark at room temperature for 30 min. The absorbance of the solution was measured at 765 nm using UV-Vis spectrophotometer HITACHI (Ratio Beam U-V 5100). A calibration curve was established using gallic acid as standard (0-1 mg/ml). The results were expressed as milligram of Gallic Acid Equivalent (GAE) per 100 g of Dry Matter.

I.3.5.2 Determination of total flavonoids content

The total flavonoids content of both extracts was determined using the aluminium chloride method as described by **Zou et al. (2004)**. 1.5 ml of various concentrations of both extracts was mixed with 75µl of aluminium chloride solution and 0.5 ml of sodium acetate solution, the mixture was completed with distilled water until a volume of 2.5 ml. After an incubation period of 30 min at room temperature in the dark, the absorbance of the solution was measured at 415 nm using UV-Vis spectrophotometer.). The results were expressed as milligram of Quercetin Equivalent (QE) per 100 g of DM, according to a calibration curve using Quercetin as standard (0-1 mg/ml).

I.3.5.3 Determination of condensed tannins content

The analysis of condensed tannins was carried out according to **Price et al. (1978)**. 1ml of each extract was mixed with 2.5 ml of 4% methanol vanillin solution and 2.5 ml of H₂SO₄. After 15 min, the absorbance was measured at 500 nm. Condensed tannin contents were expressed as milligram of Catechin Equivalent (CE) per 100 g of DM based on a calibration curve using Catechin as standard (0-1 mg/ml).

I.3.5.4 Determination of hydrolysable tannins content

Hydrolysable tannins were estimated using method of **Waterman (1987)**. 500 µl of the extract was added to 3.5 ml of the ferric chloride solution. The contents were then quickly mixed and the absorbance read at 660 nm, 15 secs after the addition of the extract solution. A calibration curve was established using Tannic acid as standard (0-1 mg/ml). Hydrolysable tannins content were expressed as milligram of Tannic Acid Equivalent (TAE) per 100 g of DM.

I.3.5.5 Phytochemical screening

Qualitative tests were realized to detect the presence of some secondary metabolites in plants extracts according to **Trease and Evans (1989) and Sofowora (1993) (Tab. 34)**.

I.3.6 Determination of phenolic content by High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) analysis

The analytical method used is high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), the identification of substances was performed according to their polarity in the solvents, the model of HPLC used for analytical control was: Shimadzu Nexera-I HPLC with auto sampler and quaternary pump. Each extract was dissolved in methanol in a ratio of 1 part extract to 5 parts solvent. The extracts were analyzed as such by injection into HPLC. The operating conditions are as follows: Column: silica gel-C18 type Fortis C18, 150 x 2.1 mm x 3 µm, Eluent: A = water, B = 0.1% formic acid, aqueous solution with pH = 2.5, and C = acetonitrile, Flow rate: 1 ml / min, Injected volume: 5 µl, Detector: DAD, spectrophotometric 220-400 nm, with chromatograms recorded at 254, 326 and 360 nm. The evaluation was based on a comparison of retention times and absorption maxima in the UV-Vis spectra. The resulting chromatographic profile is compared to standards (standard pure of phytochemical molecules) injected into the same operating conditions as that of the sample. Retention time (Rt) of each component is determined by the integrator giving a peak on the chromatogram (**Vlase et al., 2014**).

I.3.7 Antioxidant activity

The antioxidant activity of extracts was measured with the DPPH method describing by **Shimada et al. (1992)**. A solution of DPPH (0.1 mM) was freshly prepared by dissolving 4 mg DPPH in 100 ml methanol. Mother solution (1 mg/ml) was prepared and followed by serial dilution in order to obtain all increasing concentration needed (0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5 mg/ml), from each extract 1 ml of each prepared diluted extract was added to 1 ml of DPPH

(0.1 mM). The solutions were then incubated for 30 min at room temperature in the dark, and the absorbance was measured at 570 nm. The antioxidant activity was calculated according to the following formula:

% inhibition = $[(A \text{ control} - A \text{ sample}) / A \text{ control}] \times 100$, where A control is the absorbance of DPPH solution without extract and A sample is the absorbance of sample with DPPH solution. The half-maximal inhibitory concentration (IC₅₀) was reported as the amount of antioxidant required to decrease the initial DPPH concentration by 50%.

Table 34: Phytochemical screening of garlic and red onion

Metabolites	Added reagent	Expected result
Flavonoids	KOH (50%)	Yellow color
Tannins	FeCl ₃ (1%)	Blue coloration
Alkaloids	HCL 2%+ Wagner reagent	Brown precipitate
Sterols and triterpenes	Acetic anhydride + H ₂ SO ₄ (98%)	Red color (surface) + greenish fluorescence
Terpenoids	Chloroform + H ₂ SO ₄	Reddish brown coloration
Saponosides	Distilled water	Formation of foam
Anthocyanins	Chlorhydric alcohol+ isoamyl alcohol	Reddish brown coloration
Cardiac glycosides	Glacial acetic acid + FeCl ₃ (5%)+ H ₂ SO ₄ (98%)	Brown ring
Reducing compounds	Fehlings (A+B)	Brownish-red precipitate

I.3.8 Antibacterial part

The identification of suspected isolates of *H. pylori* strains is based on the determination of morphological, biochemical and genetical characters, and their sensitivity or resistance to different antibiotics.

I.3.8.1 Macroscopic examination

The type of colonies and their size are studied from the cultures obtained on the fresh blood agar (**Larpent and Larpent, 1985**).

I.3.8.2 Microscopic examination

Microscopic examination is based on the microscopic observation of bacterial cultures in order to highlight the grouping, shape and mobility (**Delarras, 2007**). Gram staining can divide bacteria into two classes: Gram-negative and Gram-positive (**Harley et al., 2010**).

I.3.8.3 Biochemical identification

I.3.8.3.1 Catalase

Catalase has the property of breaking down hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) into oxygen and water molecules. Place a drop of 10 volume hydrogen peroxide on the blood agar culture seeded with our strains. The release of gas bubbles indicates the presence of the catalase (**Marchal et al., 1982**).

I.3.8.3.2 Urease

The degradation of urea by bacteria possessing urease is accompanied by a alkalization which causes the color indicator to turn purple red. From a pure culture on blood agar medium, we prepared a dense suspension in 0.5 ml of urea-Indole medium. The preparation is then incubated at 37°C under micro-aerobic conditions for 24 h. The positive result is a change in the indicator from yellow to purplish red or pink red (**Marshall et al., 1987**).

I.3.8.3.3 Oxidase

Cytochrome oxidase binds molecular oxygen to cytochrome reduced. The search for this enzyme is made using discs marketed impregnated with N-dimethylparapherine diamine oxalate, oxidized by cytochrome C, transforms into a dark purple compound. The disc (BioMérieux) was placed on the culture, and soaked with a drop of water sterile distilled. In the presence of oxidase (in the case of oxidase positive bacteria), the dark purple color appears immediately or within seconds, then darkens (**Delarras, 2007**).

I.3.8.3.4 API Campy

For more precision in the biochemical study, we used API Campy strips for *H. pylori* according to the following technics (**API Campylobacter, BioMerieux**):

A. Preparation of the strip

- ✓ Remove the strip from its packaging;
- ✓ Separate the strip into two parts, along the center fold;
- ✓ Prepare two incubation boxes (tray and lid);
- ✓ Distribute about 3 ml of distilled water or demineralized water into the honeycombed wells of the trays;
- ✓ Place the strips in the incubation boxes;
- ✓ Discard the desiccant.

B. Preparation of the inoculum

- ✓ Open an ampule of API NaCl 0.85% Medium (3 ml);
- ✓ Using a sterile swab, harvest all the culture from the previously prepared subculture plate;
- ✓ Prepare a suspension with a turbidity equivalent to 6 McFarland.

C. Inoculation of the strip

- ✓ Distribute approximately 80-100 µl of the previous suspension into each tube (URE to PAL of the first part of the strip and test H₂S of the second part of the strip), avoiding the formation of bubbles (tilt the strip slightly forward);
- ✓ Fill the tube portion of the H₂S test;
- ✓ Overlay the cupule of the URE test with mineral oil;
- ✓ Close the incubation box of the first part of the strip;
- ✓ Incubate for 24 hours (± 2 hours) at 36°C ± 2°C in aerobic conditions;
- ✓ Open an ampule of API AUX Medium and transfer approximately 150 µl of the previous bacterial suspension into the ampule (transfer all the remaining bacterial suspension for slow-growing strains);
- ✓ Distribute this new suspension into the tubes and cupules (GLU to ERO of the second part of the strip), avoiding the formation of a convex or concave meniscus;
- ✓ Close the incubation box of the second part of the strip;
- ✓ Incubate for 24 hours (± 2 hours) at 36°C ± 2°C in microaerophilic conditions (or anaerobic conditions when required by certain strains).

D. Reading and interpretation

- ✓ Reading the strip;

- ✓ Add reagents :NIT test : 1 drop of NIT 1 and NIT 2; HIP test : 3 drops of NIN; GGT, PyrA, ArgA, AspA, PAL tests : 1 drop of FB;
- ✓ Wait 5 minutes, then read the reactions by referring to the Reading Table (**Annexe 4**);
- ✓ If the SUT test is positive, read all the assimilation or growth inhibition tests. If it is negative, reincubate the second part of the strip for 24 hours. Cupules showing bacterial growth, even if it is weak, should be considered positive. The SUT test is a positive growth control. If it is negative after 48 hours, the other assimilation or growth inhibition tests are generally negative and are considered as such by the database;
- ✓ Record the reactions on the result sheet;
- ✓ The ERO test determines the susceptibility of the strain to Erythromycin. It can only be used for a therapeutic prediction if the SUT test (positive growth control) is positive : growth (opaque) = resistance, no growth (transparent) = sensitivity;
- ✓ The catalase reaction should also be recorded on the result sheet (21st test of the strip).

I.3.8.4 Antibiogram

The antibiogram is ensured by two technics: technic of diffusion of discs on agar and E test. It makes it possible to study the sensitivity and resistance of strains to antibiotics (**Megraud, 1994**).

A. Standardization of bacterial suspensions

Three to five well isolated and identical colonies were taken from a young culture (18 to 20h) on fresh blood agar, and added to 9 ml of sterile physiological water. The standardization of the suspension is carried out using a spectrophotometer set to a wavelength of 625 nm, its opacity must be equivalent to 0.5 Mc Farland or an OD of 0.08 to 0.13, which corresponds to a concentration of 10^7 to 10^8 CFU/ml; the inoculum suspension is diluted 1/10 in water physiological to have a concentration of 10^6 CFU/ml (**Andrewes, 2001**).

B. Diffusion technique of discs on agar

This technique is based on disc diffusion on a Muller-Hinton media in using several antibiotics: Amoxicillin (AMC) (25 µg), Gentamycin (GE) (10 µg), Erythromycin (E) (30 µg), Tetracycline (TE) (30 µg), Oxacillin (OX) (5 µg), Doxycyclin (DO) (30 µg), Ciprofloxacin (CIP) (5 µg), Nanaomycin (NNM) (30 µg), Fusidic Acid (FA) (10 µg), Metroniazol (MTZ) (16 µg). The boxes are seeded by flooding with a bacterial suspension containing 10^6 CFU/ml, on which the discs of the antibiotics are deposited. Incubation takes place at 37°C for 72 hours under microaerobiosis. The results was expressed by measuring the diameters of the zone of inhibition that has appeared (DZI) (**Megraud, 1994**). Antibiogram

results indicate then if the bacterium is sensitive, intermediate or resistant to the antibiotic according to concordance scale of **Madec et al. (2018)**.

C. E Test

This is a technique of diffusion in an agar medium making it possible to measure of the minimum inhibitory concentration of an antibiotic (MIC). This technique introduced in the 1990s quickly proved to be very useful in the routine practice of laboratory. The E test strip includes an antibiotic gradient increasing from one end to the other. The antibiotic diffuses by forming a significant gradient, the zone of inhibition has the shape of an ellipse and the reading is then direct on the strip at the place where the growth of bacteria stops. After inoculation of the bacterial suspension (10^6 CFU/ml) by swab, place the E test strip for antibiotics: Amoxicillin (AC) on the Muller-Hinton agar using sterile forceps placing the MIC scale facing opening the box. Ensure good contact between the strip and the agar by pressing on the band starting from the base. Incubation is done at 37°C for 72 h in micro-aerophilic atmosphere (**Joly-Guillou, 2006**).

I.3.8.5 Genetical identification using PCR

I.3.8.5.1 Preparation of samples for PCR amplification

Genomic DNAs were extracted from all strains by the guanidinium thiocyanate method. The extracted DNAs were dissolved in water. and solutions containing 25mg of DNA per ml were prepared and used throughout the study. Primers used in this identification are: 93275:AAGCTTTTAGGGGTGTTAGGGGTTT3';93276:AAGCTTACTTTCTAACACTA3' which target the ure C gene, are derived from the sequenced urease genes (EMBL accession no. X57132 and GenBank accession no. M60398). The ure C gene was amplified in a volume of 25 µl containing 50 ng of DNA. 200 mM of each dNTP (Promega), 0.4 µM of each primer (ure C. Eurogentec), 1 U of GoTaq® G2 Hot Start Taq Polymerase (Promega), 5% DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide. 472301 SIGMA-ALDRICH®), 4 mM of MgCl₂ (Promega), 5 µl of 5X Green GoTaq Reaction Buffer (**Lage et al.,1995**).

I.3.8.5.2 Detection and analysis of amplified DNA products

PCR products were cleared by 1% agarose gel electrophoresis with Gel Red TM Nucleic Acid Gel Stain, 10.000X (Biotium). The sample was considered *H. pylori* positive when a 294 bp ure C fragment was amplified and visualized on gel. Deionized water devoid of DNase was used as a negative control (**Lage et al.,1995**).

I.3.8.6 Evaluation of anti- *H. pylori* effect of plant extracts

I.3.8.6.1 Determination of DZI of plant extracts using disc diffusion method

The disc diffusion test was used for primary screening of susceptibility of *H. pylori* to the plant extracts. Bacterial suspensions adjusted to McFarland turbidity standard 0.5 (1.5×10^8 CFU/mL) were inoculated on plates containing Muller-Hinton agar with 5% of horse blood. Filter paper discs (6 mm diameter) impregnated with 60 μ L of different concentrations of each plant extract (10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 150, 250, 500 and 1000 μ L) were placed on the inoculated agar surfaces. Methanol at a concentration of 80% was used as a negative control. The plates were observed for 5 to 7 days at 37°C under microaerophilic conditions. The antibacterial activity was expressed as the mean of inhibition diameters (mm) produced by the plant extracts (Nostro et al., 2005). The strain with a diameter $D < 8\text{mm}$, $9\text{mm} \geq D \leq 14\text{mm}$, $15\text{mm} \geq D \leq 19\text{mm}$, $D > 20\text{mm}$ was considered as resistant, sensitive, very sensitive, extremely sensitive, respectively (Durauffourd et al., 1990).

I.3.8.6.2 Determination of MIC of plant extracts with agar dilution method

The extracts presenting an inhibition zone ≥ 9 mm in diameter were chosen to assay the MIC with the agar dilution method using Mueller Hinton agar with 5% of horse blood. Methanol (80 %) was used in the assay as a negative control. Concentrations of each extract were prepared in methanol 80 % and 1 ml of each solution was incorporated in 20 ml of appropriate melted agar and poured in a Petri dish. The final concentrations of the extracts in the medium ranged from 90 to 1000 μ g/ml. Agar plates were inoculated with 1 ml of bacteria suspension (1.5×10^8 CFU/ml). The plates were incubated for 5–7 days at 37 °C under microaerophilic conditions. The MIC was defined as the lowest concentration of plant extract inhibiting the visible growth (NCCLS Guidelines, 1998).

I.3.8.6.3 Determination of MIC and MBC of plant extracts with broth dilution method

Minimum Inhibitory Concentrations (MIC) and Minimum Bactericidal Concentration (MBC) were measured using tube dilution methods. Fresh bacterial suspensions were prepared in Mueller Hinton broth and adjusted to McFarland turbidity standard 0.5. Serial concentrations were prepared from crude plant extracts within the range of 90 to 1000 μ g/ml, then, 1ml of each extract was added to tubes containing 8 ml of Mueller Hinton broth. Finally, 1 ml of a 1:1000 dilution of bacteria adjusted was added to obtain a 10 ml final volume. Controls of bacteria without extract were also prepared, under similar conditions. The tubes were incubated for 2-5 days at 37°C, before recording the MIC. A volume of 0.1ml of each

suspension was spread onto Columbia agar plates containing 5% horse blood. After incubation in microaerophilic conditions at 37 °C for 72 h, the colonies formed were subsequently computed. The MBC was defined as the lowest concentrations of the plant extract inducing complete inhibition of colony formation of the test bacteria at the latter cultivation (Yuan-Chuen Wang *et al.*, 2004)

I.3.8.6.4 Evaluation of growth kinetics of *H. pylori* in presence of plant extracts

The ability of several plant extracts to suppress *H. pylori* growth was tested by adding 1 ml of each plant extract on the sixth hour of development, while the optical density was subsequently measured every 2h to follow the development of *H. pylori* in the presence of the extract (Barefoot and Kaenhammer, 1983).

I.3.8.7 Evaluation of anti- *H. pylori* effect of probiotics (well diffusion assay)

I.3.8.7.1 Preparation of cell-free supernatant (CFS) of probiotics

Cell-free culture supernatants of probiotics were prepared as described by Kim *et al.*(2009). The culture supernatant was collected from a 24 hrs culture by centrifugation at 4.000 rpm/ 10 min. The resulting supernatants were filter-sterilized (pore size 0.22 µm). *H. pylori* cultures were plated on fresh Mueller Hinton agar plates containing 5% horse blood (1.5×10^8 CFU/ml), and wells were drilled into the agar by using sterile Pasteur pipettes, 60 µl of fresh probiotic strains cell-free culture supernatants were introduced in the agar wells. Plates were incubated for 48 to 72 h under microaerophilic conditions at 37°C, and the DZI around the wells were measured. The antibacterial activity was expressed as the mean of inhibition diameters (mm) produced by each probiotic.

I.3.8.7.2 Evaluation of growth kinetics of *H. pylori* in presence of probiotics

A pre-culture tube of the *H. pylori* strain was inoculated in Mueller Hinton broth and incubated at 37°C for 18h from which three standardized (0.5 MacFarland) culture tubes were prepared and the measurement of the bacterial growth of the pathogen strain was carried out by measuring the optical density every 2 hrs. After 6 h, 1 ml of each supernatant (normal / organic acid free / H₂O₂ free prepared as described below), was added to the culture tubes, the optical density was then measured every 2hrs up to 24hrs and the OD = f (t) curve was drawn (Barefoot and Kaenhammer, 1983).

✓ Influence of organic acids (lactic and acetic acids)

Lactic acid bacteria can produce inhibitor molecules of *H. pylori* such as organic acids, bacteriocins and hydrogen peroxide. To ensure the presence of these molecules, we

took an 18 h culture of different strains of probiotics which was transferred to 50 ml of modified MRS broth and incubated at 37°C for 18 h. After incubation, the tubes were centrifuged at 4,000 rpm/ 10 min in order to recover the supernatant (**Barefoot and Kaenhammer, 1983**).

✓ Influence of bacteriocins

In order to study the effect of bacteriocins on the growth of *H. pylori*. The effect of organic acids in particular lactic and acetic acids was eliminated, the supernatant has been neutralized (pH = 7) by adding a 0.1 N NaOH solution (**Barefoot and Kaenhammer, 1983**).

✓ Influence of hydrogen peroxide

The effect of H₂O₂ was inhibited by incubating the supernatant fluid with catalase enzyme solutions prepared to a final concentration of 1 mg mL⁻¹ in phosphate buffer saline (pH 7.0).

The inhibitory effect of the agent was tested by eliminating the possible effect of organic acids by adjustment of the cells-free supernatant's pH to 7 and that of hydrogen peroxide in presence of catalase.

I.3.8.8 Combined effect of medicinal plants with probiotics on *H. pylori*

I.3.8.8.1 Determination of DZI of combined mixtures using disc diffusion method

Fresh Mueller Hinton agar plates containing 5% horse blood were inoculated with 1.5×10^8 CFU/ml of *H. pylori*; filter paper discs (6 mm diameter) impregnated with 30 µL of fresh supernatants of probiotics +30 µL of plant extracts were placed on the inoculated agar surfaces (each probiotic has been combined with all four extracts). Plates were incubated for 48 to 72 h under microaerophilic conditions at 37°C, and the DZI around discs were measured.

I.3.8.8.2 Evaluation of growth kinetics of *H. pylori* in presence of combined solutions

Different mixtures of probiotics with plant extracts were examined for inhibition of *H. pylori* growth. The measurement of *H. pylori* growth was carried out by measuring the optical density every 2 hrs after adding 500 µl of probiotic supernatant +500 µL of plant extract on the 6th hour of growth (each probiotic has been combined with all four extracts).

I.3.9 *In vivo* study

I.3.9.1 Protocol

The inhibition of *H. pylori* growth by probiotics and plant extracts was investigated using Wistar rats model. Depending on the results, we have chosen the strongest probiotic and extract (*B. breve* and fenugreek extract) based on their anti-*H. pylori* effect in order to complete the *in vivo* study. The rats were divided into nine groups; 6 groups (G1-G6) infected for 2 weeks then treated for the 2 following weeks and 3 preventive groups (G7-G9) infected and treated orally at the same time once daily for 2 weeks. More precisely, the groups were: Group 1 G1 (NC. n = 6); negative control *H. pylori*-infected 1.5×10^8 CFU without treatment, G2 (PC. n = 6); positive control *H. pylori*-infected and treated using second line therapy clarithromycin with metronidazole in combination with amoxicillin and omeprazole, G3 (TFE1 n = 6): *H. pylori* infected and treated with fenugreek extract (TFE) 150 µg/kg G4 (TFE2. n = 6):*H. pylori*-infected and treated with fenugreek extract 300 µg/kg, G5 (TBB. n = 6):*H. pylori*-infected and treated with *B. breve* (TBB) 1.2×10^9 CFU. G6 (TFE1 + TBB. n = 6): *H. pylori*-infected and treated with fenugreek extract 150 µg/kg and *B. breve* 1.2×10^9 CFU, G7 (HP+TFE, n = 6):*H. pylori* infected and treated with fenugreek extract 150 µg/kg, G8 (HP+TBB. n = 6):*H. pylori* infected and treated with *B. breve* 1.2×10^9 CFU and G9 (HP+TFE+TBB. n = 6): *H. pylori* infected and treated with fenugreek extract 150 µg/kg and *B. breve* 1.2×10^9 CFU. At the end of the experiment, the rats were euthanized with diethyl ether and a full necropsy was performed (**Fig. 26**).

I.3.9.2 Histopathologic analysis of gastric tissue samples

After removal, the stomach of each animal was opened through the longer curvature with sterile surgical instruments. Urease activity was determined in one half, and the other half was fixed in 10% buffered formalin, trimmed to include all areas of the stomach, then processed by standard methods (**Suvana et al., 2018**) and embedded in paraffin. From each block, two 5 µm sections were made, one being stained by hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) and the other by a Giemsa stain for *H. pylori* detection. All cases were examined in a blind manner by a veterinary pathologist, according to criteria established by **Lee et al. (1997)**. Histopathological examination done for stomach specimens were ranked according to the intensity of *H. pylori* colonization as follows: severe infection (3), moderate infection (2), mild infection (1) and free from infection (0) (**Dixon et al., 1994**). Gastritis was defined by the presence of lymphocytic or neutrophilic infiltration.



Figure 26: Different groups of *In vivo* experimentation

In Giemsa-stained sections, examining the different anatomical regions of the *H. pylori* infected and treated rats, *H. pylori* bacteria colonizing the glands were graded on a scale of 0 to 4 as follows: 0, absence of bacteria; 1, bacteria isolated and randomly distributed; 2, reduced number of bacteria; 3, large number of bacteria and 4, very high number of bacteria (Fig. 27).



Figure 27: *In vivo* protocol steps

I.3.10 Statistical analysis

- ✓ The data from physicochemical composition were subjected to statistical analysis using the R software. Differences between plants were compared at $P < 0.05$ with ANOVA in order to find the statistically significant differences. The assays were realized out in triplicate and the results were expressed as mean values and standard deviation.
- ✓ The data from phytochemical composition and antioxidant activity were analyzed with a statistical software program (SPSS version 20). Differences between plants were compared at $P < 0.05$ with One-Way ANOVA followed by Tukey's post hoc test in order to find the statistically significant differences. The assays were carried out with three repetitions and the results were expressed as mean values and standard deviation.
- ✓ The data of anti-*H. pylori* effect were collected and analyzed statistically by MS Excel 2007 and presented as mean \pm SD of three replicates.

Chapter II:
Results and
discussion

II Results and discussion

II.1 Selection of varieties

As shown in **Table 35** , there are significant differences between the weight of 1000 seeds(g) and germination rate of the different varieties.

Table 35:Weight of 1000 seeds and germination rate of different varieties of cumin and fenugreek seeds

Variety		Algeria	Egypt	India	Morocco	Syria
Fenugreek	Weight of 1000 seeds(g)	16.8±0.25	11.6±0.2	10.2±0.03	10±0.2	10±0.000
	Germination rate(%)	70±0.000	40±0.066	30±0.25	20±0.75	20±0.045
Cumin	Weight of 1000 seeds (g)	10.1±0.033	09.8±0.1	13.6±0.04	10.2±0.00	13.9±0.111
	Germination rate (%)	40±0.05	20±0.3	60±0.05	40±0.05	70±0.025

The choose of varieties depended on the results of weight of 1000 seeds (g) and germination rate(%) of different varieties of fenugreek and cumin, the results showed that the Algerian variety of fenugreek was the best one comparing to the other varieties with a weight of 16.8±0.25g and germination rate of 70±0.000%, while the Syrian variety of cumin presented the higher weight with an amount of 13.9±0.111g and germination rate with percentage of 70±0.025%.

II.2 Physicochemical analysis

The results of physicochemical analysis of plant samples exhibited a great diversity in terms of the parameters including moisture, ash, viscosity, TSS, and electrical conductivity, crude fibers, pectin contents, protein, total sugars and reducing sugars. Significant differences ($p>0.05$) were observed between the parameters as presented in **Table 36**.

Table 36: Results of physicochemical analysis of plant samples

Parameters	Results			
	Garlic	Onion	Fenugreek	Cumin
pH	6.64 ^a ±0.0025	6.08 ^a ±0.00	5.6 ^a ±0.0075	6.5 ^a ±0.0075
Titration acidity (%)	0.67 ^a ±0.00	1.005 ^a ±0.00	3 ^a ±0.00	2.8 ^a ±0.00
Moisture (%)	65.92 ^a ±0.00	91.12 ^a ±0.005	3 ^a ±0.0005	5.6 ^a ±0.00
Ash (%)	1.38 ^a ±0.005	0.29 ^a ±0.00	3 ^a ±0.00	7 ^a ±0.00
TSS (°Brix)	9.16 ^b ±0.0066	6.50 ^b ±0.00	2.8 ^b ±0.82	5.5 ^b ±0.00
CE (mvs)	6.05 ^a ±0.0075	5.22 ^a ±0.0075	18.1 ^a ±0.005	42.8 ^a ±0.00
Viscosity (m/pa/s)	1.62 ^b ±0.00	1.53 ^b ±0.00	2.8 ^b ±0.0003	2.4 ^b ±0.0009
Proteins (%)	18.52 ^b ±0.00	14.10 ^b ±0.0033	26.8 ^b ±0.063	23,1 ^b ±0.25
Fats (%)	1.09 ^b ±0.006	0.94 ^b ±0.006	8.8 ^b ±0.34	21 ^b ±0.00
Fibers (%)	0.75 ^b ±0.003	11.46 ^b ±0.0033	5.1 ^b ±0.00	7.9 ^b ±0.00
Pectins (%)	0.30 ^b ±0.0066	4.40 ^b ±0.00	1.9 ^b ±0.00	2.8 ^b ±0.0033
Total sugars (%)	18.03 ^b ±0.0033	14.14 ^b ±0.0033	6.7 ^b ±0.006	5.3 ^b ±0.00
Reducing sugars (%)	7.88 ^b ±0.0066	12.84 ^b ±0.00	0.5 ^b ±0.00	1 ^b ±0.0033

a, b correspond to the homogeneous groups obtained by the post-hoc Tukey test for each parameter.

The result of pH obtained in garlic was approximately similar in comparison with the results of **Gimenez et al. (1988)** and **Cavallito et Bailey (1944)** which were 6 and 6.5, and higher than the result of **Yin et Cheng (2003)** which was 5.7. While our pH value of onion was nearly similar to the previous data published of **Shenoy et al. (2009)** which was 6.5. pH values found in **Capel abad (2014)**, **Dalloccat-Berno et al. (2014)** and **Petropoulos et al. (2015)** studies were significantly higher with values of 5.96±0.23, 5.50 and 5.2±0.2 respectively. However pH in fenugreek was lower in comparison with the results of **Ahmad Dilshad (2017)** which were in the range of 6.8 and 6.9, however our pH value of cumin was significantly lower to the earlier research of **Al-Snafi (2016)** which was 7.3 and higher than

the result of **Monojit et al. (2017)** which was 3. The pH determined for the two spices taken into consideration is in the range of 6-7, which shown slight acidic character. Otherwise differences on pH can be due to the diversity of the variety, the growing conditions, the degree of ripening and climate (**Ariyama et al.,2006**).

Concerning titratable acidity, no significant difference between garlic and onion was observed ($p=0.134$). **Caruso et al. (2014)**, **Rodriguez et al. (1998)**, **Rodriguez Galdon et al. (2008)** and **Zambrano et al. (1994)** results present a higher value which were in the range of 1.97 to 2.23. **Petropoulos et al. (2015)** result was higher 0.038 ± 0.0 . In the other hand, **Tabaestani et al. (2013)** found that cumin posses a lower value of titratable acidity in confrontation with our result which was 0.7 ± 0.09 . The differences of pH and titratable acidity could be mostly due to the lower water content as well as to different growing conditions (**Ariyama et al., 2006**).

The percentage of moisture content in garlic was comparable to those of **Rasul suleria et al., (2015)**, and **Marina et al., (2014)** which were 65 and 64.58% respectively and significantly higher than the results of **Kallel et al., (2014)**, **Otunola et al., (2010)** which were 3.52 ± 0.03 and 4.55 ± 0.1 respectively. In the other hand, our result was lower than those of **Yin et Cheng (2003)** and **Sampath et al., (2010)** with a value of 77.5 ± 2.3 and 84.09% respectively. However, onion revealed very high percentage of humidity compared to the studies of **Petropoulos et al., (2015)**, and **Shovon et al., (2013)** which were in the range of 88.90 ± 0.54 - $83.99\% \pm 0.05$, and 82.99 ± 0.05 - $82.77\% \pm 0.07$ respectively. While the percentage of moisture content in fenugreek was similar to those of **Abdelmoneim et al. (2008)** which was 4% and significantly higher than the result of **Udayasekhara et al. (1996)** which was 2.4%. However, cumin revealed very low percentage of moisture compared to the result of **Al-Snafi (2016)** which was 8%.

A very highly significant difference between garlic and onion was observed ($p=3.06e-09$). It has been established through various research that food with low moisture content has longer shelf-life with limited deterioration in quality due to microbial activities (**Nwinuka et al., 2005**) which mean that garlic can be stored for long period comparing to onion. The variations in moisture content reported by various investigators could be attributed to the differences in the environmental conditions, the time of harvesting and the storage conditions **Sulieman (1995)**.

Odebanmi et al., (2009) and **Abdou et al., (1972)** showed a similar amount of ash in garlic compared to our results, $1.33\% \pm 0.04$, 1.3% respectively, and lower than those given by **Rasul suleria et al. (2015)** and **Marina et al. (2014)**, with a value of 2.3 and 2.46% respectively. Also, **Kallel et al. (2014)** research showed a very higher ash contents with value of $16.56\% \pm 0.18$. Concerning onion, it was observed that it possessed a high content of ash compared to **Shovon et al. (2013)** results which were ($0.20\text{g} \pm 0.08/100\text{g}$ for Bangladesh onion) and ($0.248\text{g} \pm 0.1/100\text{g}$ for Indian onion) while the present result was lower than those presented by **Petropoulos et al. (2015)** and **Capel abad (2014)** which were in the range of $0.40\% \pm 0.01$ - $0.58\% \pm 0.01$ and $4.43\% \pm 0.05$ respectively.

Awais et al. (2015) showed a similar amount of ash in fenugreek with our results; 3.4% , and lower than those of **Abdelhamid et al. (1984)**, with a value of 7.6% . Concerning cumin, it was observed that it presents a high content of ash in contrast to **Al-Snafi (2016)** result which was 6.5, while the present result was similar to those presented by **Monojit et al. (2017)** which was 7.5% and lower than the maximum limits indicated by the Egyptian Specification Standards [ES: 1930/2008] and by the International Standards Organisation [ISO 9301/2003] which were 8.5% and 12% respectively. Low ash is usually an indication of low inorganic mineral content, the highly significant difference ($p=3.4e-08$) indicates that garlic is richer in inorganic minerals than onion (**Oloyede, 2005**). The variation in the ash content could be due to the soil conditions (**Sulieman, 1995**).

Total soluble solids contents in garlic was higher than onion, concerning onion our result was lower than those of **Petropoulos et al., (2015)** which was $9.95^\circ\text{Brix} \pm 0.9$, also than the range found by **Caruso et al. (2014)**, **Lee et al. (2009)**, **Yoo et al. (2006)** which were from 7.7 to 8.1°Brix . Although **Capel abad (2014)** and **Dalloccat-Berno et al. (2014)** results were significantly higher with an amount of 10.95 ± 0.25 and 11°Brix , respectively.

Also TSS contents in cumin was higher than fenugreek, regarding fenugreek our result was lower than those of **Abdel-Nabey and Damir (1990)**, which was 3.5°Brix , while **Tabaestani et al. (2013)**, found that cumin TSS contents was higher with 7.7°Brix . No significant difference was detected on TSS between fenugreek and cumin ($p=0.000$). However, the significant difference on TSS between garlic and onion ($p=8.92e-05$) may be due to the presence of a linear negative correlation between growth temperature and bulb soluble solids contents (**Coolong and Randle, 2003c**).

Electrical conductivity of garlic was higher than onion, **Fred (1902)** found a higher value 0.0525 mvs for onion, and cumin 35.1 mvs. He concluded that specific conductivity of onion leaves juice is shown to be more than twice compared to juice from bulb. The results of specific conductivity of bulbs onion juice made up from the crude ash indicate that the ash alone was not the cause of the conductivity of the juice, but that the organic compounds were concerned, which confirmed the significant difference ($p=1.45e-07$).

For the viscosity, there is a significant difference between these plants ($p= 0.0475$). **Juszczak and Fortuna (2003)** experiments show that the values of viscosity depend strongly on soluble solids content, the viscosity changed with higher soluble solids content.

The crude proteins level of garlic was approximately comparable to those of **Nwinaka et al. (2005)** and **Otunola et al. (2010)** with a percentage of 17.35 and 15.33% respectively, while the present result was significantly higher than those of **Kallel et al., (2014)** and **Marina et al.,(2014)** with values of 8.43 ± 0.41 , 7.87 ± 0.82 . **Gorinstein et al. (2008)** and **Rasul suleria et al. (2015)** mentioned that their results were lowest with an amount of 1-2%, 2%, however the research of **Yin and Cheng (2003)** showed a higher level of proteins in garlic with $21.3\pm 1.2\%$. Previous studies of **Petropoulos et al. (2015)** and **Lim (2015)**, revealed that onion had a protein content higher than the present result with an amount of (0.62 ± 0.03), (1.1%), respectively.

Regarding fenugreek was approximately comparable to those of **Mullaicharam et al. (2013)** with a value of 25.9%, however our result was significantly higher than those of **Fahad and Al-Jasser (2012)**, with values of 12.9%. While, the found protein content amount in cumin seeds were higher compared to those reported in literature of **Al-Snafi (2016)** and **Monojit et al.(2017)**, which was 18.4 ± 0.16 .

The high crude protein content of garlic comparing to onion ($p=0.00873$) may be due to the presence of active proteinous metabolites. Proteins are essential component of the diet needed for the survival of animals and human, they serve as source of nitrogen in the body system along with the amino acids, good skin, increase in growth and ability to replace the worn-out cells are the quality of protein in the body (**Okolo et al., 2012**). As conclusion, the difference on crude protein content between plants may be due to different cultural practices, soil and environmental conditions (**Sulieman, 1995**).

Concerning crude fats in garlic, our result was higher than those of **Kallel et al. (2014)** and **Marina et al. (2014)** with a percentage of 0.86 ± 0.04 , 0.52 ± 0.01 respectively.

Rahman (2003) and **Gorinstein et al. (2008)** evaluated the chemical composition of garlic and concluded that crude fats contents were significantly lower than the presented result with an amount of 0.1%, 0.2% respectively, while fats contents in garlic found by **Yin et Cheng (2003)** were higher with percentage of $2.6\% \pm 0.4$, in the present data the level of fats was approximately similar to the studies of **Petropoulos et al. (2015)** and **Shovon et al. (2013)** with an amount of $(0.07\% \pm 0.01)$, and $(0.4g \pm 0.06$ for Bangladesh onion) and $(0.721\% \pm 0.05$ for Indian onion) respectively.

Sulieman (1995) evaluated the chemical composition of fenugreek and concluded that crude fats contents were similar to the presented result with an amount of 8.1%, Also our result was higher than those of **Abdelmoneim et al. (2008)** with a percentage of 4%. While, fats contents in cumin found by **Muhammad Sultan et al. (2009)** were higher with percentage of 31.2%, in the present data the level of fats was approximately similar to the studies of **Mengmei et al. (2015)** with an amount of 22.7%.

Statistically, no significant difference was observed between garlic and onion on fats contents ($p=0.0634$), they are not considered as significant source for fatty acids in human diet considering both its low content and the small amounts of average daily consumption. The amount of fats can be affected by many factors including genotype, stage of maturity, growing and climate conditions, harvest time and even post-harvest conditions (**Chun et al., 2006**). The percentage of total lipids of plants differs according to the location and conditions of cultivation (**Abdelmoneim et al., 2008**).

Many studies have been carried out to estimate the amount of fibers present in garlic. **Odebanmi et al. (2009)** found a similar result to our result with an amount of $0.73\% \pm 0.19$. **Marina et al. (2014)** and **Rasul suleria et al. (2015)** present a higher percentage of fibers $2.3\% \pm 0.08$ and 1.5%. Fiber contents in onion were significantly higher in comparison with other studies of **Capel abad (2014)** and **Shovon et al., (2013)** with an amount of $(2.16\% \pm 0.53)$ and $(1.659\% \pm 0.8$ for Indian onion) and $(2.646\% \pm 0.3$ for Bangladesh one), while pectins contents in onion were lower $(4.40\% \pm 0.00)$ than **Lutomsky (1983)** results (10-15%). **Haram (1991)** present a higher percentage of fibers in fenugreek 13%. while pectins contents in fenugreek were lower than **Anita et al. (2006)** result which was 3%. Fibers contents in cumin were significantly lower in comparison with other studies of **Peter (2001)** with an amount of 30%, however pectins percentage was higher than **Mengmei et al. (2015)** result which was 1.7%.

Crude fiber play an important role in maintenance of normal peristaltic movement of the intestinal tract hence, it helps in digestion of food. Very highly significant difference between garlic and onion was observed ($p=7.56 \times 10^{-7}$), that's why the higher fiber content in onion makes it suitable for recommendation for patients who have problems with food digestion (**Okolo et al., 2012**). The reduced levels of crude fiber obtained for garlic present no threat since is not usually consumed in isolation but as adjuncts or additives to other foods. Hence, the low fiber contents serves as a boost to the total dietary fibre of the dishes in which it is used, contrary to onion (**Otunola et al., 2010**). There is evidence that crude fibers has a number of beneficial effects related to its indigestibility in the small intestine (**Aremu et al., 2006**).

Sugars analysis expressed that the percentage of total sugars in garlic was significantly higher than that showed by **Garnier (1961)** which was 1.2%, on the other hand it was lower than the results presented by **Rasul suleria et al. (2015)** with an amount of 28%, While reducing sugars in garlic were higher than the result of **Garnier et al. (1961)** which was 1.2%. Concerning onion, significant differences in total sugars content were also observed compared to previous studies of **Petropoulos et al. (2015)** and **Charles (2013)**, which were ($3.41\% \pm 0.12$) and (6.36%), respectively. Reducing sugars contents in onion were similar ($12.84\% \pm 0.00$) to those found by **Bajaj et al. (1980)** which were (12%). **Petropoulos et al. (2015)** and **Lee et al. (2009)** revealed the presence of glucose and fructose in onion with an amount of ($0.97\% \pm 0.04$) and ($0.36\% \pm 0.01$).

The percentage of total sugars in fenugreek was significantly higher than that showed by **Elmahdy and Elsebaigy (1982)** which was 4.2%. On the other hand, it was lower than the results presented by **Anita et al. (2006)** with an amount of 8.8%, While reducing sugars in fenugreek were similar to the result of **Rajini et al. (2016)** which was 0.5% and lower than **Anita et al. (2006)** result; 0.8%. Concerning cumin, significant differences in total sugars content were also observed compared to previous studies of **Kumar et al. (2015)** which were 2.4%. Reducing sugars contents in cumin were similar to those found by **Kumar et al. (2015)** which were 1.2%.

According to **Mallor et al. (2011)**, total and reducing sugars play an important role for onion sweetness. The present data showed a very high significant difference in total and reducing sugars between the two plants with ($p=0.00122$) and ($p=1.23 \times 10^{-5}$) respectively. The nutritional composition of plants depends on climatic conditions, geographic origin of seeds and cultural practices (**Demarne , 1985**).

II.3 Minerals analysis

The macronutrients, micronutrients and heavy metal contents of cumin and fenugreek seeds were given in **Table 37**. Analysis of the mineral contents showed no significant differences between plant samples.

Table 37: Results of minerals analysis of plant samples

Plants		Garlic	Onion	Fenugreek	Cumin
Minerals (mg/kg)					
Macronutrients	Ca	683±54	4874±235	1445±68	8077±89
	K	16538±811	21012±787	10605±555	14647±501
	Mg	633±55	1142±71	1229±88	2610±111
	P	3765±211	2840±145	5143±366	3817±321
	S	8115±425	7528±369	2648±135	3423±211
Micronutrients	B	6.5±0.04	19.1±0.11	11.8±0.06	22.1±0.14
	Cu	4.73±0.2	9.13±0.5	9.9±0.4	10±0.5
	Fe	55±3	368±19	91±6	133±8
	Zn	22.4±1.2	32.2±1.8	30.9±1.5	37.8±1.8
Heavy metals	Cd	0.040±0.003	0.097±0.002	0.03±0.002	0.1±0.008
	Co	0.210±0.001	0.230±0.001	0.2±0.004	0.2±0.000
	Cr	0.814±0.040	1.191±0.080	0.2±0.007	1±0.009
	Mo	0.227±0.080	0.093±0.002	2±0.900	0.3±0.009
	Ni	0.87±0.04	1.01±0.01	1.3±0.90	1.5±0.11
	Pb	2.71±0.10	3.76±0.06	0.4±0.00	1.4±0.10

According to the present data, minerals and heavy metals profile of garlic showed that it contains potassium as a major mineral in a maximum quantity followed by sulphur, phosphorus, calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc and boron, for the heavy metals the higher percentage was their of copper followed by lead, nickel, chromium, molybdenum, cobalt and cadmium. Extensive research has been carried out to determine the amount of mineral

elements in garlic, and results of **Marina et al. (2014)** were lower than our results with a value of calcium (26.30 ± 0.14 mg/100g), phosphorous (10.19 ± 0.26 mg/100g), iron (5.29 ± 0.08 mg/100g), sodium (4.10 ± 0.14 mg/100g) and magnesium (4.10 ± 0.14 mg/100g), while zinc, copper and manganese were in lowest quantity (0.34 ± 0.17 mg/100g) (0.001 ± 0.00 mg/100g) and (0.001 ± 0.00 mg/100g) respectively. Another research group **Ujowundu et al. (2011)** found that garlic minerals were very lower with an amount of Cu (0.373 mg/100g), Fe (3.48 mg/100g), Ca (1.904 mg/100g), Se (0.02 mg/100g), and Mg (4.334 mg/100g), while zinc was not detected.

Mineral composition of onion differed significantly with previous findings having higher content in K, Mg, P, S and Ca, the present study showed that onion contains potassium as major mineral followed by sulphur, calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, iron, zinc, boron, copper, lead, chromium, nickel, cobalt, cadmium, molybdenum respectively. **Caruso et al. (2014)** reported a higher value compared to our results, potassium was ($1895.5-2643.7$ mg/100g) being the most abundant element in red onion followed by phosphates ($595-685$ mg/100g), calcium ($178.1-251.4$ mg/100g), sodium ($180.4-240.2$ mg/100g), sulphates ($144.6-196.3$ mg/100g), magnesium ($76.2-87.9$ mg/100g), nitrates ($19.4-34.6$ mg/100g), chlorides ($3.14-3.78$ mg/100g), iron ($6.3-6.9$ mg/100g), Zinc ($4.5-4.6$ mg/100g) and copper ($1.2-1.3$ mg/100g) respectively.

Concerning mineral and heavy metals profile of fenugreek, it contains potassium as a major mineral in a maximum quantity followed by sulphur, phosphorus, calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc and boron, for the heavy metals the higher percentage was their of copper followed by lead, nickel, chromium, molybdenum, cobalt and cadmium. Extensive research has been carried out to determine the amount of mineral elements in fenugreek, and results of **Magboul (1986)** were higher than our results with a value of calcium (158 mg/100g), phosphorous (415 mg/100g), iron (22.5 mg/100g), sodium (493 mg/100g), magnesium (1550 mg/100g), potassium (1306 mg/100g), copper (331 mg/100g) and zinc (9.9 mg/100g). The levels of Cu, Fe, Mn and Zn were higher than the levels given by **Ozkutlu et al. (2007)** (9 ± 0.6 mg/kg), (36 ± 3.6 mg/kg), (8 ± 1 mg/kg) and (19 ± 0.9 mg/kg) respectively except Cd which was higher than our result (0.1 ± 1.6 mg/kg). Fenugreek seeds are good source of minerals that helped in a number of physiological functions of body and maintains health status (**Im and Maliakel, 2008**). Although they are required in very low quantities because some trace elements heavy metals including iron, copper, zinc and manganese are essential micronutrients with one or more structural or functional roles for living organisms (**WHO, 1999**). The present study

showed that cumin contains potassium as major mineral followed by calcium, phosphorus, sulphur, magnesium, iron, zinc, boron, copper, lead, chromium, nickel, cobalt, cadmium, molybdenum respectively. **Al-Snafi (2016)** reported a very lower value compared to our results, potassium (35.8mg/100g) was being the most abundant element in cumin followed by calcium (18.6 mg/100g), phosphates (10 mg/100g), magnesium (7.3 mg/100g), sodium (3.4 mg/100g), iron (1.3mg/100g), manganese (0.1mg/100g), copper (0.1mg/100g), selenium (0.1mg/100g) and Zinc (0.1mg/100g). The contents of Cu, Fe, Mn and Zn in cumin reported by **Ozkutlu et al. (2007)** were lower with an amount of (8±0.3 mg/kg), (129±2.1 mg/kg), (14±0.8mg/kg) and (22±0.5 mg/kg) respectively except Cd which was higher (77±1.3 mg/kg). **National Research Council (1989)** indicated that the plants collected from rural areas or grown in less industrialized regions had lower contents of heavy metals than those growing in industrialized regions.

Statistically no significant difference was established concerning mineral profile of garlic and onion ($p > 0.05$), the mineral elements contained in these spices are very important in human nutrition. Sodium, calcium magnesium, and potassium play an important role in the regulation of blood pressure. These elements in particular were reported to have important inter relationships in the control of arterial resistance (**Altura and Altura, 1999**). Zinc and chromium are well known trace elements in diabetes as cofactors for insulin while calcium, magnesium and phosphorus are also essential for bone and teeth formation (**Okwu, 2005**).

The non-detection of Lead (Pb) and Cadmium (Cd) is of great advantage to consumers of these spices as these elements have been reported to be highly toxic even at low concentrations (**Oloyede, 2005**). On the other hand, there is no significant difference between fenugreek and cumin in term of all parameters ($P > 0.05$) except cobalt ($P = 0.345$), Significant differences might be due to the great heterogeneity in the species studied, plant parts used and growing regions (**Ozkutlu et al., 2007**).

II.4 Phytochemical analysis

The results of extraction yield, total phenolic, total flavonoids, condensed and hydrolysable tannins content of plant extracts were summarized in **Table 38**.

The extraction yield (mass of extract/mass of dry matter) was used as an indicator of the effects of the extraction conditions. According to the findings, the extract yield of garlic using maceration method and methanol 70% as solvent was higher (62.87±0.50 %) than red onion (57.38±0.56%), fenugreek (17.66 %) and cumin (14.29 %).

Table 38: Results of extraction yield, total phenolic, total flavonoids, condensed and hydrolysable tannins content of plant extracts

Analysis	Garlic extract	Red onion extract	Fenugreek extract	Cumin extract
Extract yield (%)	62.51 ^b ±0.50	57.35 ^a ±0.56 ^{***}	17.66 ^b ±0.033	14.29 ^a ±0.002
TPC (mg GAE /100g DM)	45 ^a ±1.00	86 ^b ±1.00 ^{***}	115.3 ^b ±0.01	91.6 ^a ±0.001
TFC (mg QE /100g DM)	34.66 ^a ±0.57	43.33 ^b ±0.57 ^{***}	80.98 ^b ±0.066	66.04 ^a ± 0.15
CTC (mg CE /100g DM)	6.8 ^b ±0.34	4.4 ^a ±0.52 ^{**}	2.2 ^b ±0.01	1.8 ^a ±0.033
HTC (mg TAE /100g DM)	0.05 ^a ±0.01	0.22 ^b ±0.04 ^{**}	1 ^b ±0.045	0.205 ^a ±0.001

TPC: Total Phenolic Content; **TFC:** Total Flavonoids Content; **CTC:** Condensed Tannins Content; **HTC:** Hydrolysable Tannins Content; **DM:** Dry Matter; ******* Significant at 0.001 or 0.1% ; ****** Significant at 0.01 or 1%; **a, b** correspond to the homogeneous groups obtained by the post-hoc *Tukey* test for each parameter

In present study, the results showed that cumin extract expresses the higher phenolic content (115.3±0.01 mg GAE/100g DM) than fenugreek extract (91.6±0.001 mg GAE/100g DM), red onion extract (86±1.00 GAE /100g DM) and garlic extract (45±1.00mg GAE /100g DM). In addition for total flavonoid, the highest content was given by fenugreek extract (80.98±0.066 mg QE/100 g DM), as compared to cumin extract (66.04±0.15mg QE/100g DM), red onion extract (43.33 ±0.57mg QE/100 g DM) and garlic extract (34.66 ±0.57mg QE /100g DM).

In contrast to red onion (4.4 ±0.52 mg CE /100g DM), garlic has a higher value of condensed tannins (6.8 ±0.34mg CE /100g DM) and fenugreek showed the higher value of condensed tannins (2.2±0.01 mg CE/100g DM) in comparison with cumin (1.8±0.033mg CE/100g DM). For hydrolysable tannins, results were 0.05 ±0.01mg TAE /100g, 0.22 ±0.04mg TAE /100g, 1±0.045 mg TAE /100g and 0.205±0.001mg TAE /100g DM for garlic, onion, fenugreek and cumin respectively.

Our percentage yield of garlic extract was higher than previous studies findings (**Park and Chin, 2010**), (**Ali and mohsen sabri , 2014**) and (**Bhanot and Shri, 2010**) which were 2.46%, 6% and 7% respectively. According to **Kallel et al. (2014)**, aqueous garlic extract has a higher percentage of extract yield (26.5%) than ethanolic and methanolic garlic extracts, which were 4% and 7% respectively.

Although, **Park and Chin (2010)** reported a percentage yield of 52.38% for red onion extract, however **Bhanot and Shri (2010)** reported a much lower percentage yield of 6.8%.

The result of percentage yield of fenugreek extract was approximately similar to **Abdouli et al. (2014)** result (17.09±1.43%) and higher in comparison with the result of **Sakhira et al. (2016)** which was 4.95 %. Although, the percentage yield of cumin extract was higher to the earlier research of **Megha et al. (2019)** with an amount of 15.93%, and extremely higher than result of **Elghorab et al. (2010)** which was 4.08±0.17%. **Thippeswamy and Naidu (2005)** observed that the high yield extract was given with methanol solvent.

Statistically, there was a significant difference between garlic and red onion ($p=0.000$), and between fenugreek and cumin ($p=0.000$). However, this difference can be due to variety diversity, growing conditions, ripening degree and climate (**Kaoru et al., 2006**). Also, the particle size and shape of samples in extraction process are important factors that affect the yield extraction, another factor that may have affected differences in yield between garlic and red onion is sample pre-treatment (**Ali and Mohsen Sabri , 2014**). The highest extraction yield with aqueous solutions can be attributed to the addition of water, which increases the polarity of the solvents (**Kim et al., 2004**).

The chemical composition of phytochemicals, the extraction method used, the particle size of the sample, the solvent used, as well as the presence of interfering substances affect the extraction yield (**Do et al., 2014**).

This latter depends on the solvent with different polarities, extraction time, pH, temperature, and composition of the sample solvent and composition of sample are known as the most significant parameters, under the same extraction time and temperature (**Silva et al., 2014**).

Similarly, this difference may be due to greater solubility in methanol than in other solvents of extractable bioactive components such as carbohydrates and proteins. The difference in extract yields may be due to the difference in solvent polarities used, which also plays a key role in increasing phytochemical compound solubility (**Silva et al., 2014; Naima et al., 2015**). Variations in the structure of phytochemical molecules also determine their solubility in solvents with different polarities (**Felhi et al., 2017**).

The total phenolic content of garlic was approximately comparable to that found in many studies (**Chekki et al., 2014**) and (**Jastrzebski et al., 2007**); with 43.6 mg GAE /100g

and 49.3 mg GAE /100g respectively, while the present result was significantly higher than that reported by (Nuutila *et al.*, 2003) and (Sarafa *et al.*, 2016) with values of 11.5 mg GAE /100g and 0.42±0.02 mg GAE /100g respectively. However, the results found in the studies of Lenkova *et al.*(2016), Park *et al.* (2009), Chekki *et al.* (2014) and Kallel *et al.* (2014) were significantly higher with 105.1±18.09 mg GAE /100g, 562.6±1.93 mg GAE /100g, 500-4360 mg GAE /100g and 2283±1.69 mg GAE /100g respectively.

Nuutila *et al.* (2003) found that Giant onion had a total phenolic content of 84.5 mg GAE /100g, which was close to the current result. Petropoulos *et al.* (2015) result was lower in the range of 8.05-10.8 mg GAE /100g. Although several studies have been carried out to estimate the amount of total phenolic contents present in red onion; Sarafa *et al.*(2016), Lu *et al.* (2011), Cheng *et al.* (2013), Skerget *et al.* (2009) and Singh *et al.*(2009) found a higher result than our result, with amounts of 103±0.00 mg GAE /100g, 428 mg GAE /100g, 571±0.20 mg GAE /100g, 6362±2.03 mg GAE /100g and 38470±5.0 mg GAE /100g respectively. The high total phenolic content of red onion compared to garlic (p= 0.000) may be due to differences in the method of sample extraction (e.g. solvent used), wherever, these contradictory results are most likely due to differences in the methodology and the experimental conditions used in the different studies (Nuutila *et al.*, 2003).

Total phenolic compounds contents of fenugreek were significantly lower than those of Kaviarasan *et al.*(2004), Sakhira *et al.*(2017), Abdouli *et al.*(2012), Idries Muhsan (2014) and Taha *et al.*(2004), with values of 480 mg GAE /100g, 589±0.02 mg GAE /100g, 1260 mg GAE /100g, 2300 mg GAE /100g and 5430 mg GAE /100g respectively. However result of Benziane *et al.* (2019) study about aqueous extract of fenugreek was extremely lower than the present result 18.9 mg GAE /100g. While many studies have been carried out to estimate the amount of total phenolic contents present in cumin found a higher results than our result Shan *et al.* (2005), Bettaeib *et al.* (2011), Liangliang *et al.* (2014), Thippeswamy and Naidu (2005), Bettaeib *et al.* (2012), Bettaeib *et al.* (2010), Aljuhaimi and Ghafoor (2013), Munuswamy and Ramachandiran (2014) and Elghorab (2010) with an amount of 230 mg GAE /100g, 333-431 mg GAE /100g, 685mg GAE /100g, 900 mg GAE /100g, 1832±0.23 mg GAE /100g, 1920 mg GAE /100g, 2466 mg GAE /100g, 2950±0.58 mg GAE /100g and 3530 mg GAE /100g respectively.

In general, red onion had higher phenolic content than garlic; variations found between these two plants may be due to differences in their genetic composition and growing

conditions, which have a strong influence on the levels of phenolic compounds (**Soto et al., 2016**).

The difference in phenolic composition between fenugreek and cumin ($p= 0.000$) could be due to method of extraction, plant organ, type of cultivar, time of harvest, conditions of storage, and genetic or geographical origin (**Lawrence, 2002**).

The season and sunlight duration are also known to affect the plant metabolism since some compounds may be accumulated at a particular time to respond to environmental changes (**Koenen, 2001**).

Several studies have also shown that solvent polarity contributes to substantially different phenolic compound extraction capacities in plants (**Parida et al., 2004; Galvez et al., 2005**).

The higher phenolic acid levels in methanolic extracts could be due to extraction of both non polar and semi polar soluble phenolic acids (**Thippeswamy and Naidu, 2005**).

Total flavonoids analysis revealed that garlic contains significantly more total flavonoids content than that reported by **Soto et al. (2016)** which was in the range of 7 ± 0.007 - 11 ± 0.02 mg QE/100 g. On the other hand, it was approximately similar to the findings of **Chekki et al. (2014)** and **Shuxia chen et al. (2013)**, which were in the range of 0.42-59.5 mg QE/100 g and 7.5-67.5 mg QE/100 g, respectively. **Kallel et al. (2014)**, **Sarafa et al. (2016)** and **Moumen et al. (2016)** found an increased amount; 60 mg QE/100 g, 113 ± 0.01 mg QE/100 g, and 1521 ± 0.93 mg QE/100 g respectively.

Significant variations in total flavonoids content were also found in red onion compared to previous studies of **Soto et al. (2016)** and **Abuga (2014)** with values of 8 ± 0.008 - 18 ± 0.033 mg QE/100 g, and 10 ± 0.69 mg QE/100 g, respectively. Other researchers, **Cheng et al. (2013)**, **Sarafa et al. (2016)**, **Skerget et al. (2009)** and **Singh et al. (2009)** found higher contents ; 165.8 ± 0.41 mg QE/100 g, 366 ± 0.01 mg QE/100 g, 1376 ± 0.41 mg QE/100 g and 16520 ± 3.2 mg QE/100 g, respectively.

Total flavonoids analysis expressed that the amount of total flavonoids contents in fenugreek were higher than the amounts of **Abdouli et al. (2012)**, **Abdouli et al. (2014)** and **Bukhari et al. (2008)** which were 0.77mg QE/100 g, 31.8 mg QE/100 g and 20.8-65.3mg QE /100g respectively, however, **Sakhira et al. (2017)**, **Rahmani et al. (2018)** and **Yaser et al. (2013)** revealed a raised amount: 136 to 274 mg QE /100g, 145 mg QE /100 g , 377.8 mg QE/100 g and 4990 mg/100g respectively. Regarding cumin, significant differences in total

flavonoids contents were remarked relatively to previous study of **Rebey et al. (2011)** with a value of 56 mg QE /100g for Tunisian cumin seeds and 88 mg QE /100g for Indian cumin seeds; While our amount was significantly higher than that showed by **Munuswamy and Ramachandiran (2014)** (15.1mg QE/100 g). However other researchers, **Zhang et al. (2014)**; **Rebey et al. (2012)** and **Deepshikha Gupta (2013)** found a higher contents 102 mg QE/100 g ,560 mg QE/100 g and 4656 mg QE/100 g respectively.

TPC and TFC variability in garlic can be due to a numerous cultivar characteristics, but clove size must be taken into account because it has an indirect effect on the final concentration of phenolic compounds (**Lu et al., 2011**). Different garlic cultivars had different phenolic contents, according to previous study (**Chen et al., 2013**). The present data revealed a highly significant difference in total flavonoids between the two plants ($p=0.000$), which can be explained by several factors, including experimental parameters and natural qualitative and quantitative variability in the raw material (**Chen et al., 2013**).

The significant differences between plants ($p= 0.000$) in the term of flavonoids were explained by several factors such as genotypic and environmental differences within species (**Srinivasan, 2005**), choice of parts tested (**Kumar, 1997**), time of taking samples (**Gao et al.,2000**) and determination methods (**Pizzale et al.,2002**).

The presence of condensed tannins in garlic agreed with the report of **Nwinuka et al. (2005)** and **Sarafa et al. (2016)** with a significant differences; 0.01 ± 0.0 mg CE/100g, 0.82 ± 0.01 mg CE/100g respectively. **Moumen et al. (2016)** observed that garlic methanolic extract showed the highest amount of condensed tannins 3.01 ± 0.39 mg CE/100g compared to aqueous and ethanolic extract; 1.35 ± 0.5 mg CE/100g and 0.69 ± 0.2 mg CE/100g respectively.

Furthermore, a lower condensed tannins content was recorded in red onion in comparison with garlic ($p=0.003$), the present result was similar to **Abuga (2014)** result; 4.99 ± 0.06 mg CE/100g , higher to **Nwinuka et al. (2005)** result; 0.01 ± 0.01 mg CE/100g and lower to **Sarafa et al. (2016)** result; 9.82 ± 0.02 mg CE/100g.

The presence of condensed tannins in fenugreek accord with the results of **Abdouli et al.(2014)**, **Abdouli et al. (2012)** and **Almaamari et al. (2016)** with a significant differences 2.3 mg CE/100g, 0.29 mg CE/100g, and 0.78 mg CE/100g. **Rahmani et al. (2018)** found a higher value (73 ± 0.013 - 105.1 ± 0.030 mg CE/100mg), although, **Benziane et al., (2019)** observed that fenugreek aqueous extract showed a highest amount of condensed tannins 8.69 mg CE/100g. The level of the present results were lower to that (380 mg/100g DM) reported

in Iranian fenugreek seed genotype (**Naseri et al. (2013)**) and hugely lower than (2000 mg/100g) reported in Yemen genotype (**Yaser et al. 2013**). Measured levels in fenugreek seeds were far below the threshold level (5000 mg/100g DM) mentioned by **Muller-Harvey, (2006)**. Besides, a lower condensed tannins content was recorded in cumin in comparison with fenugreek, the present result was lower to **Rebey et al. (2010)** and Zhang et al. (2014) results 200mg CE/100g, 4228 mg CE/100g, and extremely lower than **Rebey et al. (2011)** with an amount of 6571 mg CE /100g for Tunisian cumin seeds and 6137 mg CE /100g for Indian cumin seeds. Cumin is recognized to contain large amount of tannins (**Uma Pradeep et al., 1993**).

The differences in the term of condensed tannins may be attributed to genetic and climatic factors rather than storage time, processing and extraction methods (**Sarafa et al., 2016**). Condensed tannins are water-soluble phenolic metabolites commonly found in almost all plants parts (**Kunyanga et al., 2014**).

For hydrolysable tannins contents, there was a significant difference between these two plants ($p=0.002$), these findings suggest that the level of hydrolysable tannins is greatly influenced by tissue type, solvents (different polarities), and extraction conditions (**Saleha, 2019**). The difference in findings ($p= 0.000$) may be due to extraction methods and solvents used (**Uma Pradeep et al., 1993**), to different cultivars, growing conditions, maturity stage at harvest, storage conditions and sample preparation method (**Mashkor, 2014**). In contrary to hydrolysable tannins contents, there is no substantial difference between these two plants.

II.5 Phytochemical screening

The results of the qualitative assay of samples were shown in **Table 39** and **Annexe 5**. They revealed the presence of flavonoids, tannins, terpenoids in garlic, as well as anthocyanins and cardiac glycosides in red onion, fenugreek and cumin extracts with moderate difference. On the other hand, reducing compounds, alkaloids, sterols, triterpenes and saponosides were absent in the tested extracts.

The Results of the phytochemical screening of methanolic extracts of the samples did not concur with **Gazuwa et al. (2013)** data, who reported the absence of tannins, saponins and phenolics in red onion and garlic. The presence of flavonoids and tannins in garlic and red onion agreed with the report of **Nwinuka et al. (2005)** but contradicted **Green et al. (1997)** result.

Table 39: Results of phytochemical screening of plant extracts

Extract Analysis	Garlic	Red onion	Fenugreek	Cumin
Flavonoids	+	++	++	+++
Tannins	+	+++	++	+++
Alkaloids	-	-	-	-
Sterols and triterpenes	-	-	-	-
Terpenoids	++	+++	++	+++
Saponosides	-	-	-	-
Anthocyanins	-	++	+	++
Cardiac glycosides	-	+	++	+++
Reducing compounds	-	-	-	-

(-): absent ; (+): low presence; (++): medium presence; (+++); high presence

The results of the phytochemical screening of methanolic extracts of fenugreek did not exclusively agree with the report of **Asmena et al. (2009)** which shows the absence of flavonoids, tannins and cardiac glycosides, even the presence of alkaloids steroids and carbohydrate. However, **Sumaya et al. (2012)** assent with our study, and found many secondary metabolites in fenugreek extract as like as flavonoids, tannins, phenols, carbohydrate, glycosides, anthocyanin and terpenoids. Further, **Rodolfo et al. (2006)** and **Rahmani et al. (2015)** studies showed the presence of flavonoids, steroids alkaloides, and saponins in fenugreek extract. **Gorinstein et al. (2009)**, also reported the presence of terpenoids, tannins and absence of anthocyanin.

A recent study of **Megha et al. (2019)** concerning qualitative analysis of cumin registered a moderate presence of alkaloids, flavonoids, steroids, carbohydrate, phenol and terpenoids, whereas tannins, saponins, protein, glycosides and cardiac glycosides were reported to be absent in this plant extract. Furthermore, **Himanshu et al. (2014)** reported the richness of cumin extract with alkaloids, glycosides, flavonoids, tannins, terpenoids and phenolic compounds which concur with our results.

This implied that the studied spices are potential sources of phytochemicals, many of which have been confirmed to have medicinal activity as well as physiological activity (**De**

and James, 2002). However, the presence of these vital chemical substances supported the observation of **Pandey (1980)** that plants have some vital chemical substances (alkaloids, carbon compounds, glycosides, tannins and others).

Qualitative and quantitative analysis of important individual phenolics in the spices may help to reveal the structure-activity relationships of antioxidant phenolics and to explain the relationships between total antioxidant activity and total phenolic contents (**Shan et al., 2005**).

II.6 Chromatographic analysis (HPLC)

The molecular separation of garlic, red onion, fenugreek and cumin methanolic extracts was achieved by HPLC at three wavelengths: 254nm, 326nm and 360nm. The findings obtained are visible in the peaks and retention time of chromatograms of each molecule. The results obtained are shown in the chromatograms with peaks and retention time of each molecule (**Fig. 28–31**).

HPLC results revealed the presence of five components in red onion extract (**Fig. 28**), one component in garlic extract (**Fig. 29**), fifteen compounds in cumin extract (**Fig. 30**) and eight compounds in fenugreek (**Fig. 31**). The identification of molecules found in the samples is based on comparing their retention times (Rt) with that of pure standards under the same experimental conditions (**Tab. 40**).

Chromatographic analysis of the samples identified five phytochemical molecules for red onion extract namely: gallic acid, quercetin, rutin, hyperoside and karempferol and one molecule for garlic extract which is gallic acid. On the other hand eight phytochemical compounds could be identified in cumin extract, namely: caffeic acid, isoquercetin, vanillic acid, myricetin 3-0, rutinoside, syringaresinol, citrusine, rosmarinic acid, p-coumaric acid. Seven compounds of fenugreek extract are: gallic acid, sinapic acid, caffeic acid, asterogenic acid, pyrogallol, hyperoside and ferulic acid. The rest of the compounds that appeared on the chromatograms could not be identified.

The polyphenols separated from the red onion extract at retention times of 3.137 min and 3.687 min are of the tannin class, probably Gallic acid derivatives, according to the spectra and absorption maxima.

Flavonoids are isolated from the same extract at retention times of over 10 min, with the ones from 14.734; 16.451; and 17.967 min being probably Quercetol derivatives with maximum absorption at over 350 nm. Among the majority flavonoids in the red onion extract,

the flavonoid from the minute 14.734 represents 48.7%. The flavonoid from minute 10.728 represents 26.5 %, with the rest being in the proportion of less than 10%. There are not many polyphenols in the garlic extract. The only observable component of minute 5.904 is in very low concentration.

Under the same experimental conditions, a comparison of the retention times (Rt) of molecules found in the samples with those of pure standards identified five compounds in the methanolic extracts of red onion (Gallic acid, Quercetin, Rutin, Hyperoside, and Karemperol), as well as one compound in garlic (Gallic acid) and two other compounds that could not be identified.

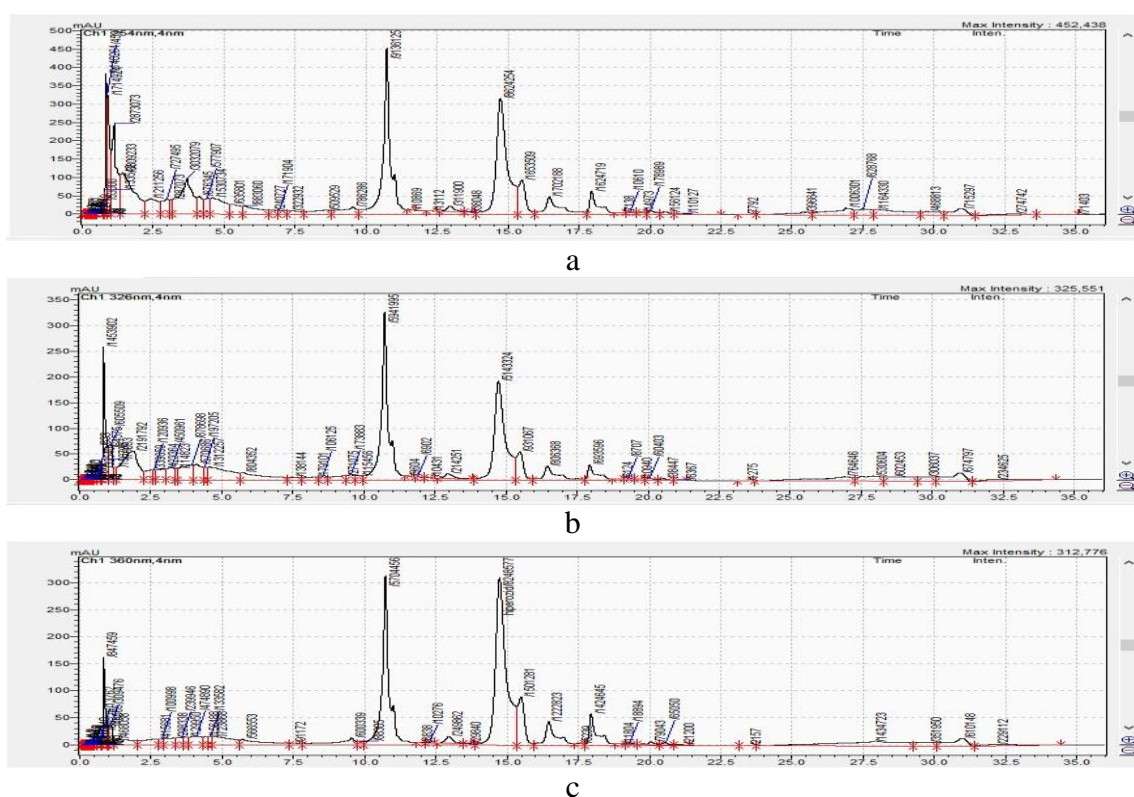


Figure 28: HPLC chromatogram of red onion dry extract at 254 nm, 326 nm and 360 nm (a: 254 nm, b: 326 nm, c: 360 nm)



Figure 29: HPLC chromatogram of garlic dry extract at 254 nm

In the cumin extract, it is observed the separation of flavonoids at retention times between 10 and 20 min, but which are not derived from quercetin, having absorption maxima between 330 and 345 nm. At minute 20.030, a polyphenol appears that seems to be of the tannin class, probably a complex or condensed tannin. Tannins also appear at 4.864 min and 7.881 min, respectively. At retention times of more than 20 min, polyphenols appear that seems to be of the coumarin class. Cumin extract appears to be the richest in polyphenols.

Among the flavonoids, those from 14.322 min and 12.280 min respectively, that are the majority, representing 30.5% and 20.8%, respectively, of the total of the most important polyphenols. The rest are under 11%.

Table 40: Polyphenolic compounds of plant extracts analyzed by HPLC

Extract	Compound	Retention time (min)
Red onion	Gallic acid	3.137
	Unknown	3.687
	Quercitin	10.728
	Rutin	14.734
	Hyperoside	15.490
	Unknown	16.451
	Karempferol	17.967
Garlic	Gallic acid	5.904
Cumin	/	4.684
	/	7.881
	/	10.812
	Caffeic acid	12.280
	/	14.322
	Isoquercetine	15.165
	/	15.857
	Vanillic acid	15.835
	/	18.179
	Syringaresinol	19.007
	/	19.487
	Myricetine 3-0 pentoside	20.030
	Citrusine	20.602
	Rosmarinic acid	21.197
	P-Coumaric acid	25.719
Fenugreek	Gallic acid	3.115
	Sinapic acid	7.577
	Caffeic acid	9.838
	Asterogenic acid	10.146
	/	10.657
	Pyrogallol	11.957
	Hyperoside	16.480
	Ferulic acid	17.647

/: Unidentified compound

In the case of fenugreek extract at 3.115 min a tannin is separated, probably a gallic acid derivative, then at minutes 7.577, 10.146, 10.657 and 11.957 flavonoids with maximum absorption between 330 and 340 nm, and at over 15 minutes polyphenols that seems to be from coumarin class. At minute 9.838, a polyphenol with a spectrum specific to caffeic acid derivatives appears. Among the majority flavonoids, the predominant quantity is the one from minute 10.657, this being in proportion of 47.3%, and the component separated at 11.957 min in proportion of 26.9%.

Previous study concerning characterization of secondary metabolites in red onion observed the presence of Quercetin, Protocatechuic acid, Spiraeoside, Tyrosine, Vanillic acid and Hydroxybenzoic acid (**Lachman et al., 1997**). Afterwards, **Lachman et al. (2002)** found that phytochemical characterization of different cultivars of onion (red, yellow and white) revealed the presence of six phenolic compounds with Spiraeoside, Rutin and Quercetin as major constituents, as well as three other unidentified compounds. Different onion varieties (Nirvana, DPS 1032, Yellow 2025, King-Midas, and SBO 133) are one of the highly rich sources of main flavonols, Quercetin (**Sellappan and Akoh, 2002**). In contrast to other vegetables, onions have a 5–10 times higher overall Quercetin content (347 mg/kg). The most common flavonol, Quercetin, is present in both bound and free forms (**Leighton et al., 1992**).

Quercetin-monoglycosides spiraeoside (4'-O- β -D-glucoside), 3-O- β -D-glucoside, 3'-O- β -D-glucoside, and 7-O- β -D-glucoside are very highly manifested (**Ioku et al., 2001**). There are also kaempferol-glycosides present at minor amounts 3,4'-O- β -D-diglucoside, 7,4'-O- β -D-diglucoside, 3-O-sophoroside-7-O- β -D-glucuronide, 4'-O- β -D-glucoside. Another type of flavonols – isorhamnetin – is present only in yellow and red cultivars of onion in both free and bound form in glycosides as: 3,4'-O- β -D-diglucoside, 4'-O- β -D-glucoside and 3-O- β -D-glucoside (**Park and Lee, 1996**).

Eleven major phenol compounds were identified in peel and skin of some onion cultivars (Donna, Barito and Hy Park): Quercetin-3,7,4-triglucoside, p-hydroxybenzoic acid, Quercetin-7,4-diglucoside, Vanillic acid, Quercetin-3,4-diglucoside, Quercetin-3-O glucoside, Kaempferol-3-O-glucoside, Isorhamnetin-3-O-glucoside, Quercetin-4-O-glucoside, Quercetin and Kaempferol (**Burri et al., 2017**).

Many studies on the phenolic profile of different onion cultivars reported that the only phenolic compound found in detectable quantities was Quercetin (**Hertog et al., 1992; Mian**

and Mohamed (2001); Sultana and Anwar, 2008; and Zill-e-Huma et al., 2011). Quercetin and Gallic acid were the two phenol compounds found in the hydrolyzed extract of garlic and onion (Soto et al., 2016). Our results obtained for garlic cultivars were close to those of Sultana and Anwar (2008), who found no detectable amounts of Quercetin and Kaempferol.

Numerous study about characterization of secondary metabolites in cumin observed the presence of coumaric acid, luteolin, syringic acid, cinnamic acid for Tunisian cumin seeds and trans-2 dihydrocinnamic acid and flavone for Indian cumin seeds Rebey et al. (2011). Eventually, Rebey et al. (2012) found that phytochemical characterization of cumin revealed the presence of eighteen phenolic compounds including gallic acid, caffeic acid, dihydroxyphenolic acid, dihydroxybenzoic acid, chlorogenic acid, syringic acid, vanillic acid, coumaric acid, ferrulic acid, rosmarinic acid, cinnamic acid, flavonoid, luteolin, catechin, coumarin, apigenin, amentoflavone and flavone. Also, Shan et al. (2005) demonstrated that bioactive compounds present in cumin were phenolic acids, flavonoids, coumarins, caffeic acid, kaempferol and others compounds which weren't determined. Ani et al. (2006) could identified some phenolic compounds in cumin seeds such as gallic, caffeic, ellagic protocatechuic, ferulic acids and also flavonols such as quercetin and kaempferol.

Concerning phenolic profile of fenugreek, some major components were previously found in fenugreek ethanolic extract such as catechin, epicatechin, gallic acid, caffeic acid, coumaric acid, cinnamic acid, vanillic acid (Sakhira et al., 2017) and others in the methanolic extract gallic acid ,chlorogenic acid ,p-coumeric acid ,ferulic acid, sinapic acid and quercetin (Pasha et al., 2017).

Four phytochemical compounds were found in fenugreek aqueous maceration extract namely: genistein, kaempferol, vanillin and myrecitin, while three compounds were identified in aqueous decoction extract namely: kaempferol, rutin, and vanillin (Benziane et al., 2019).

Also, Swati et al. (2014) exhibit that characterization of phenolic compounds present in fenugreek extract by HPLC could identify seven contents: vitexin, isovitexin, kaempferol dirhamnoside, kaempferol rhamnoside, quercetin, luteolin and apigenin. Other research observed that flavonoid glycosides and kaempferol were the two major phenolic compounds found in the aqueous extract of fenugreek (Benayad et al ., 2014).

The significant difference in the phenolic profile obtained by HPLC between plant extracts confirmed the previous results of total phenolic and flavonoids content. These

differences may be due to many factors including genotype, maturity stage, growing and climate conditions, harvest period and even post-harvest conditions (Chun et al., 2006). Furthermore, the results of the characterization by HPLC depend on column's separating strength, flow velocity, and mobile phase composition (Johnson et al., 2011).

II.7 Antioxidant activity

The results of the antioxidant activity of plants extracts carried out by DPPH radical scavenging activities were summarized in **Table 41**. They showed that methanolic extract of red onion had the strongest radical-scavenging effect compared to garlic methanolic extract.

Table 41: Results of evaluation of antioxidant activity of plant extracts

Plant extract	Extract concentration (µg/ml)	Inhibition (%)	IC 50 (µg/ml)
Garlic	1000	54.85	919.87 ^b ±4.43 ***
	500	25.31	
	250	14.76	
	125	02.10	
Red onion	1000	80.79	420.9 ^a ±5.00
	500	68.31	
	250	40.19	
	125	24.35	
Fenugreek	1000	82.57	343.75 ^b ±4.73 ***
	500	80.59	
	250	39.20	
	125	35.84	
Cumin	1000	68.51	588.55 ^a ±5.55
	500	55.04	
	250	24.15	
	125	22.17	

*** Significant at 0.001 or 0.1% ,** Significant at 0.01 or 1%, **a, b** correspond to the homogeneous groups obtained by the post-hoc *Tukey* test for each parameter

The results of our study showed that free radical scavenging activity of garlic was lower than red onion. In terms of IC₅₀, red onion had the lowest value (420.9±0.01 µg /ml), followed by garlic (919.87±0.01 µg/ml). However, these findings clearly show that red onion has more capacity to scavenge the free radicals compared to garlic (p=0.000).

Our study showed that free radical scavenging activity of cumin was lower than fenugreek. Regarding IC₅₀, the lowest value was observed by fenugreek (343.75 ±0.01 µg/ml), followed by cumin (588.55 ±0.01 µg/ml). While, the results establish that fenugreek has more ability to scavenge the free radicals as compared to cumin.

Che et al. (2011) found that garlic extract has a similar IC₅₀ to the current result with an amount of 0.95±0.01 mg/ml, however other researchers revealed a lower radical scavenging activity (**Nuutila et al., 2003**: IC₅₀ 1000 mg/ml), (**Moumen et al., 2016**: IC₅₀ 8.36mg/ml), (**Lenkova et al., 2016**: 17.17%±0.634) and (**Fredotović et al., 2017**: IC₅₀ 82.64 mg/ml), while **Kallel et al. (2014)** study showed a higher radical scavenging activity of garlic: (IC₅₀ 0.64 mg/ml). Regarding red onion, previous studies showed that its radical scavenging activity was higher (**Nuutila et al., 2003**: IC₅₀ 67 mg/ml) and (**Fredotović et al., 2017**: IC₅₀ 77.13mg/ml).

Similarly, according to **Benkeblia (2005)**, garlic has higher free radical scavenging activity than red onion. Similar research conducted in other plants and fruits have shown that high radical scavenging activities are commonly associated with high TPC. For instance, **Lim et al. (2006)** reported that high phenolic content in extracts led to high radical scavenging activity. Several other studies have shown that phenolic compounds contribute to high radical scavenging activity. **Mohd et al. (2006)** suggested that free radical scavenging activity is not due to the phenolics only.

In contrast to our results, **Miller et al. (2000)** found that garlic has a six-fold higher antioxidant activity than onion. The difference is probably at least partially due to the different methods used. **Miller et al. (2000)** extracted the fresh vegetables using 50% methanol whereas, in our study, 70 % methanol was used for extraction. The high antioxidant activity of *Alliums* and especially high DPPH radical scavenger of garlic was reported by numerous investigators (**Velioglu et al., 1998**; **Yin and Cheng, 1998**). However, DPPH radical scavenger activity depended on both phenolics and sulfur compounds of *Alliums*. On the other hand, **Nuutila et al. (2003)** reported that the lowest antioxidant activity was detected in garlic. According to **Benkeblia (2005)** garlic extract reacted faster than other extracts and was the most effective DPPH radical scavenger, followed by purple, red and yellow onion extracts, while green onion extract showed the lowest DPPH radical scavenger.

Sakhira et al. (2017) observed that fenugreek extract own a similar IC₅₀ our result with a concentration of 285,59±2.01 µg/ml with a higher radical scavenging activity, however other researchers present a lower radical scavenging activities such as **Mashkor (2014)** : 65-68% and **Rababah et al. (2004)** : 10%). Regarding cumin, previous study showed that radical scavenging activity of cumin was similar to our result like **Thippeswamy and Naidu (2005)**: IC₅₀ 520 µg/ml, while others present a higher activities such as **Rebey et al. (2011)**: 6.24 µg/ml for Tunisian cumin seeds and 15.14 µg/mL for Indian cumin seeds, **Rebey et al.**

(2012): 20.17 µg/ml and **Zhang et al. (2014)**: 102.42 µg/mL. **Aljuhaimi and Ghafoor (2013)** and **Hinneburg et al. (2006)** studies gave a lower activities with IC₅₀: 825-1124 µg/mL and 2000 µg/ml respectively.

Previous study has suggested that garlic contains phenol, flavonoid, and various sulfur compounds such as disulfide (hydrophobic), and S-ally-(L)-cysteine (SAC, hydrophilic), this latter has high radical scavenging activities (**Colin-Gonzalez et al., 2012**). The number of phenolic compounds and flavonoids has positive correlation with DPPH radical scavenging activities, which is due to hydrogen and electron donation from hydroxyl groups of these compounds (**Rice-Evans et al., 1996**).

In addition, the major differences in antioxidant activity between these two plants (p= 0.000) are primarily due to the difference in the polarity of the solvents used and therefore to the different effects of extractability on the antioxidant compounds (**Djeridane et al., 2006**; **Maisuthisakul et al., 2007**).

It is widely agreed that the antioxidant potential of phenolic compounds is often linked to the chemical composition of individual compounds, depending on a variety of factors, including geographical variation (**Xi et al., 2014**), harvest time (**Fang et al., 2011**), environmental and agronomic conditions (**Liu et al., 2016**), plant botanical components (**Bessada et al., 2016**), and methods of extraction (**Kurihara et al., 2003**).

The literature presents ample evidence for the biological and biomedical activities of cumin including its use as a treatment of a variety of diseases, such as chronic diarrhoea and dyspepsia, acute gastritis, diabetes, and cancer which have generally been ascribed to its bioactive constituents such as phenols and flavonoids. Although, several animal studies and the clinical data show that the use of fenugreek seeds can be useful in lowering cholesterol and blood glucose level. It has been found that compounds present in fenugreek extracts increases bile secretion and a reduction in blood cholesterol, also administration of extracts from fenugreek seeds has a beneficial effect on blood glucose level as it was confirmed by many studies performed in animals and in humans, it seems that such activity of compounds contained in fenugreek seeds is beneficial for people struggling with concomitant diseases in the metabolic syndrome. In this context, the present study allowed to identify bioactive compounds which are economically important as drugs (pharmaceuticals) in medical field (**Mnif and Aifa , 2015**).

II.8 Results of isolation and identification of *H. pylori*

II.8.1 Results of macroscopic and microscopic observation, biochemical identification and antibiogram

After 5 days of incubation at 37°C in a microaerobic atmosphere, the results showed the appearance of small colonies 1 to 2 mm in diameter (**Fig.32 a**). The colonies are grayish or transparent in colour, shiny, round and have a regular outline. Our results are similar to those found by **Medouakh et al. (2006)**, which confirms the morphological characters of *H. pylori*.

Microscopic observation in the fresh state demonstrated that *H. pylori* is a small curved, mobile bacillus (**Fig.32 b**). These results are identical to those found by **Rad et al. (2007)**.

The Gram staining performed from the colonies that have appeared revealed the presence of Gram-negative bacteria (**Fig.32 c**). **Medouakh et al. (2006)** obtained the same results which confirms that it is *H. pylori*.

The results of the biochemical tests confirmed that the strain has positive urease, catalase and oxidase and therefore significant enzymatic activity (**Fig.32 d-f**). The results of the biochemical tests obtained are also found by **Medouakh et al. (2006)**, which confirms that it is *H. pylori*. Also the identification was confirmed by the search for other biochemical characters using API 20 Campy (**Fig.32 g**).

The results of the antibiogram and E test obtained are illustrated in **figure 32 (h-i)** and **table 42**.

The study of the sensitivity of *H. pylori* to antibiotics confirmed excellent results compared to the activity of the most antibiotics used. The antibiogram results obtained for *H. pylori* (**Tab. 42**) showed that it was sensitive to Gentamycin, Erythromycin, Doxycyclin and Metronidazol. On the other hand, it was resistant to Oxacillin, Amoxicillin, Ciprofloxacin and Fusidic acid. The E test, which is a technique of diffusion in an agar medium making it possible to determine the sensitivity and resistance of bacteria to antibiotics and measure the MIC of an antibiotic showed that *H. pylori* strain was resistant to Amoxicillin. The studies of **Rochard (2000)**, indicated that *H. pylori* was sensitive to the following antibiotics: Erythromycin, Gentamycin, Tetracycline and Amoxicillin. Also *H. pylori* was sensitive to Tetracycline and Amoxicillin (**Megraud and Lehours, 2007**). The results obtained by **Tabak and Bensoltane (2012)** observed that *H. pylori* is sensitive to Penicillin, Gentamycin, Amoxicillin, Erythromycin, Chloramphenicol, and Tetracycline.

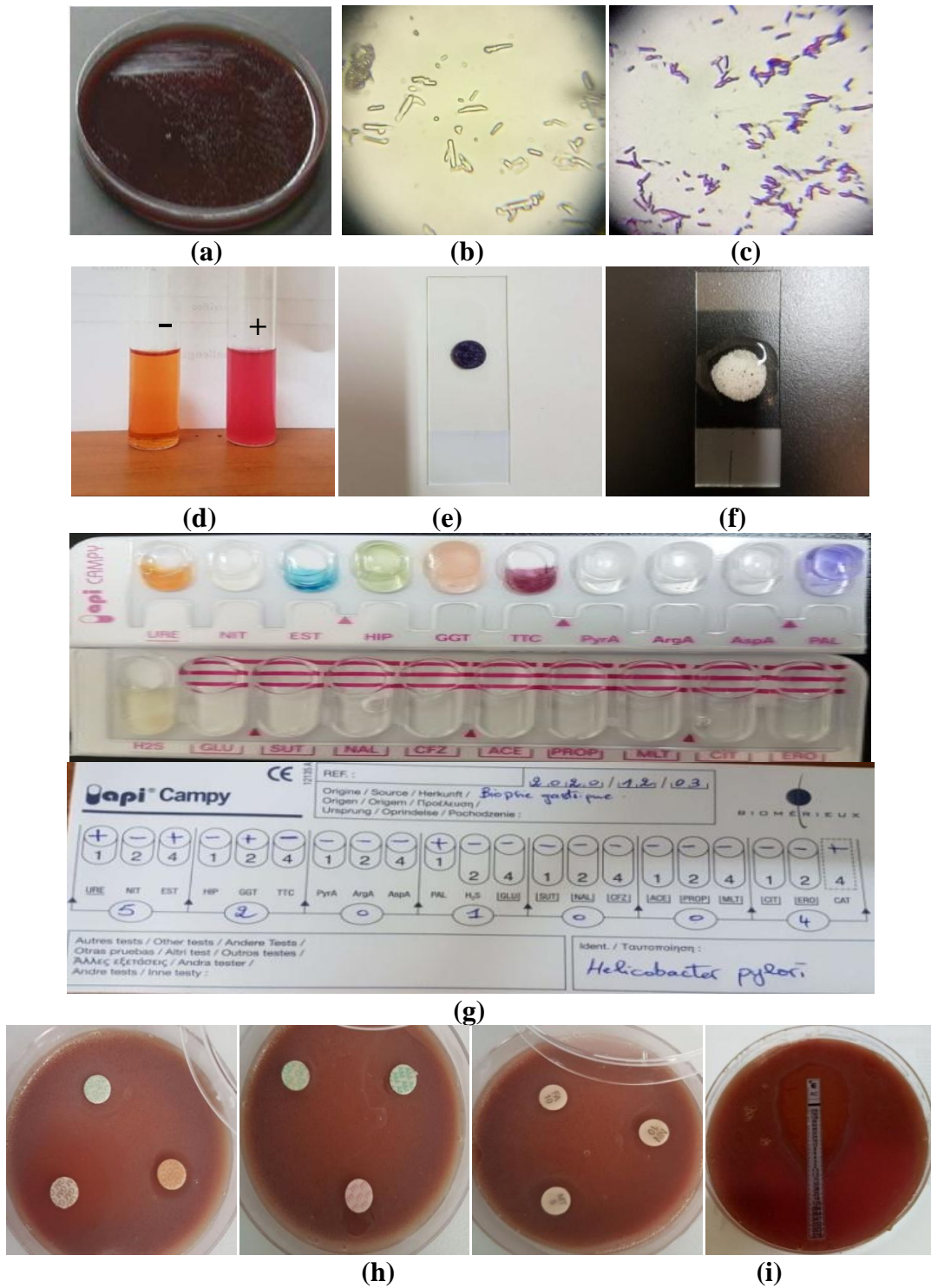


Figure 32: Results of isolation and identification of *H. pylori*

(a): Macroscopic observation, (b): Microscopic observation, (c): Gram staining, (d): Urease test, (e): Oxidase test, (f): Catalase test, (g): Results of API Campy, (h): Antibiogram, (i): E Test.

According to **Van Zwet et al. (1998)**, rare cases of strains resistant to amoxicillin have been reported. They are linked to point mutations in the gene encoding PLP (proteolipid protein) causing a blockage of antibiotic transport. The study of **Liu et al. (2008)** showed that some strains can develop efflux pumps, especially with Clarithromycin, Metranidazole and Tetracycline. So it is important for any infection to test the susceptibility of *H. pylori* strain against those antibiotics to justify their uses in the therapeutic field (**Bardhan et al., 2000**).

Table 42: Results of Antibiogram test against *H. pylori*

Antibiotic	DZI (mm)
Gentamycin	13 S
Oxacillin	08 R
Doxycyclin	12 S
Erythromycin	11 S
Amoxicillin	08 R
Ciprofloxacin	06 R
Nanaomycin	09 S
Fusidic Acid	07 R
Metronidazol	12 S
E Test (CMI) (µg/ml)	1.5
S: Sentitive, R: Resistant	

II.8.2 Results of identification of *H. pylori* by PCR

Real-time PCR assay for the identification of *H. pylori* isolated strain showed amplification curves for the targeted gene (ure C). A 294 bp fragment was obtained in all *H. pylori* isolates after amplification of the ure C gene (**Fig. 33**).

Helicobacter pylori isolated from biopsy samples of gastric ulcer patients was identified by different tests as described above. The detection of the ure C gene of *H. pylori* strain was further confirmed by PCR amplification of ure C gene specific to strain of *H. pylori*. Our results of PCR were similar to previous study of **Lage et al. (1995)** that showed the amplification of curves for the targeted gene (ure C).



Figure 33: PCR-amplified products of the Ure C gene of *H. pylori* visualized by Gel Red TM at 1.5% of agarose gels analyzed by electrophoresis

Complete genome (HP) Sequence ID: CP003486.1 >TA3_P.UR --16..270 of sequence
CAAACCATCGCCGGTTTTAGCGTAATCGCTAAAAATGATATGCCCGCTTTGCTCG
CCTCCAAAATTGGCTTTATTCAATTGCATGCATTCGCTCACAACTTATCCCCAAT
CGCGCAATGCTTCAATTCTAAATCTTGGGATTTTAAGTATTCTTTAAGGGCTAAAT
TACTCATGTTTGTAGCGACAATTGCTTGAGAAGAAAGGGCGTTTTTAGATTTTTGA
TAAACCCCTAACACCCCTAAAAGCTTCACCCG.

II.8.3 Results of revivication and confirmation of probiotics

The results of macroscopic and microscopic examination of probiotics are shown in **Figures 34 and 35**.

The macroscopic study of the cultures makes it possible to describe the appearance of the colonies obtained on MRS media (shape, size, color) and to find the criteria relating to the colonies of *Lactobacilli*, *Bifidobacterium* and *Streptococcus* (**Fig. 34**).

- ✓ *Lactobacillus* are small, about 1mm in diameter, whitish to creamy in color, circular and regular in shape with a smooth surface.
- ✓ *Bifidobacterium* have colony with milky white color or slightly creamy, rounded form with the diameter of 0.1-0.5 mm.
- ✓ *Streptococcus thermophilus* colonies are round with cremated white color and small sizes.

Microscopic observation after Gram staining revealed the presence of Gram-positive bacteria, bacillary, rod and cocci in shape, more or less long, isolated, in pairs, or in chains typical of *Lactobacilli*, *Bifidobacterium* and *Streptococcus* (**Fig. 35**). The results of physiological and biochemical tests allowed the classification of isolates in the genus *Lactobacillus*, *Lactococcus*, *Bifidobacterium* and *Streptococcus*.

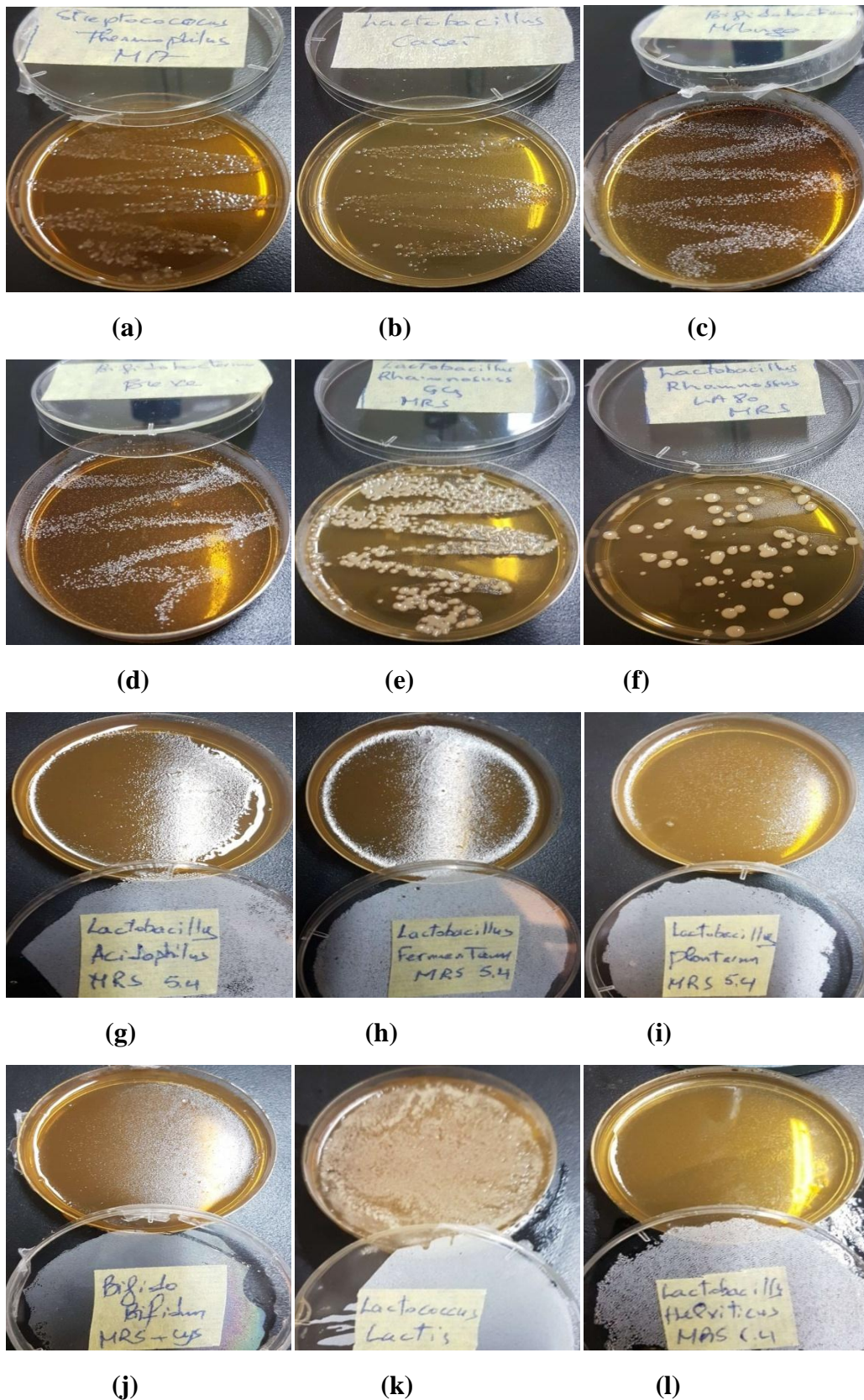


Figure 34: Results of macroscopic examination of probiotics

- (a): *S. thermophilus*, (b): *L. casei*, (c): *B. longum*, (d): *B. breve*, (e): *L. rhamnosus* GG,
 (f): *L. rhamnosus* LA80, (g): *L. acidophilus*, (h): *L. fermentum*, (i): *L. plantarum*,
 (j): *B. bifidum*, (k): *L. lactis*, (l): *L. helveticus*.

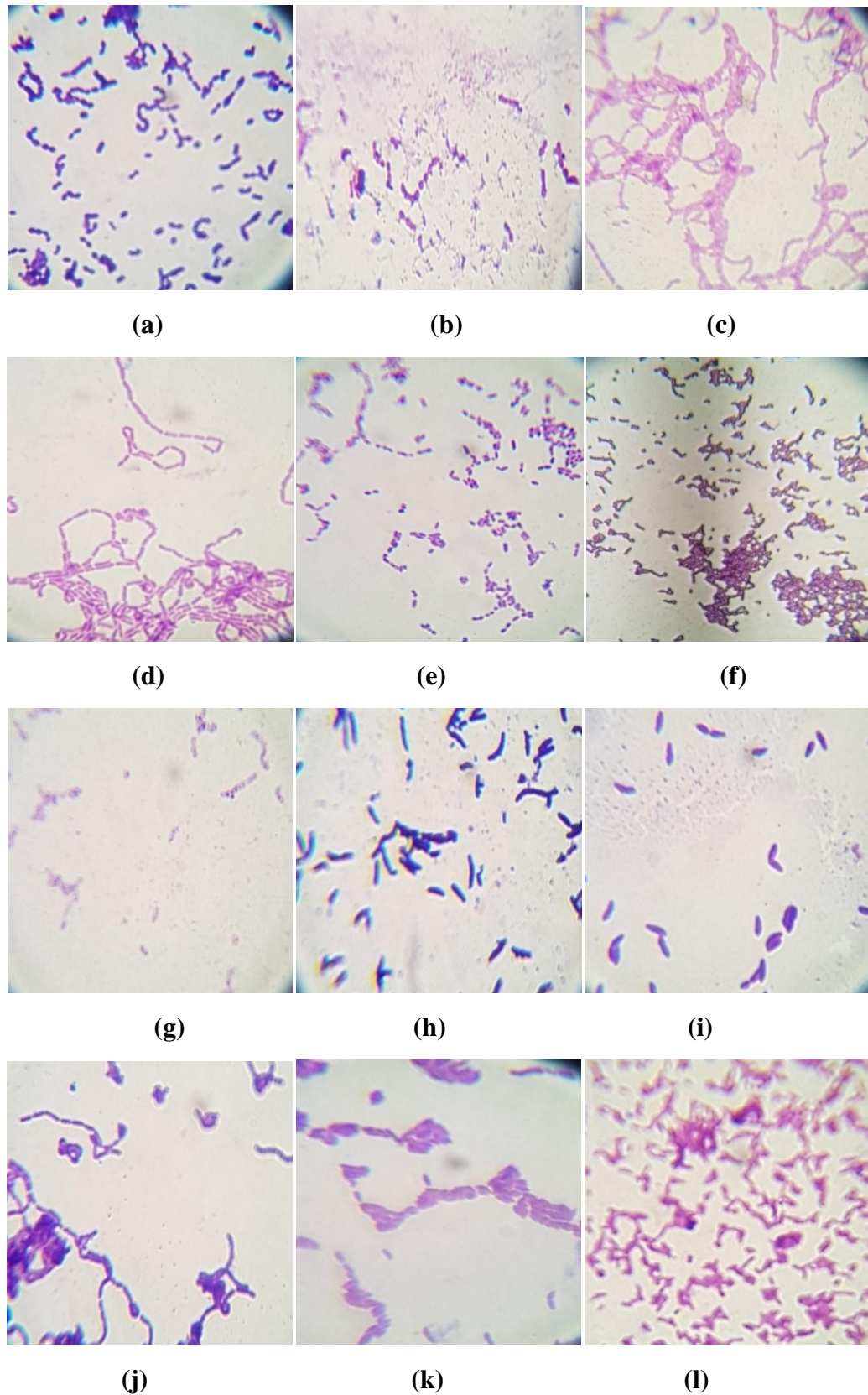


Figure 35: Results of microscopic observation (Gram staining) of probiotics

(a): *S. thermophilus*, **(b):** *L. casei*, **(c):** *B. longum*, **(d):** *B. breve*, **(e):** *L. rhamnosus GG*, **(f):** *L. rhamnosus LA80*, **(g):** *L. acidophilus*, **(h):** *L. fermentum*, **(i):** *L. plantarum*, **(j):** *B. bifidum*, **(k):** *L. lactis*, **(l):** *L. helveticus*.

The results of biochemical confirmation tests of probiotics are shown in the following table:

Table 43: Results of biochemical confirmation tests of probiotics

Strains \ Tests	Gram	Catalase	oxydase	ADH	Glucose fermentation test
<i>B. breve</i>	+	-	-	-	Heterolactic
<i>B. bifidum</i>	+	-	-	-	Heterolactic
<i>B. longum</i>	+	-	-	-	Heterolactic
<i>L. rhamnosus LA80</i>	+	-	-	-	Homolactic
<i>L. rhamnosus GG</i>	+	-	-	-	Homolactic
<i>L. helveticus</i>	+	-	-	+	Heterolactic
<i>L. lactis</i>	+	-	-	-	Heterolactic
<i>S. thermophilus</i>	+	-	-	+	Heterolactic
<i>L. plantarum</i>	+	-	-	+	Homolactic
<i>L. acidophilus</i>	+	-	-	+	Homolactic
<i>L. fermentum</i>	+	-	-	+	Homolactic
<i>L. casei</i>	+	-	-	+	Homolactic

+: Positif; -: Negatif

According to the results obtained from the macroscopic and microscopic examination and the various biochemical tests carried out on the probiotic strains and based on the literature, the identification of these strains has been well confirmed (**Lievins 2000; Wasilewska and Bielecka 2003 ; Hadadji et al. 2005**).

II.8.4 Results of evaluation of anti- *H. pylori* effect of plant extracts

II.8.4.1 Results of determination of DZI of plant extracts using disc diffusion method

The inhibitory effect of the methanolic extracts on the growth of *H. pylori* was shown in **Table 44** The results indicated a concentration dependent increase of the DZI against *H. pylori* for all plant extracts. The DZI started from 6 mm for the different plant extracts at 10 µg initial concentration. High DZI were recorded for the cumin and fenugreek extracts at 90 µg concentrations and above with slight primacy of the fenugreek extract (16.00±0.00) at 1000 µg. According to **Duraffourd et al. (1990)** scale, *H. pylori* was sensitive to garlic and onion extract and very sensitive to cumin and fenugreek extract at concentration of 1000 µg.

Table 44: Results of determination of DZI (mm) of plant extracts against *H. pylori*

Extract Concentrations (µg)	Garlic	Onion	Cumin	Fenugreek
10	6.00±0.00	6.00±0.00	6.00±0.00	6.00±0.00
20	6.00±0.00	6.00±0.00	6.00±0.00	6.00±0.00
30	6.00±0.00	6.00±0.00	6.00±0.00	6.00±0.00
40	6.67±0.58	6.67±0.58	6.67±0.58	6.67±0.58
50	7.00±0.00	7.00±0.00	7.00±0.00	7.00±0.00
60	7.33±0.58	7.33±0.58	7.33±0.58	7.33±0.58
70	7.67±0.58	8.00±0.00	8.00±0.00	8.33±0.58
80	8.00±0.00	8.33±0.58	8.67±0.58	9.00±0.00
90	8.33±0.58	8.67±0.58	9.33±0.58	9.67±0.58
100	9.00±0.00	7.79±0.58	10.33±0.58	10.67±0.58
150	9.67±0.58	10.67±0.58	11.00±1.00	11.33±1.15
250	10.33±0.58	11.33±0.58	12.33±0.58	12.67±0.58
500	11.67±0.58	12.67±0.58	14.33±0.58	14.67±0.58
1000	13.33±0.58	14.67±0.58	15.67±0.58	16.00±0.00

II.8.4.2 Determination of MIC and MBC of plant extracts

The results of plant extracts induced MIC and MBC against *H. pylori* were presented in **Table 45**. The highest MIC and MBC against *H. pylori* were obtained with the fenugreek extract at 100 and 150 µg/ml, respectively. The other extracts rendered as follows: cumin extract 150 µg/ml (MIC) and 250 µg/ml (MBC), while for the onion and garlic extracts, the concentrations needed to be much higher to attain the same MIC and MBCs. This suggested that fenugreek extract provided the best antibacterial effect at the lowest concentrations among all extracts evaluated in the present study.

Table 45: Results of determination of MIC and MBC of plant extracts against *H. pylori*

Plant extract	MIC (µg/ml)	MBC (µg/ml)
Garlic	500	1000
Onion	250	500
Cumin	150	250
Fenugreek	100	150

II.8.4.3 Results of evaluation of growth kinetics of *H. pylori* in the presence of plant extracts

The inhibition kinetics evaluation showed that plants extracts had an antibacterial activity against *H. pylori* (**Fig. 36-37**). Almost similar growth kinetics were recorded for all plant extracts with relatively overlapping curves up to 6 hrs when adding plants extracts, followed by a marked decrease of *H. pylori* growth recorded with the fenugreek extract compared to other extracts.

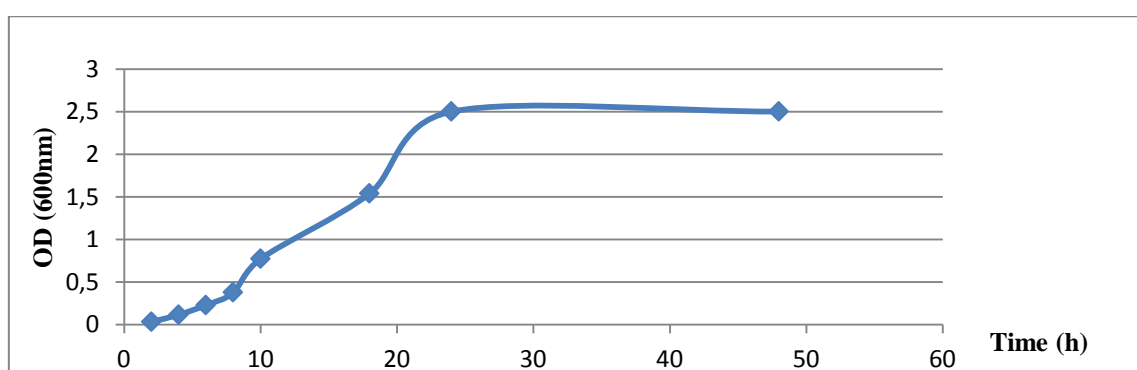


Figure 36: Results of evaluation of growth kinetics of *H. pylori* without plant extracts

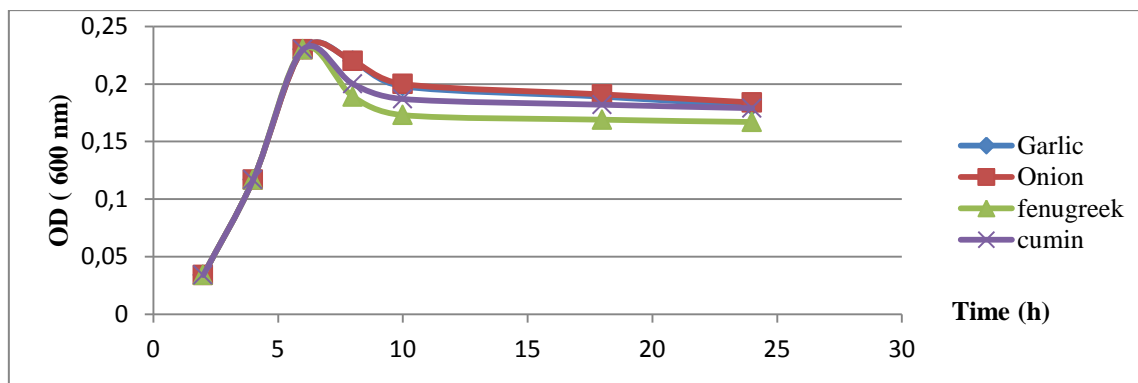


Figure 37: Results of evaluation of growth kinetics of *H. pylori* in the presence of plant extracts

The evaluation of antibacterial effect of methanolic extracts from tested plant materials against *H. pylori* clinical isolates strain using a disc diffusion test and by evaluating the MIC on solid media and MBC on broth media indicated an inhibitory activity in high percentages. The results presented in this study emphasize the significant antibacterial effect of methanol extracts especially for fenugreek extract which was higher than that of cumin, onion and garlic extracts respectively; all tested plants showed substantial, but broadly different anti-*H. pylori* effects with an MBC ranging from 150 to 1000 µg/ml.

Jung et al. (2003) tested the anti-*H. pylori* activity of garlic methanolic extract with disc diffusion method and founded a higher results with DZI of 30 mm. Also **Adeniyi et al. (2006)** noted that methanolic garlic extract exhibited a high effect on *H. pylori* with DZI of 16-19 mm in comparison with our results. While **Tabak et al. (2022)** founded a lower value 8 mm. On the other hand, **Cañizares et al. (2002)** tested ethanolic and aqueous garlic extracts on the inhibition of growth of *H. pylori* and found DZI_s of 45 mm and 12 mm for the ethanolic and aqueous extract respectively.

Concerning onion, **Tabak et al. (2022)** evaluated the anti-*H. pylori* activity of onion methanolic extract and observed that DZI value was 11 mm, this result was lower to the present result, in contrast, **Ramos et al. (2006)** result about aqueous onion extract was similar presenting a DZI of 15 mm.

Randhir and Shetty (2007) studied the inhibition of *H. pylori* using fenugreek aqueous extract, finding result was lower than ours with a DZI of 13 mm.

Regarding cumin, **Nostro et al. (2005)** examined the activity of ethanolic and aqueous extracts of cumin against *H. pylori* against 45 clinical isolated of *H. pylori*. The growth

inhibition was determined by the disc diffusion method, the resulting DZI was 9 and 14 for aqueous and ethanolic extract respectively. Also **Moghaddam (2010)** confirmed the antibacterial effect of cumin extract against *H. pylori*.

Similar results were obtained by other investigators for anti-*H. pylori* activities of the studied plants (determination of MCI and MCB). Thus, **O'Gara et al. (2000)** and **Cellini (1996)** showed that garlic exhibited a potential anti-*H. pylori* effect with MIC ranging from 250 to 500 µg/ml and a MBC ranging from 250 to 500 µg/ml. The *in vitro* anti-*H. pylori* activity of extracts and compounds obtained from garlic has been extensively documented (**Cellini et al., 1996 ; Mahady et al., 2001**). An aqueous garlic extract had an MIC of 40 µg/ml against *H. pylori*, and for other garlic compounds (allicin, ajoenes, vinylthiols, thiosulphinates), the MIC values were approximately 10 to 25 µg/ml (**Sivan et al., 1997; Mahady et al., 2001**). Similarly, the other plants studied in this research represented subject to investigations of other groups. Onion extracts presented a good anti-*H. pylori* activity according to **Yordanov et al. (2017)**, while cumin showed a MIC of 691µg/ml against *H. pylori* (**Nakhaei et al., 2006**), and finally, fenugreek was observed to moderately (68%) inhibit the growth of *H. pylori* according to **Manjegowda and Dharmesh (2012)**.

The bactericidal activity of plant preparations against *H. pylori* significantly depends on the type of the extract and its components, concentration, and the exposure time, as well as the density of the tested bacterial strains (**Ngan et al., 2021**).

The results of phytochemicals analysis showed that all four plants extracts contained components such as phenolic compounds and flavanoids with known biological activity, which could serve as a valuable therapeutic index. The anti-*H. pylori* properties of these extracts may be due to the presence of above mentioned phytochemicals. Further studies are needed to isolate the active components and individually define their activities against *H. pylori*.

II.8.5 Results of evaluation of anti- *H. pylori* effect of probiotics

II.8.5.1 Determination of DZI of probiotics using well diffusion assay

The antibacterial activity of 12 probiotics strains was evaluated *in vitro* by well diffusion method against *H. pylori*. **Table 46** summarizes the microbial growth inhibition of *H. pylori* in the presence of probiotics supernatants. While most probiotic strains (*Lactobacillus* genus) showed mean DZI ranging from 10 to 10.67 mm (*L. rhamnosus* LA80, *L. rhamnosus* GG, *L. helveticus*, *L. lactis*, *S. thermophilus*...etc.), a very high DZI (20.33 ±0.58mm) was recorded for *B. breve* strain.

Table 46: Results of determination of DZI of probiotics against *H. pylori*

Probiotic strains	DZI(mm)
<i>B. breve</i>	20.33 ±0.58
<i>B. bifidum</i>	12.67 ±0.58
<i>B. longum</i>	11.33 ±0.58
<i>L. rhamnosus LA80</i>	10.67 ±0.58
<i>L. rhamnosus GG</i>	10.67 ±0.58
<i>L. helveticus</i>	10.00 ±0.00
<i>L. lactis</i>	10.67 ±0.58
<i>S. thermophilus</i>	10.33 ±0.58
<i>L. plantarum</i>	10.67 ±0.58
<i>L. acidophilus</i>	10.67 ±0.58
<i>L. fermentum</i>	10.33 ±0.58
<i>L. casei</i>	10.00 ±0.00

II.8.5.2 Results of evaluation of growth kinetics of *H. pylori* in the presence of probiotics

The results of evaluation of growth kinetics of *H. pylori* showed a slight decrease in the presence of probiotics (Fig. 38-40). Important inhibition effect was recorded when the cell free supernatant obtained from a culture of probiotics was used, indicating that a diffusible molecule (organic acids) should be present in this supernatant. However, a slightly lower inhibitory effect was obtained using bacteriocin-free and H₂O₂-free (neutralized) supernatants.

✓ Influence of organic acids (lactic and acetic acids)

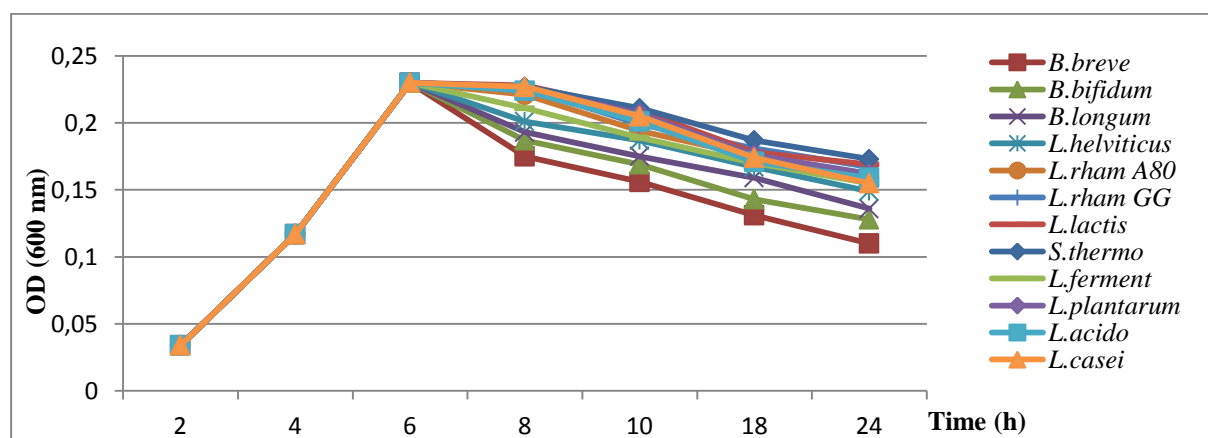


Figure 38: Results of evaluation of growth kinetics of *H. pylori* in the presence of supernatant of probiotics

Among the tested probiotics, *B. breve* was responsible for an important growth decrease of *H. pylori* that could be explained by the high production of organic acids.

✓ **Influence of bacteriocins**

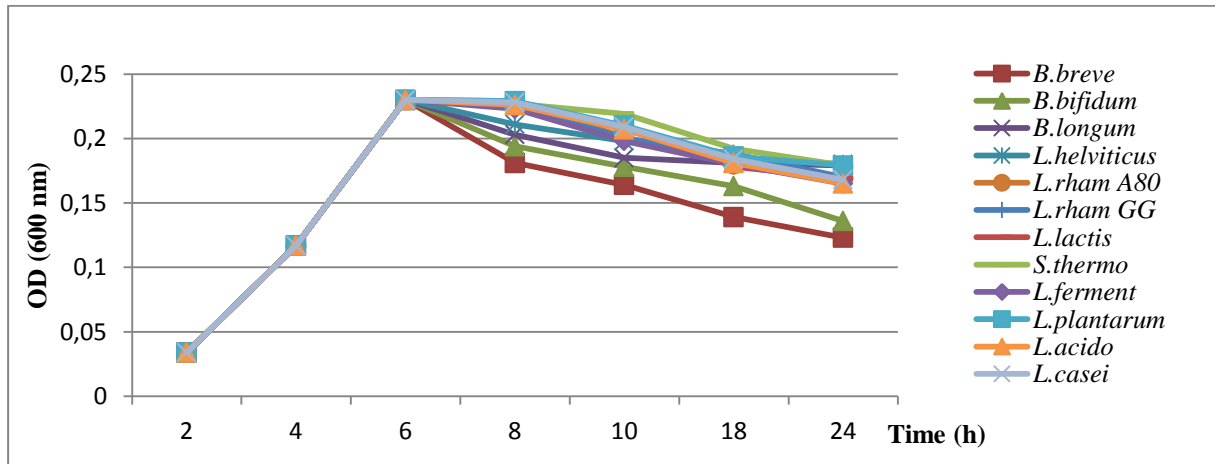


Figure 39: Results of evaluation of growth kinetics of *H. pylori* in the presence of neutralized supernatant of probiotics

Looking at the inhibition by organic acids, a highly reduced growth rate of *H. pylori* was induced by *B. breve*, suggesting its ability to synthesize more bacteriocins than the other tested probiotics.

✓ **Influence of hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂)**

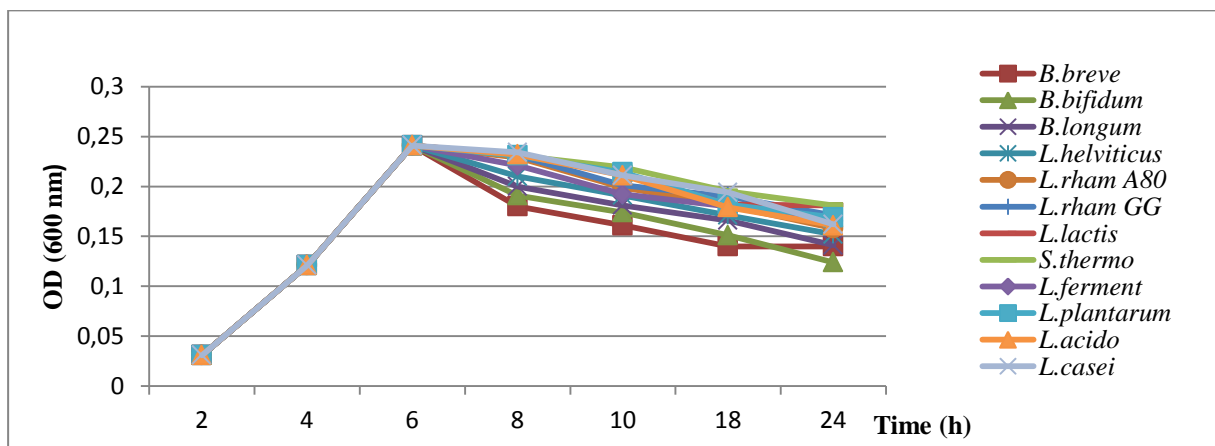


Figure 40: Results of evaluation of growth kinetics of *H. pylori* in the presence of supernatant of probiotics + catalase

No significant changes were observed with the suppression of H₂O₂ activity for all tested bacteria suggesting that it have no effect on *H. pylori* growth.

Out of the tested probiotic strains, *B. breve* showed the highest antibacterial activity against *H. pylori*. Moreover, the antibacterial activity of the other *Bifidobacterium* strains, *B. bifidum* and *B. longum* was also higher than that of the reference strains (*L. rhamnosus* GG, *L. rhamnosus* LA80 and *L. helveticus*) as well as of isolated probiotic strains (*L. fermentum*, *L. plantarum*, *L. casei*, *L. acidophilus*, *L. lactis* and *S. thermophilus*) (Tab. 46). Further studies on the inhibition kinetics showed that *B. breve* present the highest antibacterial activity against *H. pylori* when compared to other probiotic strains (Fig. 38). Regarding the results of growth kinetics of *H. pylori* in the presence of probiotics, when investigating the influence of different variables (organic acids, bacteriocins and hydrogen peroxide), it was clear that the inhibition effect was due to the presence of organic acids such as lactic and acetic acids as well as bacteriocins (Fig. 38-40). Thus, in accordance with the bacterial death criteria of Pearson et al.(2008), the effect of *L. fermentum* UCO-979C strain at 24 h can be considered lethal for *H. pylori*. Further, after repeating this assay at shorter times and using the same Pearson criteria for interpretation of the results, the death of *H. pylori* after 6 h of treatment with *B. breve* was noticed. Nevertheless, other researchers found different results when evaluating the anti- *H. pylori* effect of some probiotics. Bae et al. (2000) investigated the inhibitory effects of different *Bifidobacterium* spp. on the growth of *H. pylori*, and indicated that a significant suppression of *H. pylori* growth occurred especially in the presence of *B. breve*. García et al. (2016) establish that *L. fermentum*, *L. casei* and *L. rhamnosus* induced an inhibition ranging from 2 to 5 mm. Boyanova et al. (2009) when looking at the anti- *H. pylori* effect of some *Lactobacillus* strains indicated that three strains suppressed the growth of >86% of *H. pylori* strains at low pH values and two strains suppressed the growth of >53% of the test strains at neutral pH values. Further studies of Boyanova et al. (2017) revealed that the DZI of some *Lactobacillus* strains were higher, from 13 to 16 mm, while Chen et al. (2019) found that *L. rhamnosus* and *L. acidophilus* exhibited an inhibitory effect against *H. pylori* reference strain 26695 demonstrated by a DZIs of 12.3 and 11.3 mm, respectively. However, Paucar-Carrión et al. (2022) when analysing the anti-*H. pylori* activity of *L. fermentum*, concluded that the activity was mild with DZI between 1 mm and 2mm.

Among probiotics, *Bifidobacterium* is one of the favourites, generally used for the prevention of gastrointestinal infection, and it is commonly incorporated in fermented dairy products or food supplements. *Bifidobacterium* exerts an *in vitro* anti-*H. pylori* effect and inhibits adhesion to the mucosa by competitive exclusion (Chenoll et al., 2011). Several studies have demonstrated a direct relationship between the addition of potential probiotic strains and the *in vitro* inhibition of *H. pylori* growth. Such strains were *Lactobacillus*

acidophilus (Lorca et al., 2001), *Lactobacillus casei* Shirota strain (Sgouras et al., 2004), which, among others, have an antagonistic effect on *H. pylori*. Since most organic acids produced by the *Bifidobacterium* spp. inhibited the growth of *H. pylori*, while the *H. pylori* growth was not inhibited by organic acids produced in some other *Bifidobacteria*-cultured media, it was suggested that those *Bifidobacterium* strains may produce antibiotic-like compounds (bacteriocins) (Bae et al., 2000). The results of the present study confirm the findings of Zacharof and Lovitt (2012) which imply effects of organic acids and other bioactive substances of the *Bifidobacterium* and *Lactobacillus* strains as well as a higher activity of bacteriocins at lower pH values. The activity of the neutralized and catalase-treated supernatants was approximately similar with regard to *H. pylori* growth inhibition effect. Bacteriocin activity depended on numerous factors of the test strains, such as the bacterial cell envelope/membrane composition, reduction in bacteriocin binding/insertion, bacteriocin sequestering and degradation or efflux pumping (Drider et al., 2016).

II.8.6 Results of combined effect of medicinal plants with probiotics on *H. pylori*

II.8.6.1 Determination of DZI of combined mixtures (plant extracts with probiotics) using disc diffusion method

The results of determination of DZI of medicinal plants combined with probiotics against *H. pylori* were shown in Table 47. The combined effect of most probiotics with plant extracts is quite similar except for *B. longum*, *B. bifidum* and *B. breve* showing highly distinct DZI values. The highest DZI values were obtained with all *B. breve* combinations especially with fenugreek extract giving 28.67 ± 0.58 mm DZI against the *H. pylori* strain.

In this study, we confirmed in *in vitro* experiments the inhibitory activity of *B. breve* complex mixture containing fenugreek extracts on *H. pylori*. The fenugreek extract inhibited the growth of *H. pylori* in a dose- dependent manner (100 µg/ml). In addition, the inhibitory effect on *H. pylori* of *B. breve* and fenugreek extract when applied as a complex mixture, rather than individual components, was confirmed to be superior.

Helicobacter pylori was inhibited by all combined mixtures of extracts and probiotics with varying results, while fenugreek / *B. breve*, cumin / *B. breve*, garlic / *B. breve* and onion / *B. breve* combinations exhibited relevant anti-*H.pylori* activities with DZI of 28.67 ± 0.58 , 26.67 ± 0.58 , 24.67 ± 0.58 and 22.67 ± 0.58 mm respectively. Preliminary studies on the effect of probiotics against *H. pylori* revealed that inhibition may be due to lactic acids and bacteriocins. However, the presence of phenolic compounds such as gallic acid, caffeic acid, quercetin, and vanillic acid in plant extracts may also have an influence.

Table 47: Results of determination of DZI (mm) of medicinal plants with probiotics against *H. pylori*

Extracts Probiotics	Garlic	Onion	Cumin	Fenugreek
<i>B.breve</i>	22.67 ±0.58	24.67 ±0.58	26.67 ±0.58	28.67 ±0.58
<i>B. bifidum</i>	14.33 ±0.58	15.67 ±0.58	16.33 ±0.58	17.67 ±0.58
<i>B. longum</i>	13.67 ±0.58	14.33 ±0.58	15.33 ±0.58	16.33 ±0.58
<i>L. rhamnosus LA80</i>	11.67 ±0.58	12.67 ±0.58	13.67 ±0.58	14.33 ±0.58
<i>L. rhamnosu GG</i>	11.67 ±0.58	12.00 ±0.00	12.33 ±0.58	13.00 ±0.00
<i>L. helveticus</i>	11.00 ±0.00	11.67 ±0.58	12.00 ±0.00	12.33 ±0.58
<i>L. lactis</i>	12.00 ±0.00	12.33 ±0.58	12.67 ±0.58	13.67 ±0.58
<i>S. thermophilus</i>	11.67 ±0.58	12.33 ±0.58	13.33 ±0.58	13.67 ±0.58
<i>L. plantarum</i>	11.33 ±0.58	12.33 ±0.58	13.00 ±0.00	13.67 ±0.58
<i>L. acidophilus</i>	11.00 ±0.00	11.67 ±0.58	12.00 ±0.00	12.67 ±0.58
<i>L. fermentum</i>	11.33 ±0.58	12.33 ±0.58	13.00 ±0.00	13.33 ±0.58
<i>L. casei</i>	11.33 ±0.58	12.33 ±0.58	13.33 ±0.58	13.67 ±0.58

II.8.6.2 Evaluation of growth kinetics of *H. pylori* in presence of combined mixtures (plant extracts with probiotics)

The results of evaluation of *H. pylori* growth kinetics showed a remarkable decrease in the presence of probiotics combined with plant extracts (Fig.41-44). All probiotics have induced an important decrease in the growth of *H. pylori* in combination with plant extracts. However, the most notable decrease of growth was recorded with the fenugreek extract when combined to *B. breve* (Fig. 44).

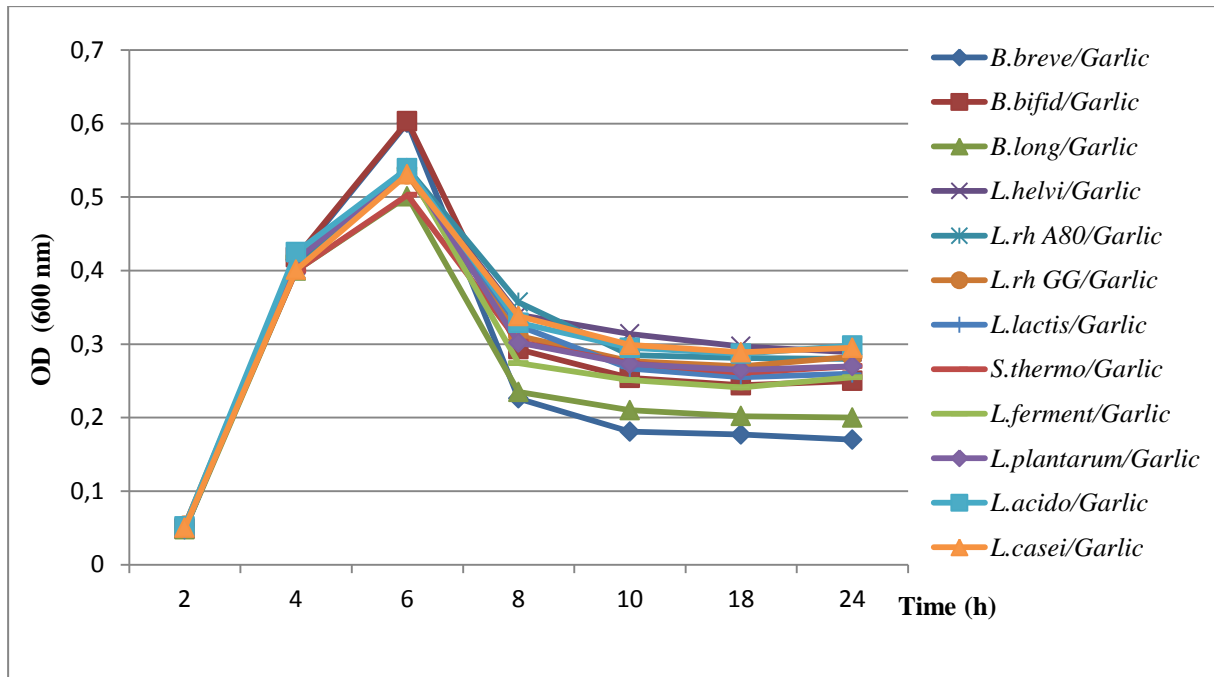


Figure 41: Results of evaluation of growth kinetics of *H. pylori* in the presence of probiotics supernatant + garlic extract

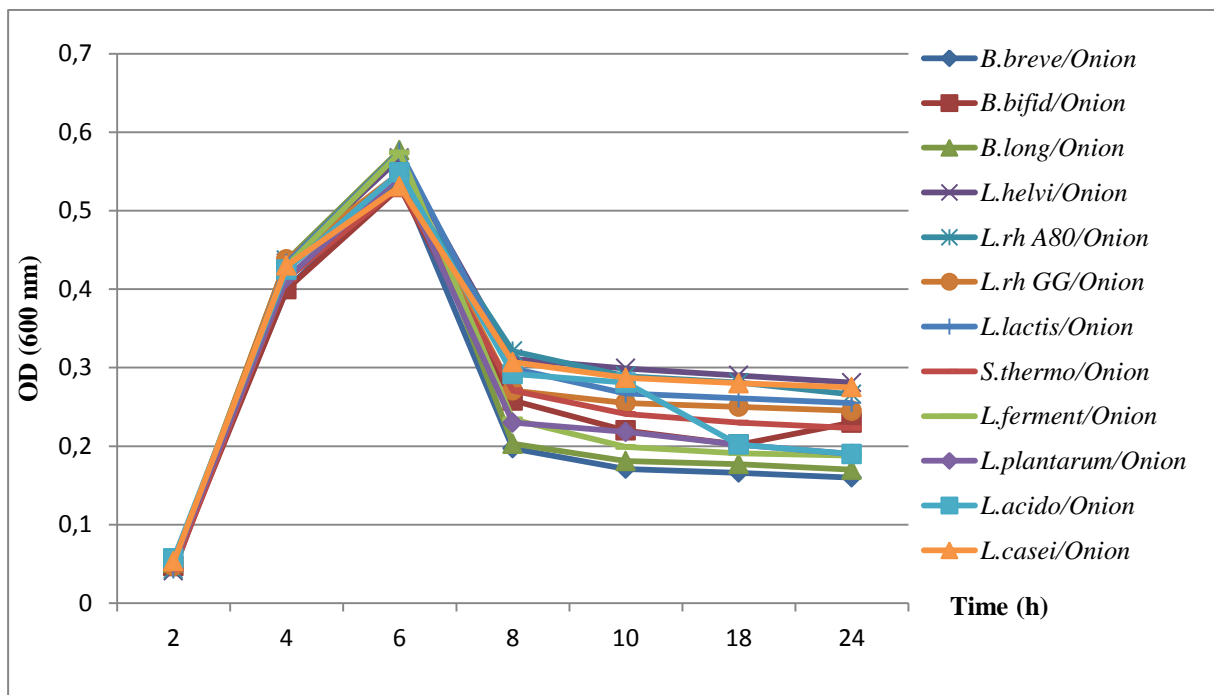


Figure 42: Results of evaluation of growth kinetics of *H. pylori* in the presence of probiotics supernatant + onion extract

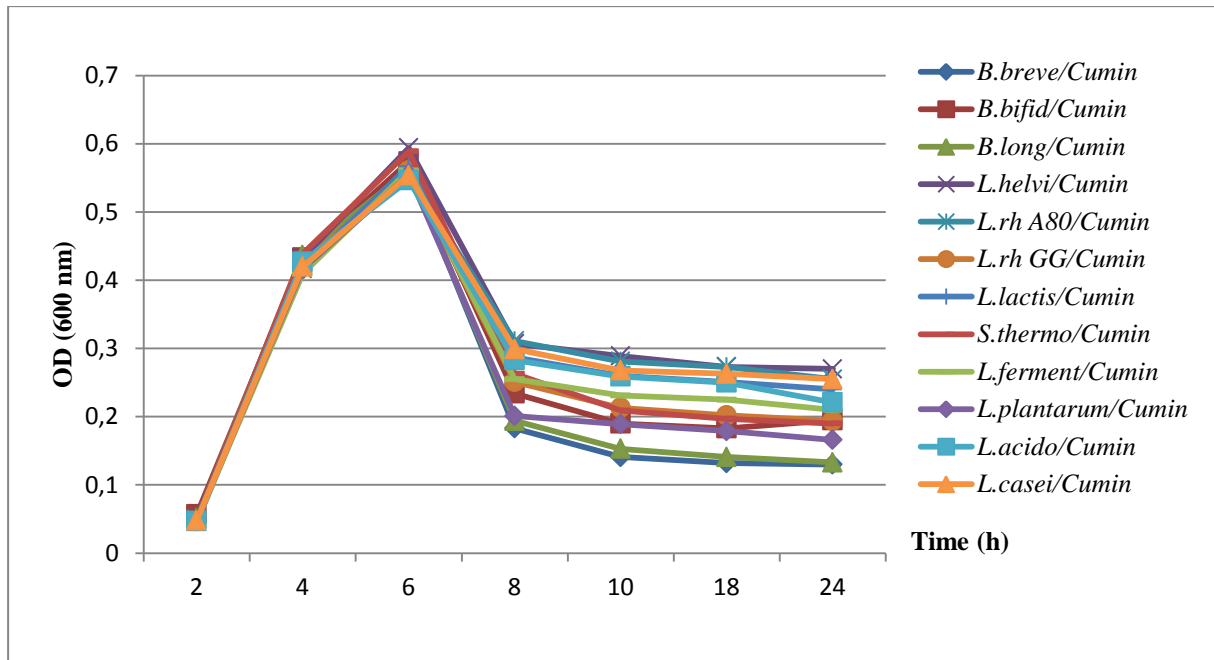


Figure 43: Results of evaluation of growth kinetics of *H. pylori* in the presence of probiotics supernatant + cumin extract

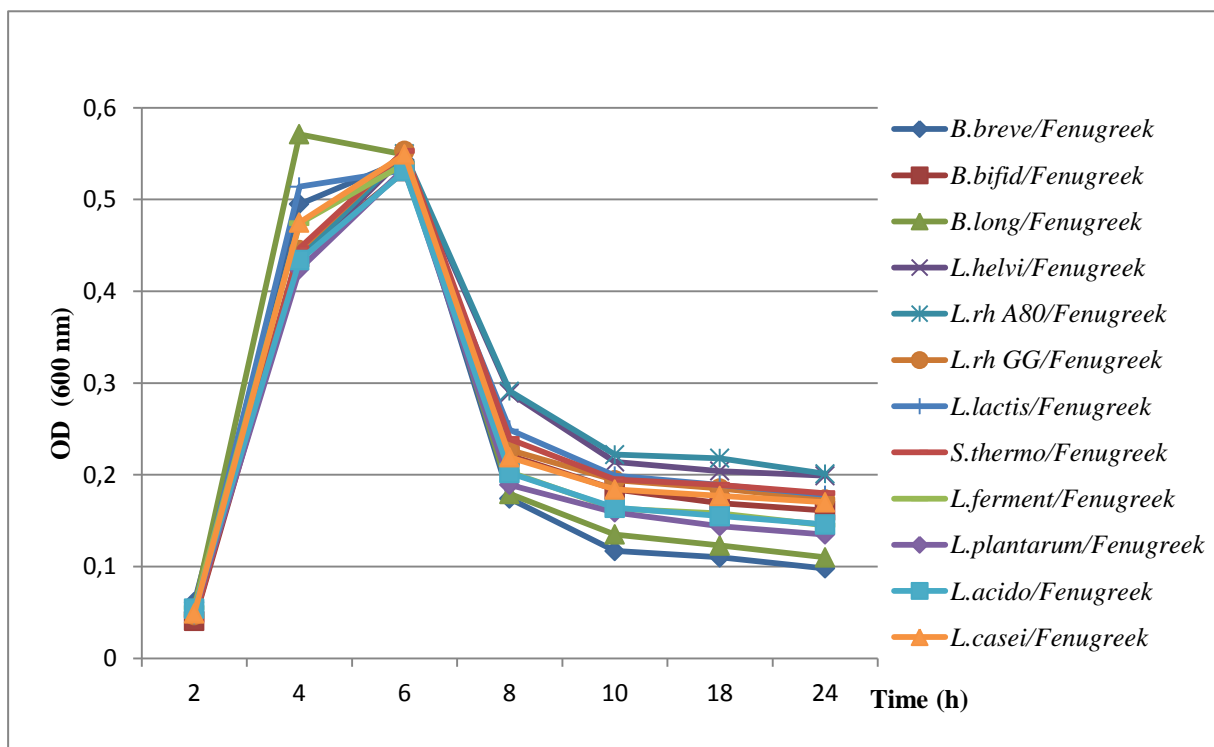


Figure 44: Results of evaluation of growth kinetics of *H. pylori* in the presence of probiotics supernatant + fenugreek extract

Few studies investigate the antimicrobial effects of combinations between probiotics and plants extracts. **Lee et al. (2020)** demonstrated that the treatment with a complex mixture of *L. paracasei* HP7, including the extract of *Perrila frutescens* and *Glycyrrhiza glabra* could inhibit the growth of *H. pylori* and is thus a promising treatment for patients with gastric symptoms, such as gastritis caused by *H. pylori* infection. **Behrad et al. (2009)** recorded that mixture of cinnamon extract, *L. acidophilus* LA-5 and NCFM, *Bifidobacterium* Bb-12, *L. casei* LC-10, and *Streptococcus thermophilus* Th-4 exhibited the strongest inhibitory effect on *H. pylori* growth *in vitro* (13.5mm).

Kanani (2018) studied the eradication of *H. pylori* using a yogurt prepared with a combination between nettle extract (*Urtica dioica*) and *Bifidobacterium* (BF). The main challenge is to transfer these two compounds into an environment containing *H. pylori* such as the stomach. The interaction between nettle extract and BF against *H. pylori* was investigated measuring DZI. The results revealed that nettle extract with *Bifidobacterium* exhibited greater DZI (60 mm) and were more effective in preventing the growth of *H. pylori* due to nettle extract which enhanced BF activity causing the production of more antimicrobial metabolites.

In the study of **Yoon et al. (2019)**, the beneficial effect of fermented milk containing *L. paracasei* HP7 and herbal extract (*Glycyrrhiza glabra*) was evaluated in patients with *H. pylori* infection. The combination of fermented milk containing *L. paracasei* and *G. glabra* reduced *H. pylori* density and improved histological inflammation, even though it failed to eradicate *H. pylori*.

Other studies contradict the synergic effect between plant extracts and probiotics. **Kang et al. (2021)**, investigated the anti-*H. pylori* effects of *Lactobacillus plantarum* (pH3A), monolaurin, grapefruit seed extract, and their synergies *in vitro* and *in vivo*. Monolaurin and grapefruit seed extract suppressed *H. pylori* growth at an MIC of 62.5 ppm. Also *L. plantarum* pH3A significantly inhibited *H. pylori* growth. In the *in vivo* study, *H. pylori* colonization of the mouse stomach was significantly reduced by *L. plantarum* treatment, but the addition of monolaurin or grape fruit seed extract did not contribute to these anti-*H. pylori* activities. Therefore, the *L. plantarum* strain can potentially be applied as an alternative anti-*H. pylori* therapy, but evidence of its synergy with monolaurin or grapefruit seed extract *in vivo* is still lacking. **Sadeghi et al. (2017)** examined the synergistic effect of broccoli sprout extract with probiotics on *H. pylori* growth inhibition and the findings showed a synergistic effect of the mixture on bacterial inhibition and suggest the use broccoli sprout extract and probiotic bacteria in a yogurt form that is effective in the therapy of *H. pylori* infection.

II.9 Results of *in vivo* study

During the acclimation and the experimental periods, most of the rats did not show any treatment-dependent clinical signs, except those in group 9 (HP+TFE+TBB) where severe weight loss that could be attributed to the number of gavage (three consecutive gavages per day) was observed. No gross lesions were observed during the necropsy at the end of the experimental period. The histological results obtained by administering the combination between *B. breve* and fenugreek extract in order to evaluate their effect on *H. pylori*-induced stomach inflammation *in vivo* were shown in **Figure 45**.

The histopathological examination of gastric mucosa showed a moderate inflammatory infiltration in the *antrum* and *fundus* of animals in the non-treated groups infected with *H. pylori* and severe colonization of antral mucosa with *H. pylori* bacteria by use of Giemsa stain. Gastric samples of *H. pylori*-infected animals treated with second line therapy showed reduced number of inflammatory cells in the *lamina propria*, however, no changes of colonizing bacteria were observed in the Giemsa-stained samples. Tissue samples of rats infected with *H. pylori* and treated with TFE2 and TBB showed significant decrease of infiltrating inflammatory cells and colonizing bacteria scores (1-0 and 1-1) for inflammation and colonization, respectively. However, the group of rats receiving the lowest dose of fenugreek extract (TFE1, 150 mg/kg), showed slight decrease in inflammatory infiltration and colonization of gastric mucosa (score 2-2) compared to the higher dose group animals.

All animals in preventive groups showed normal gastric histology with significant reduction of bacterial colonization (score 1). However, the gastric mucosa of treated animals exhibited mild inflammation due to infiltration by lymphocytes from previous *H. pylori* infections. Animals in the *H. pylori* infected group treated with fenugreek extract associated to *B. breve* showed normal gastric histology with total absence of *H. pylori* characteristic forms of colonialization in Giemsa-stained samples.

Data from the current study suggest that administration of TFE, TBB or their associations to *H. pylori* infected rats can moderately reduce the number of *H. pylori* colonizing the gastric mucosa with a important effect on associated gastritis. However, prophylactic administration of TFE, TBB or their associations could prevent gastric inflammation and considerably reduce or completely eliminate *H. pylori* colonization.

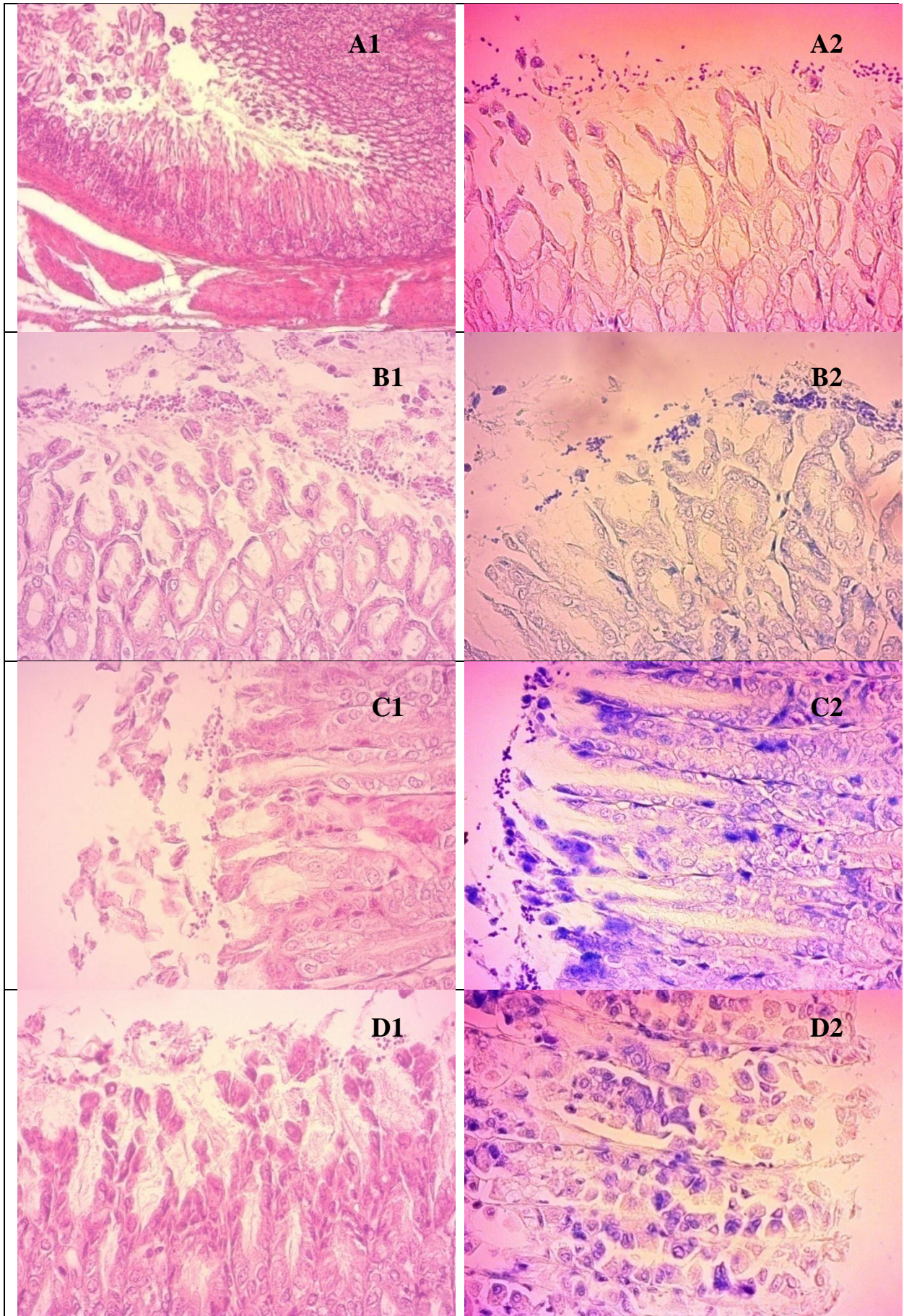


Figure 45 : Histopathologic evaluation of antral gastric samples from *H. pylori* infected rat groups, A non-treated showing moderate inflammatory infiltration in the lamina propria (A1: H&E, x100); note the severe colonization of antral mucosa with *H. pylori* bacteria (A2: Giemsa stain, x400); B, gastric samples of animals treated with second line therapy showed reduced number of inflammatory cells in the lamina propria (B1: H&E, x400), no changes of colonizing bacteria were observed (B2: Giemsa stain, x400); C, treatment with TFE2 and TBB have significantly reduced the severity of inflammatory infiltration (C1: H&E, x400) with slight reduction of bacterial colonization (C2: Giemsa stain, x400); D, tissue from animals in all preventive groups showed normal gastric histology (D1: H&E, x400), with significant reduction of bacterial colonization (D2: Giemsa stain, x400).

In-vivo anti-*H. pylori* activity of the fenugreek extract and/or *B. breve* has been confirmed by histopathological and urease tests. These compounds have suggestively reduced the number of animals with a positive urease test and the number of detected microorganisms in histological sections stained by Giemsa, exceeding even the standard medications, thus preventing the presence of these organisms in the gastric mucosa.

None of the animals in the control and treated groups exhibited atrophy or metaplasia of the gastric mucosa. Similarly, important differences in the antral and fundic mucosa in respect with colonization by *H. pylori* and the associated gastritis were observed between the treated and control groups, as also reported by **Sgouras et al. (2004)**. It has been suggested in previous *in-vivo* studies in rats that the fenugreek extract forms a protective barrier over the gastric epithelial lining due to the presence of galactomannans, *H. pylori* possibly interacting with epithelial cells through secretory molecules (vitexin-7-O-glucoside, vicenin-1, luteolin and orientin) or as a result of adherence (**Figer et al., 2017**).

The significant reduction in the severity of gastritis observed in animals treated with the extract indicated a possible role as an anti-inflammatory and anti-secretory agent (**Pandian et al., 2002; Figer et al., 2017**). However, this gastro-protective action was not attributed exclusively to alteration of gastric pH or acidity since the response of the extract was consistent in both *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies (**Figer et al., 2017**). Also, it has been suggested that the *in vivo* activity of the extract may not result solely from the topical action but may also take place by a systemic component (**Tan et al., 2010**).

Several probiotics showed beneficial effects in animal models of *H. pylori* infection. In mice infection models, a combination of probiotics *L. acidophilus* R0052 + *L. rhamnosus* R0011 and *L. casei* Shirota strain + *L. johnsonii* strain La1 were found to reduce the effects of

H. pylori infection by decreasing *H. pylori* colonization and alleviating *H. pylori*-induced inflammation of the gastric mucosa (**Johnson et al., 2004; Sgouras et al., 2004**).

There are numerous possible mechanisms by which probiotic bacteria can prevent *H. pylori* adhesion (**Lesbros et al., 2007**). *Lactobacilli* such as *L. johnsonii* La1 (**Michetti et al., 1999**) or *L. acidophilus* LB (**Coconnier et al., 1998**) may exert anti-adhesion activity by secreting antimicrobial substances, strains such as *L. reuteri* can inhibit *H. pylori* growth by competing with adhesion sites. Non-specific rather than specific receptor site blockage is the most likely mechanism (**Bernet et al., 1994**).

In vivo studies demonstrated that previous colonization with probiotics prevents or reduces *H. pylori* infection in experimental animals (**Johnson et al., 2004**). Consequently, regardless of the mechanisms of inhibition of the *H. pylori* adherence to epithelial cells, probiotics could prevent *H. pylori* colonization by inhibiting bacterial adhesion to gastric epithelial cells (**Nasr et al., 2017**).

Conclusion and Perspectives

Conclusion

Algeria, by its biogeographical position, offers great ecosystem diversity, therefore it is one of the Mediterranean countries whose populations have for a very long time been engaged in traditional medical services and have acquired know-how in this field through employment of medicinal plants. Garlic (*Allium sativum L.*), onion (*Allium cepa L.*), fenugreek (*Trigonella Foenum-graecum L.*) and cumin (*Cuminum cyminum L.*) are ones of the most promising medicinal herbs known from ancient times having nutritional value and therapeutic effects. In the present study, alternatives therapies for *H. pylori* responsible for gastro-duodenal diseases using these plants was investigated.

The present research aim was to analyze the physico-chemical and phyto-chemical profil, to characterize the phenolic compounds, to evaluate the antioxidant activities of previously mentioned plants, and to evaluate the anti-*H. pylori* properties of medicinal plants, probiotics and combinations between them (*in vitro* and *in vivo*). This work has highlighted the synergistic effect between prebiotics (medicinal plants) and probiotics (Lactic Acid Bacteria) on *H. pylori*.

The obtained results showed that the Algerian variety of fenugreek and Syrian variety cumin seeds gave the highest weight with a value of 16.8, 13 g respectively and the better germination rate with a percentage of 70%. The pH and titratable acidity of studied plants ranged from 5.63 to 6.64 and 0.67 to 3.04% respectively. The moisture and ash content varied from 3.08 to 91.12% and 0.29 to 7.02 % respectively. Total soluble solids, electrical conductivity, viscosity varied from 2.75 to 5.5 °Brix, 18.19 to 42.75 mvs and 2.4 to 2.8 m/pa/s respectively. The analysis showed that fenugreek and cumin contained a high amount of proteins which was between 23.10 and 26.8% respectively. On the other hand, fats ranged from 8.81 to 21.02%. While crude fiber, pectin varied from 5.1 to 7.9% and 1.94 to 2.84% respectively. Finally, total and reducing sugars varied from 5.27 to 6.74%, and 0.47 to 1.07% respectively.

According to the present data, the results of mineral and heavy metals profile of the studied plants revealed that they contain potassium as a major mineral followed by sulphur, phosphorus, calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc and boron. For the heavy metals, the higher percentage was giving by copper followed by lead, nickel, chromium, molybdenum, cobalt and cadmium.

The best extract yield was recorded by the maceration method with a concentration of 10g/100ml of dry matter, however methanol 80% remained the best solvent of extraction for all the plants with the values of 62.87%, 57.38% and 14.29%, 17.66% for garlic, onion, fenugreek and cumin respectively. The determination of total phenolic compounds in methanol extract of garlic and onion using Folin Ciocalteu reagent gave an amount of 45 mg GAE /100g; 86mg GAE /100g DM respectively. Also fenugreek and cumin methanolic extracts seem richer on phenolic compounds with an amount of 115.3 mg GAE / 100g and 91.6 mg GAE / 100g DM respectively. Flavonoids contents in garlic, onion, fenugreek and cumin were 34.62 mg QE /100 g, 43.1 mg QE /100g, 80.98 mg QE /100 g and 66.04 mg QE /100 g DM respectively. Condensed tannins analysis gave a value of 6.8 ± 0.33 mg CE /100g, 4.4 ± 0.001 mg CE /100g, 2.2 ± 0.01 mg CE/100g and 1.8 ± 0.033 mg CE/100g DM for garlic, onion, fenugreek and cumin respectively. For hydrolysable tannins, results were 0.05 ± 0.01 mg TAE /100g, 0.22 ± 0.04 mg TAE /100g, 1 ± 0.045 mg TAE /100g and 0.205 ± 0.001 mg TAE /100g DM for garlic, onion, fenugreek and cumin respectively.

The phytochemical screening of above extracts revealed the presence of flavonoids, tannins, anthocyanins, steroids, terpenoids, cardiac glycosides and mucilage.

Chromatographic analysis of the samples showed that five phytochemical molecules were identified in onion methanolic extract (Gallic acid, Quercetin, Rutin, Hyperoside and Karemferol) and one molecule in garlic methanolic extract (Gallic acid). Moreover, eight phytochemical molecules were identified in cumin methanolic extract (caffeic acid, isoquercetine, vanillic acid, myricetine 3-0 rutinoside, syringaresinol, citrusine, rosmarinic acid, and p-coumaric acid) and seven molecules in fenugreek methanolic extract (gallic acid, sinapic acid, caffeic acid, asterogenic acid, pyrogallol, hyperoside and ferulic acid).

The antioxidant activity of the methanol extract of our plants was measured by the method of Free radical scavenging method (DPPH) which gave IC 50 values; 1000 μ g / ml, 400 μ g / ml, 250 μ g / ml and 350 μ g / ml for garlic, onion, fenugreek and cumin respectively.

The anti-*H. pylori* activities results indicated that DZI started from 6 mm for the different plant extracts at 10 μ g as initial concentration, while the highest DZI were recorded for the cumin and fenugreek extracts at 1000 μ g (16.00 mm).

The highest MIC and MBC against *H. pylori* were obtained with the fenugreek extract at 100 and 150 μ g/ml, respectively.

The inhibition kinetics evaluation showed that similar growth kinetics were recorded for all plant extracts with relatively overlapping curves up when adding plants extracts, followed by a marked decrease of *H. pylori* growth recorded with the fenugreek extract compared to other extracts.

The anti-*H. pylori* activity of probiotics strains from the genus of *Lactobacillus* exhibited that DZI range from 10 to 10.67 mm (*L. rhamnosus* LA80, *L. rhamnosus* GG, *L. helveticus*, *L. lactis*, *S. thermophilus*), however the highest DZI was recorded by *B. breve* strain (20.33 ±0.58mm).

Important inhibition effect was recorded by probiotics when the cell free supernatant obtained from their culture was used, indicating that a diffusible molecule (organic acids) should be present in this supernatant. However, a slightly lower inhibitory effect was obtained using bacteriocin-free and H₂O₂-free (neutralized) supernatants.

Helicobacter pylori was inhibited by all combined mixtures of extracts and probiotics with varying results, while fenugreek / *B. breve* , cumin / *B. breve*, garlic / *B. breve* and onion / *B. breve* combinations exhibited the higher anti-*H. pylori* activities with DZI of 26, 29, 23 and 25 mm respectively. Preliminary studies on the effect of probiotics against *H. pylori* revealed that inhibition may due to lactic acids and bacteriocins. However, it may due to the presence of phenolic compounds present in our extract plants such as gallic acid, caffeic acid, quercetine, and vanillic acid.

In-vivo anti-*H. pylori* activity of the fenugreek extract and *B. breve* has been confirmed by histopathological and urease tests. These combination have suggestively reduced the number of animals with a positive urease test and the number of detected microorganisms in histological sections stained by Giemsa, exceeding even the standard medications, thus preventing the presence of these organisms in the gastric mucosa.

In addition, the *B. breve* and fenugreek extract complex mixture significantly reduced the stomach inflammation in *H. pylori* infected rats. These results suggest that this complex mixture maybe an alternative to treating *H. pylori* infection and preventing from diseases caused by this bacterium.

Perspectives

- ✓ Isolation of further *H. pylori* strains from patients originated from other regions;
- ✓ Testing other *H. pylori* strains responsible for various gastro-duodenal diseases (ulcer and cancer stomach);
- ✓ Evaluating additional extracts obtained with different extraction methods and solvents;
- ✓ Testing further medicinal plants, probiotics and more combinations on *H. pylori*;
- ✓ Extraction of essential oils from different medicinal plants and evaluation of their anti-*H. pylori* activities;
- ✓ Identification of the target bioactive molecules (produced by medicinal plants) responsible for the anti-*H. pylori* effect;
- ✓ Identification of bacteriocins produced by probiotics;
- ✓ Determination of mechanism of action (of prebiotics and probiotics) on *H. pylori*;
- ✓ Combining numerous plant extracts with probiotics and evaluation of their *invitro* and *invivo* anti-*H. pylori* at different concentrations;
- ✓ Evaluation of *invivo* anti-*H. pylori* of combinations using other animals model;
- ✓ Carrying out long-term *in vivo* studies on the curative and preventive effect of probiotics and prebiotics and their combinations on *H. pylori*;
- ✓ Comparing the *invivo* anti-*H. pylori* effect of probiotics and prebiotics combinations with conventional therapies (triple therapy and quadruple therapy);
- ✓ Improvement of dairy products such as fermented milk (yogurt), butter, cheese using combinations between probiotics and medicinal plants;
- ✓ Testing these dairy products on patients suffering from gastro-duodenal diseases originated from different regions.

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Annexes

Annexe 1: Photos of plants used in the present study



A: Garlic plant



B: Onion plant



C: Fenugreek seeds



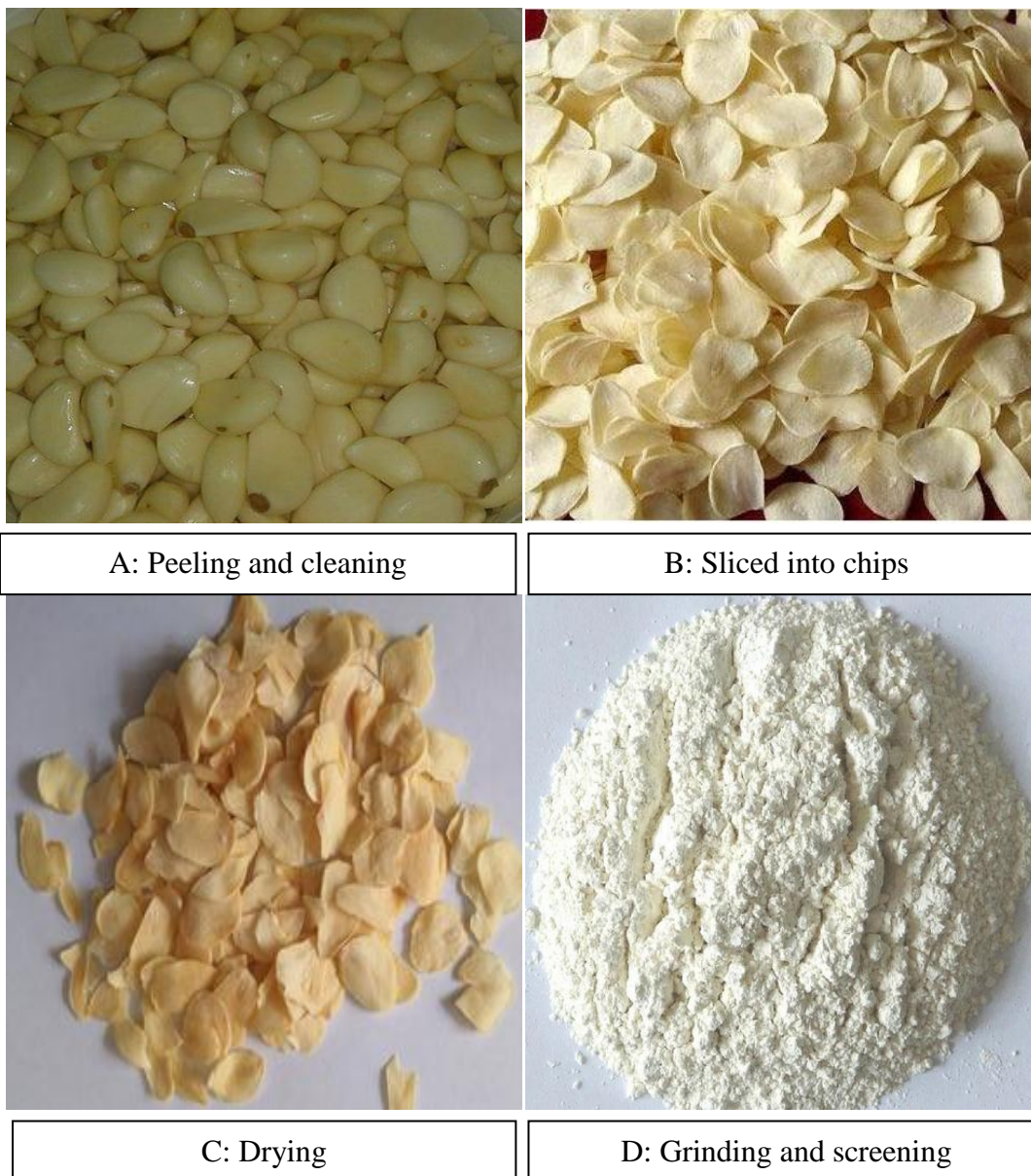
D: Cumin seeds

Annexe 2: Photos of commercialized used probiotics

<p><i>Bifidobacterium</i></p>	<p><i>Lactobacillus rhamnosus GG</i></p>
<p><i>Lactobacillus helveticus</i></p>	<p><i>Lactobacillus rhamnosus LA80</i></p>

Annexe 3: Steps of preparation of plants powder

1. Steps of preparation of garlic powder



2. Steps of preparation of onion powder



A: Peeling and cleaning



B: Sliced into chips



C: Drying



D: Grinding and screening

3. Steps of preparation of fenugreek powder



A: Sorting



B: Grinding and screening

4. Steps of preparation of cumin powder



A: Sorting



B: Grinding and screening

5. Storage of plant powders



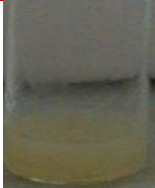



































Stored plant powders in glass containers

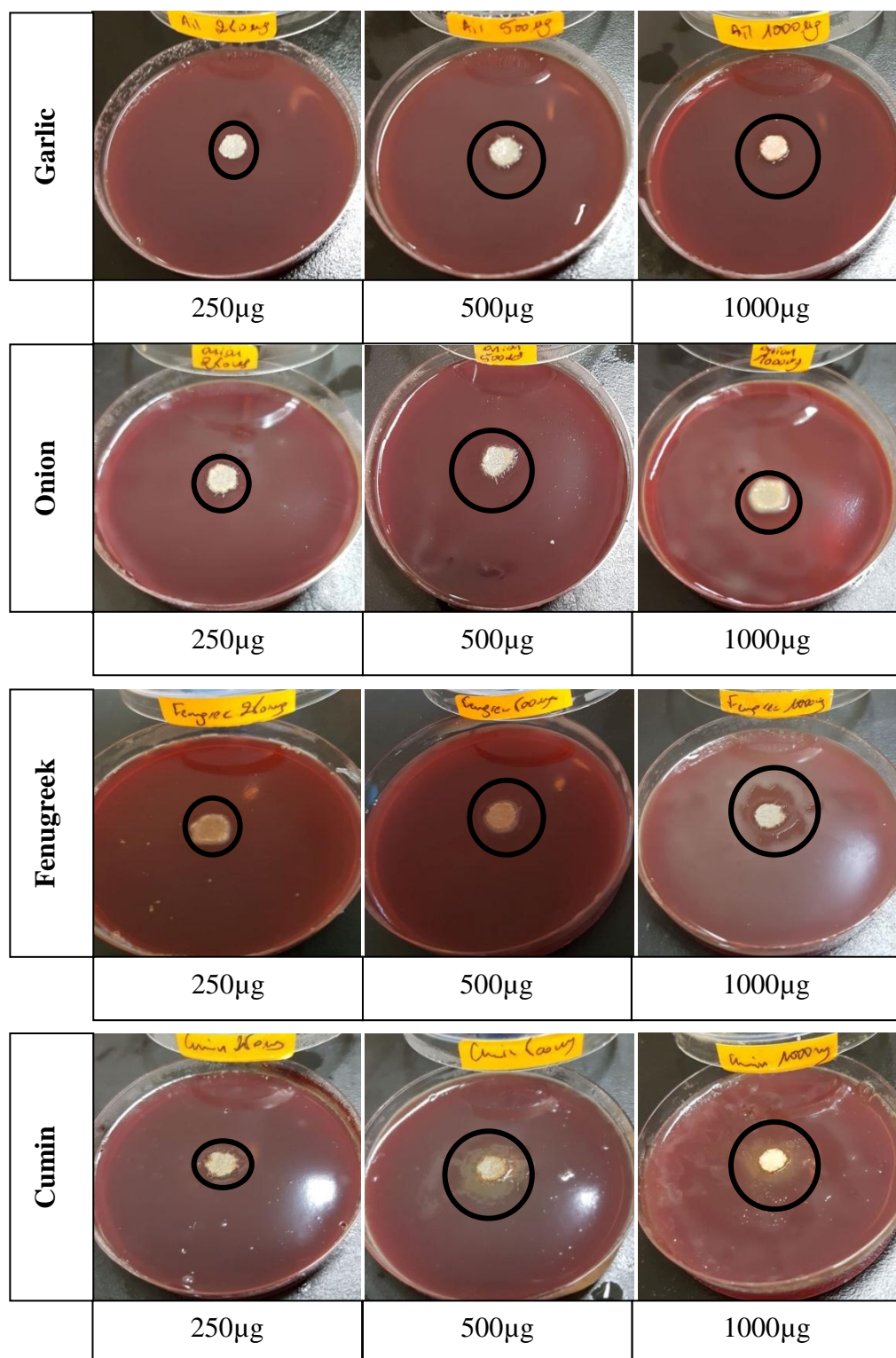
Annexe 4: Reading table of API Campy

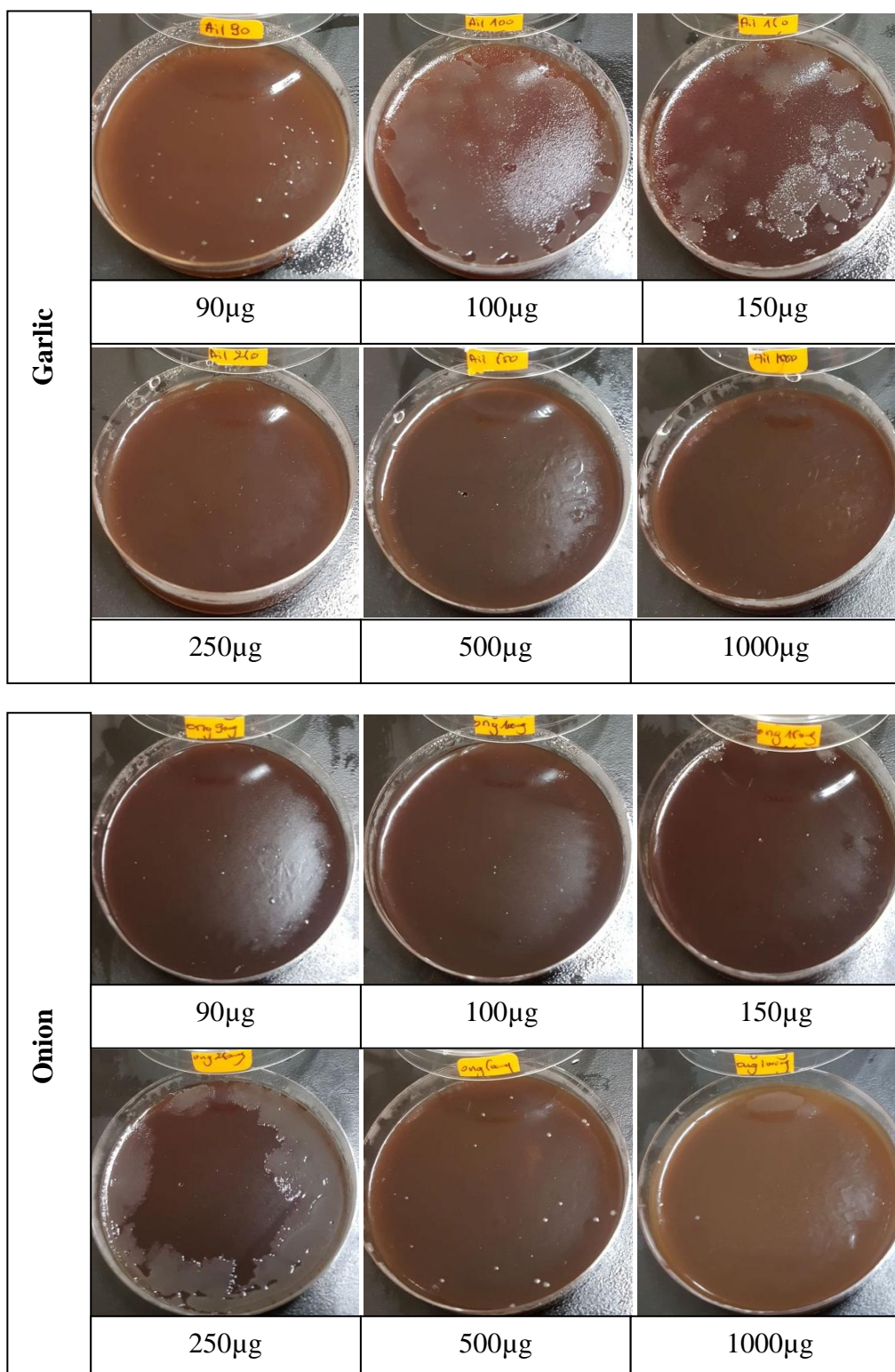
READING TABLE

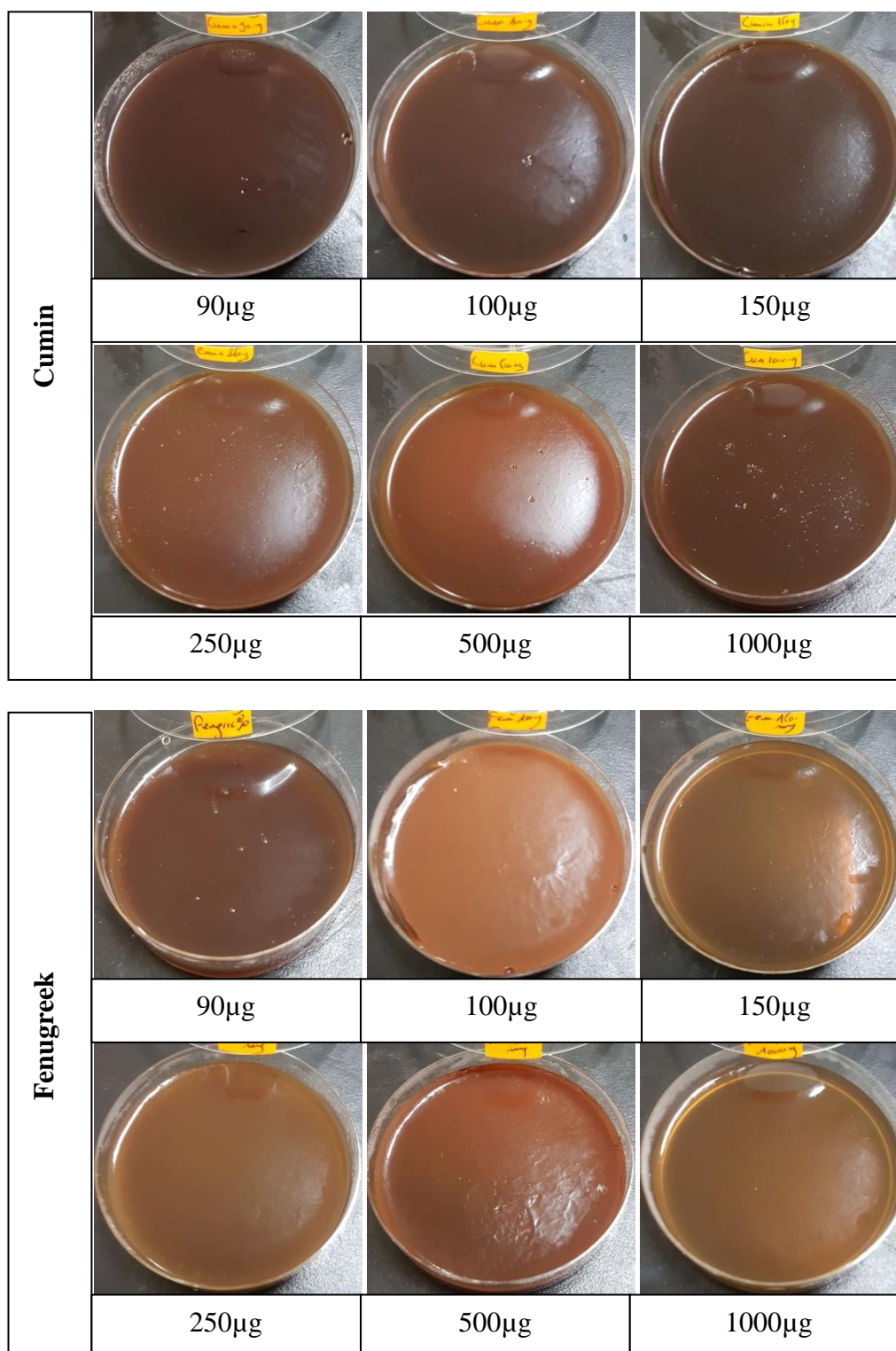
TESTS	ACTIVE INGREDIENTS	QTY (mg/cup.)	REACTIONS	RESULTS	
				NEGATIVE	POSITIVE
<u>URE</u>	urea	0.216	UREase	yellow	orange / red
<u>NIT</u>	potassium nitrate	0.1	Reduction of NITrates	<u>NIT 1 + NIT 2 / 5 min</u> colorless	pink / red
<u>EST</u>	5-bromo-4-chloro-3-Indoxyl-acetate	0.029	ESTerase	colorless pale blue	turquoise
<u>HIP</u>	sodium hippurate	0.2	HIPPurate	<u>NIN / 5 min</u> colorless bluish-grey	violet
<u>GGT</u>	γ -L-glutamic acid- β -naphthylamide	0.0272	Gamma Glutamyl Transferase	<u>FB / 5 min</u> colorless	dark orange
<u>TTC</u>	triphenyltetrazolium chloride	0.02	Reduction of Triphenyl Tetrazolium Chloride	colorless pale pink	pink / red or deposit in base of cupule
<u>PyrA</u>	pyroglutamic acid- β -naphthylamide	0.038	Pyrroldonyl Arylamidase	<u>FB / 5 min (PyrA \rightarrow PAL)</u> colorless	orange
<u>ArgA</u>	L-arginine-4-methoxy- β -naphthylamide	0.056	L-Arginine Arylamidase	colorless	orange
<u>AspA</u>	aspartic acid- β -naphthylamide	0.039	L-Aspartate Arylamidase	colorless	orange
<u>PAL</u>	2-naphthyl phosphate	0.024	ALKaline Phosphatase	colorless	purple
<u>H₂S</u>	sodium thiosulfate	0.076	production of H ₂ S	colorless	black
<u>GLU</u>	D-glucose	1.56	assimilation (GLUcose)	transparent (no growth or sensitivity)	opaque (even if weak) (growth or resistance)
<u>SUT</u>	sodium succinate	1.36	assimilation (sodium SUccinate)		
<u>NAL</u>	nalidixic acid	0.084	growth inhibition (NALidixic acid)		
<u>CFZ</u>	sodium cefazoline	0.224	growth inhibition (sodium CeFaZoline)		
<u>ACE</u>	sodium acetate	1.1	assimilation (sodium ACETate)		
<u>PROP</u>	propionic acid	1.16	assimilation (PROPionate)		
<u>MLT</u>	malic acid	1.56	assimilation (MaLaTe)		
<u>CIT</u>	trisodium citrate	2.28	assimilation (trisodium CiTrate)		
<u>ERO</u>	erythromycin	0.014	susceptibility - therapeutic prediction (ErythrOmycin)		

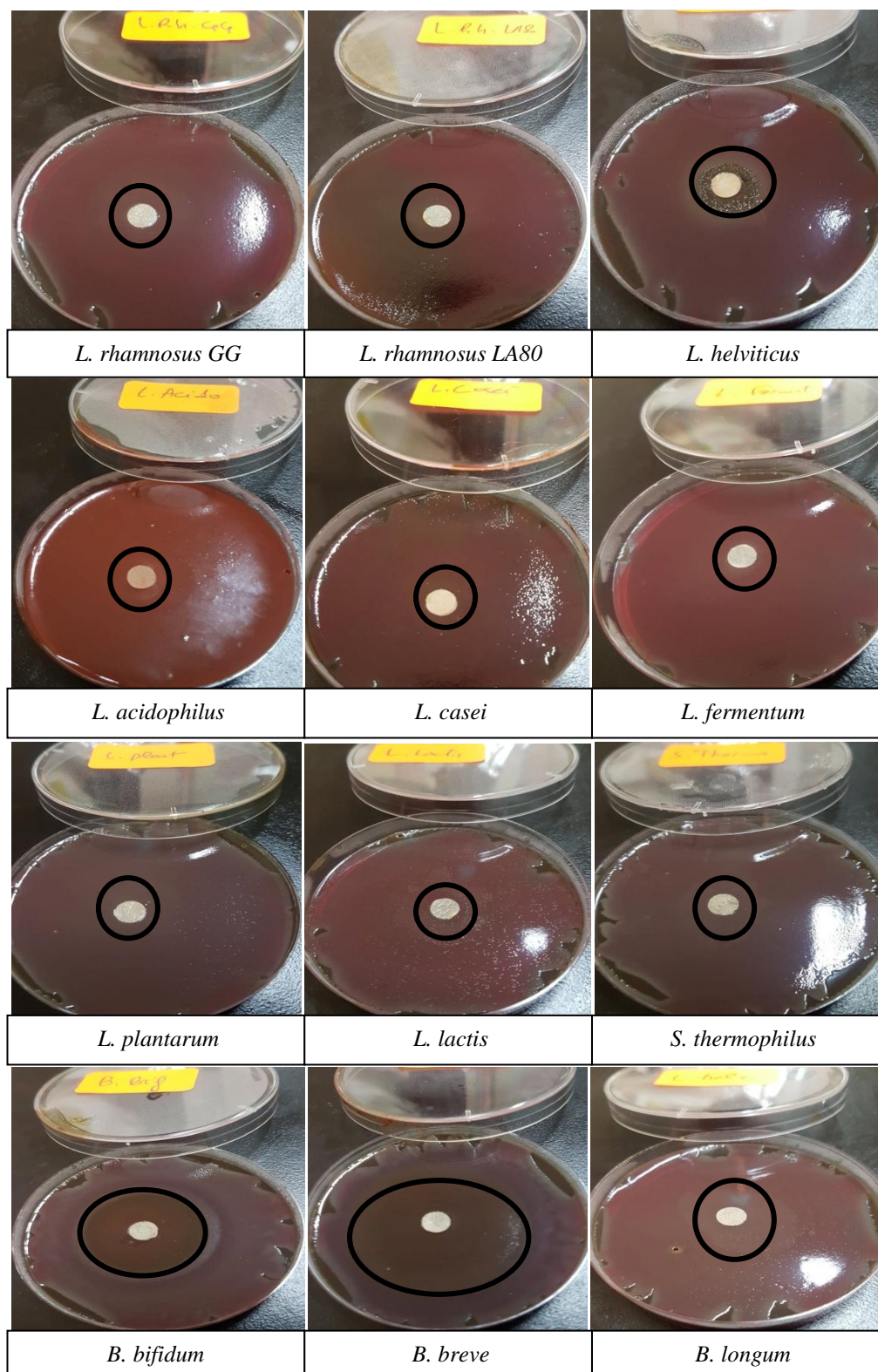
Annexe 5: Results of phytochemical screening of plant extracts

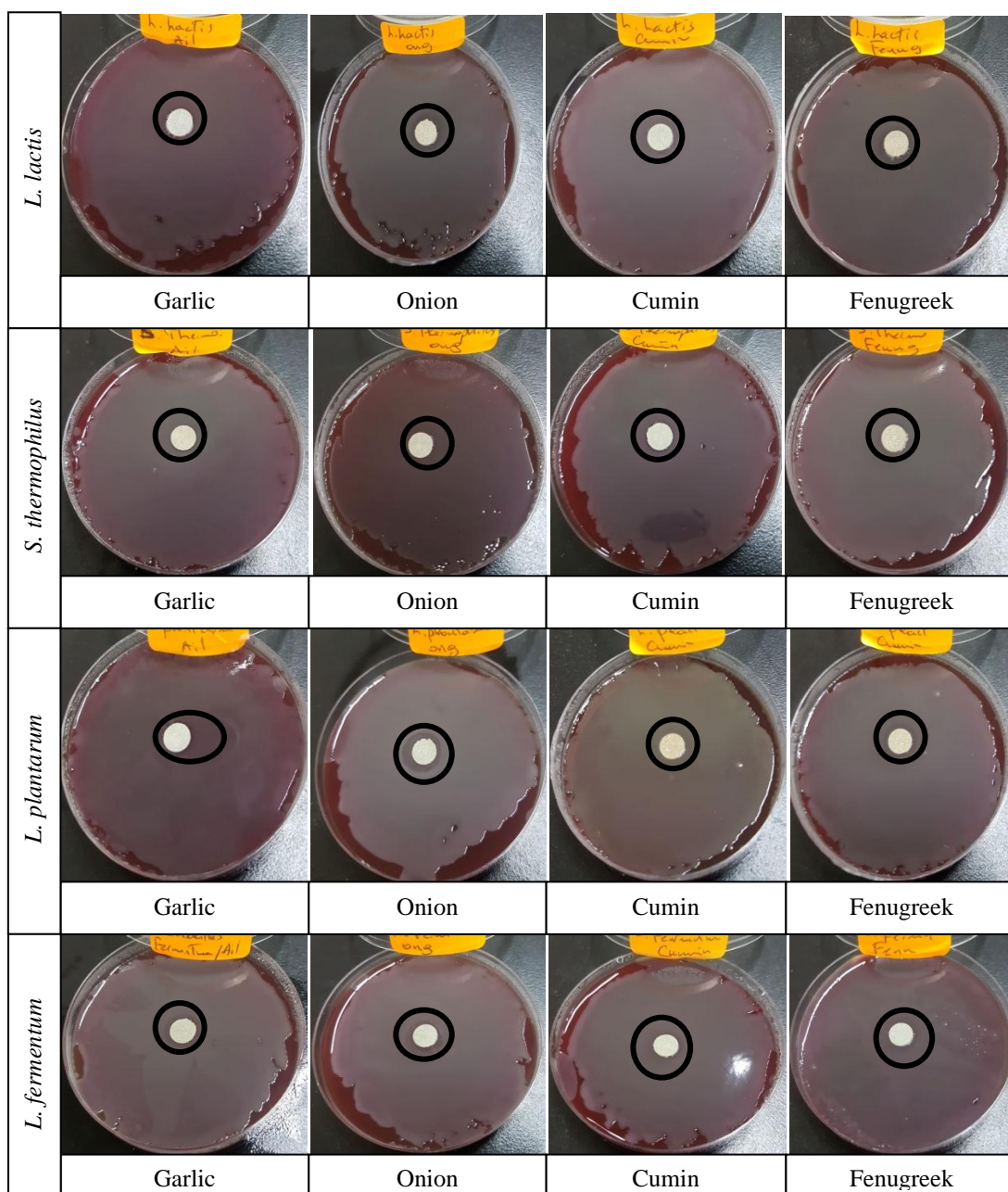
Phytochemical compounds	Garlic	Onion	Fenugreek	Cumin
Flavonoids				
Tannins				
Reducing compounds				
Terpenoids				
Alkaloids				
Cardiac glycosides				
Saponosides				
Sterols and triterpenes				
Anthocyanins				


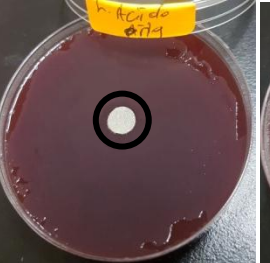
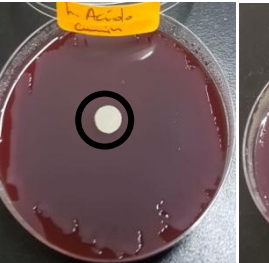
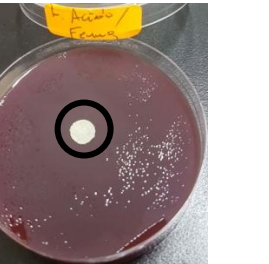


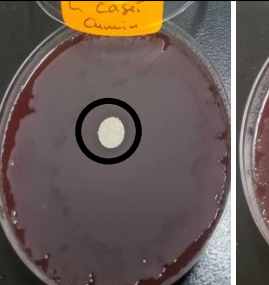

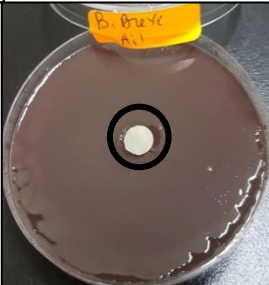




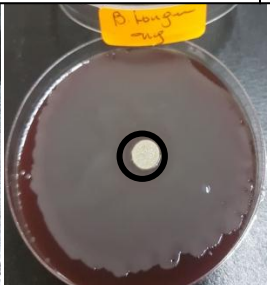


Annexe 6: Results of determination of DZI of plant extracts against *H. pylori*

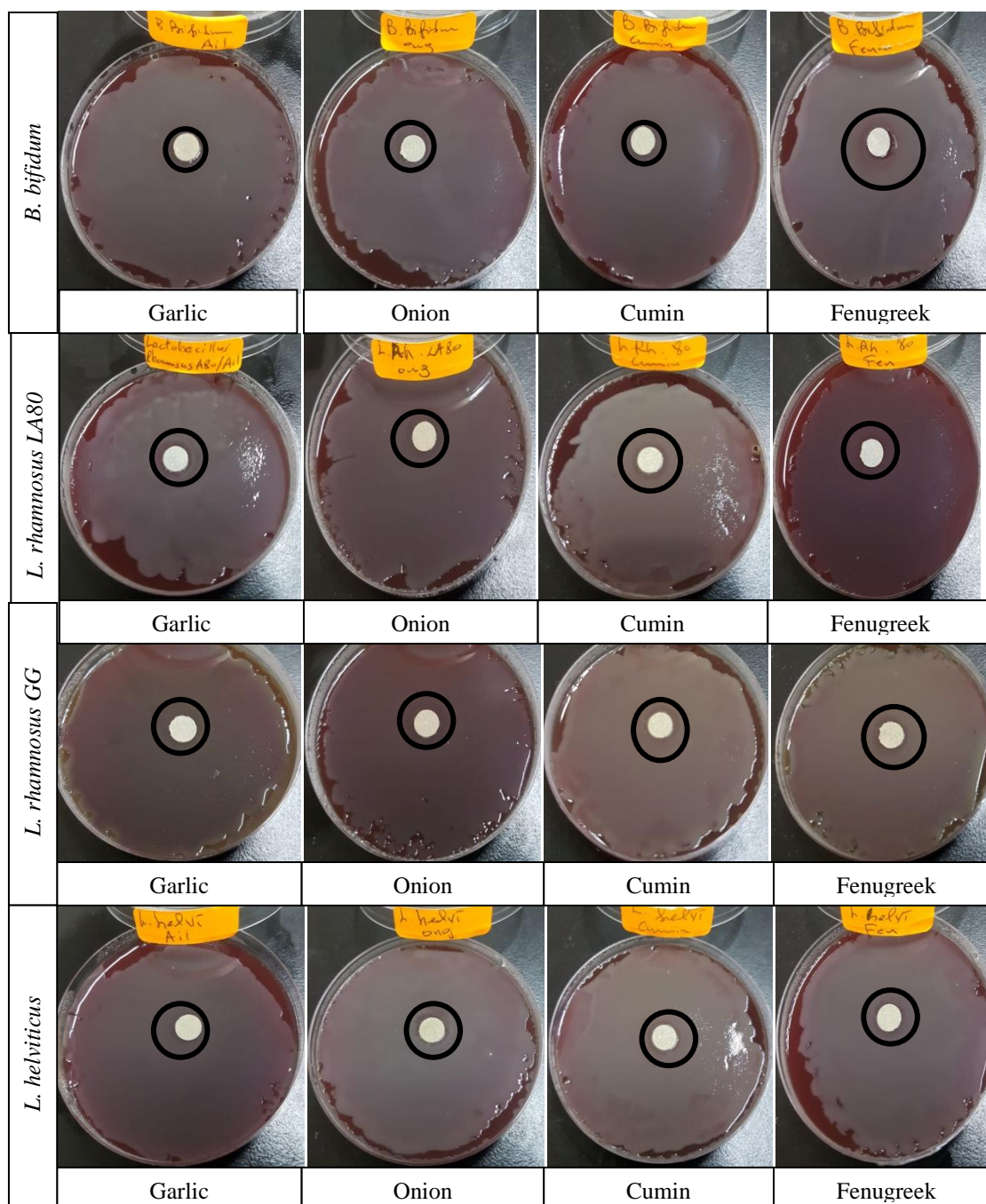
Annexe 7: Results of determination of MIC and MBC of plant extracts against *H. pylori*

Annexe 8: Results of determination of MIC and MBC of plant extracts against *H. pylori*

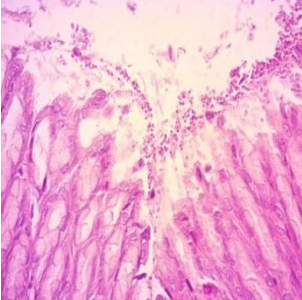
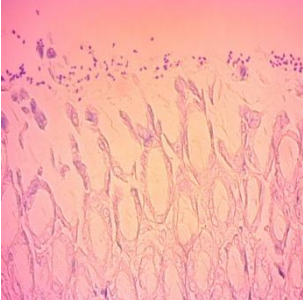
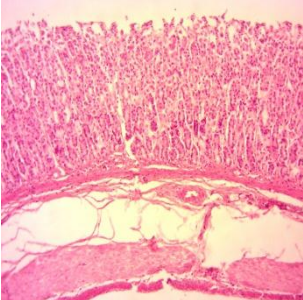
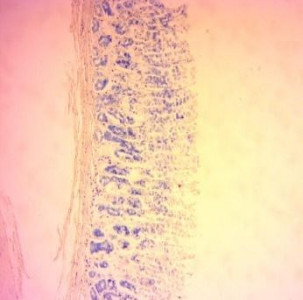
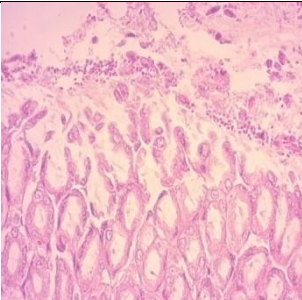
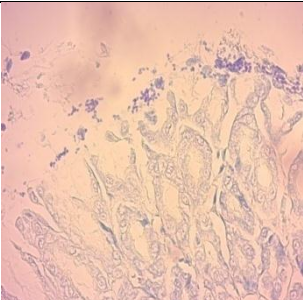
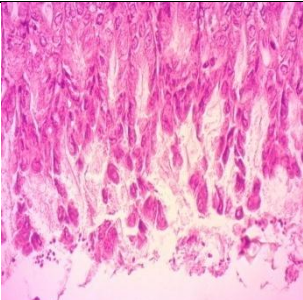
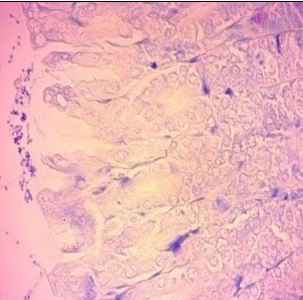
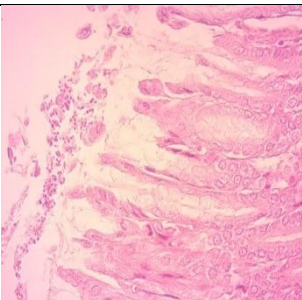
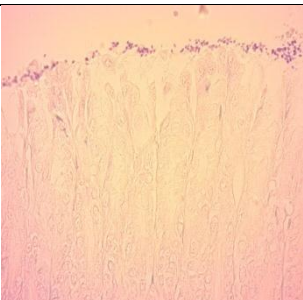
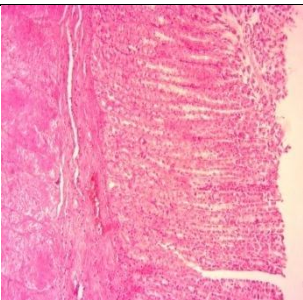
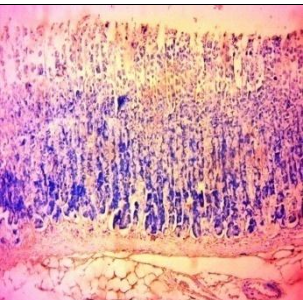
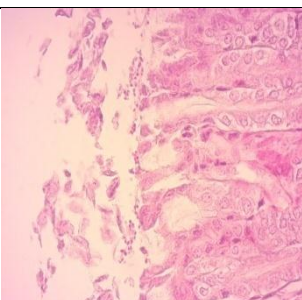
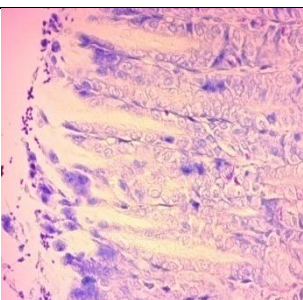
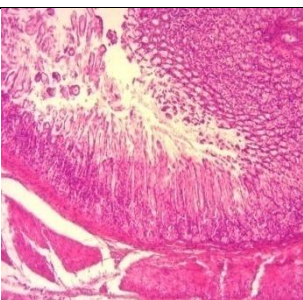
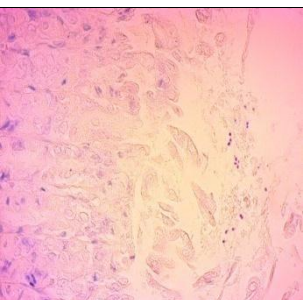
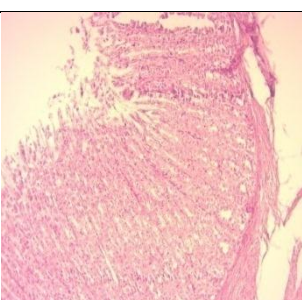
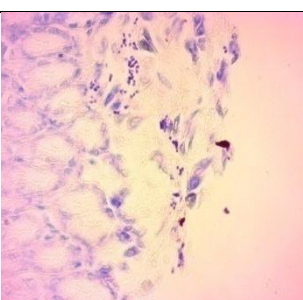
Annexe 9: Results of determination of DZI of probiotics against *H. pylori*

Annexe 10: Results of DZI of medicinal plants with probiotics against *H. pylori*

<i>L. acidophilus</i>				
	Garlic	Onion	Cumin	Fenugreek
<i>L. casei</i>				
	Garlic	Onion	Cumin	Fenugreek
<i>B. breve</i>				
	Garlic	Onion	Cumin	Fenugreek
<i>B. longum</i>				
	Garlic	Onion	Cumin	Fenugreek



Annexe 11: Photos of *in vivo* study of combined mixtures against *H.pylori*

Grp	Hematoxylin-Eosin (H&E) stain	May-Grünwald Giemsa stain	Grp	Hematoxylin-Eosin (H&E) stain	May-Grünwald Giemsa stain
NC	 Inflammation: 3/4	 Colonization: 3/4	TFE1 + TBB	 Inflammation: 0/4	 Colonization: 0/4
PC	 Inflammation: 2/4	 Colonization: 3/4	HP+T FE	 Inflammation: 0/4	 Colonization: 1/4
TFE	 Inflammation: 2/4	 Colonization: 2/4	HP+T BB	 Inflammation: 0/4	 Colonization: 1/4
TFE2	 Inflammation: 1/4	 Colonization: 1/4	HP+T FE+B B	 Inflammation: 0/4	 Colonization: 0/4
TBB	 Inflammation: 0/4	 Colonization: 1/4	<p>NC : Negative control PC : Positive control TFE1 : Treated with fenugreek extract 150 µg/kg TFE2 : Treated with fenugreek extract 300</p>		

				$\mu\text{g/kg}$ TBB : Treated with <i>B. breve</i>
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Annexe 12: Composition of culture media

Composition of Muller Hinton Agar (Senouci et Abdelouahid, 2010)

Ingredients	g/l
Beef extract	2.00
Acid hydrolysate of casein	17.50
Starch	1.50
Agar	17.00

Composition of Columbia Agar (Marchal et al., 1991)

Ingredients	g/l
Pancreatic digest of casein	12.0
Peptic digest of animal tissue	5.0
Yeast extract	3.0
Beef extract	3.0
Corn starch	1.0
Sodium chloride	5.0
Tryptone	5.0
Agar	13.5
Soya peptone	5.0
Sheep blood, defibrinated	5.0
Meat digest	5.0
Yeast extract	2.5
Ascorbic acid	0.5
Magnesium sulphate	0.25
Di-sodium-glycerophosphate	19.0
Agar	11.0

Composition of M17 Agar (Trezaghi et Sandine, 1975)

Composition of MRS Agar (Manet et al., 1960)

Ingredients	g/l
Peptone	10
Yeast extract	5
Meat extract	10
Glucose	20
Sodium acetate	5
Magnesium sulfate	0.1
Manganese sulfate	0.05

Disodium phosphate	2
Agar	15

Composition of urea indole broth (Roland et al., 1947)

Ingredients	g/l
Dipotassium phosphate	1
Monopotassium phosphate	1
Phenol red	0.025
Sodium chloride	5
Urea	20
L-Tryptophan	3

Composition of Brain Heart Infusion (BHI) (Marchal et al., 1991)

Ingredients	g/l
Calf brain, infusion from	200
Beef heart, infusion from	250
Proteose peptone	10
Dextrose	2
Sodium chloride	5
Disodium phosphate	2.5

Abstract

Combined use of probiotics and herbal medicine seems to result a decrease of the side effects of drugs used against *H. pylori* infection . It may also be a proper replacement for the treatment of this infection. The objectives of the present study were to study the physicochemical and the phytochemical compounds of garlic (*Allium sativum*), red onion (*Allium cepa*), fenugreek (*Trigonella foenum-graecum L.*) and cumin (*Cuminum cyminum L.*), to characterize their phenolic compounds using HPLC method, to evaluate the antioxidant properties of these plants and to investigate anti-*Helicobacter pylori* activities of the mentioned plant extracts, some probiotics such as *Lactobacillus*, *Bifidobacterium*, *Lactococcus* and *Streptococcus*, and their combinations (*invitro* and *invivo*).

The results of the physicochemical analysis found that these plants are good source of proteins, fats, fibers and energy. Also, the phytochemical analysis showed that plant extracts are rich in secondary metabolites namely total polyphenols, flavonoids, condensed and hydrolysable tannins. Chromatographic analysis of the samples identified five phytochemical molecules for red onion extract (gallic acid, quercetin, rutin, hyperoside and karempferol); one molecule for garlic extract (gallic acid); eight molecules for cumin extract (caffeic acid, isoquercetin, vanillic acid, myricetin 3-0, rutinoside, syringaresinol, citrusine, rosmarinic acid, p-coumaric acid) and seven molecules for fenugreek extract (gallic acid, sinapic acid, caffeic acid, asterogenic acid, pyrogallol, hyperoside and ferulic acid). The results of antioxidant activity measured by the DPPH method showed that all studied plants possessed a good antioxidant activities particularly fenugreek with an IC₅₀ of 343.75 ±4.73 µg/ml. On the other hand, the results of anti-*H. pylori* activities revealed the presence of important inhibitory zones especially for fenugreek extract and *Bifidobacterium breve* combination (29 mm). Preliminary studies on the mode of action of probiotics against *H. pylori* revealed that the inhibition was due to lactic acid and bacteriocins. Also when *H. pylori*-infected rats were administered *B. breve*, the infection rate of *H. pylori* was significantly reduced, while the combination of *B. breve* and fenugreek extract effectively inhibited *H. pylori*. In addition, the *B. breve* and fenugreek extract complex mixture significantly reduced the stomach inflammation in *H. pylori* infected rats.

Key Words: *Helicobacter pylori*, Probiotics, Garlic, Onion, Fenugreek, Cumin, Gastro-duodenal diseases, Combined effect.

Résumé

L'effet combiné des probiotiques et des plantes médicinales entraînent une diminution des effets secondaires des médicaments utilisés contre l'infection à *H. pylori*. Il peut également être un substitut approprié pour le traitement de cette infection. Les objectifs de la présente étude étaient d'étudier les profils physicochimiques et phytochimiques de l'ail (*Allium sativum*), de l'oignon rouge (*Allium cepa*), du fenugrec (*Trigonella foenum-graecum* L.) et du cumin (*Cuminum cyminum* L.), de caractériser leur composés phénoliques en utilisant la méthode d'HPLC, d'évaluer les propriétés antioxydantes de ces plantes et d'étudier les activités anti-*Helicobacter pylori* des extraits de plantes mentionnées, et de certains probiotiques tels que *Lactobacillus*, *Bifidobacterium*, *Lactococcus* et *Streptococcus*, et leurs combinaisons (*in vitro* et *in vivo*). Les résultats de l'analyse physico-chimique ont révélé que ces plantes sont une bonne source de protéines, de graisses, de fibres et d'énergie. Aussi, l'analyse phytochimique a montré que les extraits végétaux sont riches en métabolites secondaires à savoir les polyphénols totaux, les flavonoïdes, les tanins condensés et hydrolysables. L'analyse chromatographique des échantillons a identifié cinq molécules phytochimiques pour l'extrait d'oignon rouge (acide gallique, quercitine, rutine, hyperoside et karempférol) ; une molécule pour l'extrait d'ail (acide gallique) ; huit molécules pour l'extrait de cumin (acide caféique, isoquercétine, acide vanillique, myricétine 3-0, rutinoside, syringarésinol, citronine, acide rosmarinique, acide p-coumarique) et sept molécules pour l'extrait de fenugrec (acide gallique, acide sinapique, acide caféique, acide astérogène acide, pyrogallol, hyperoside et acide férulique). Les résultats d'activité antioxydante mesurée par la méthode DPPH ont montré que toutes les plantes étudiées possédaient une bonne activité antioxydante particulièrement le fenugrec avec une IC50 de 343.75 ± 4.73 µg/ml. En revanche, les résultats de l'anti-*H. pylori* ont révélé la présence des zones inhibitrices importantes notamment pour l'association (extrait de fenugrec et *Bifidobacterium breve*)(29 mm). Des études préliminaires sur le mode d'action des probiotiques contre *H. pylori* ont montré que l'inhibition était due à l'acide lactique et aux bactériocines. De plus, lorsque des rats infectés par *H. pylori* ont reçu *B. breve*, le taux d'infection de *H. pylori* a été considérablement réduit, tandis que la combinaison de *B. breve* et d'extrait de fenugrec a inhibé efficacement *H. pylori*. Enfin, le mélange complexe d'extraits de fenugrec et *B. breve* a considérablement réduit l'inflammation de l'estomac chez les rats infectés par *H. pylori*.

Mots clés : *Helicobacter pylori*, Probiotiques, Ail, Oignon, Fenugrec, Cumin, Maladies gastro-duodénales, Effet combiné.

الملخص

يؤدي التأثير المشترك للبكتيريا حامض اللاكتيك والنباتات الطبية إلى انخفاض الآثار الجانبية للأدوية المستخدمة ضد عدوى بكتيريا المعدة. وقد يكون أيضًا بديلاً مناسباً لعلاج هذه العدوى. هدف البحث الحالي إلى دراسة الخصائص الفيزيوكيميائية للثوم (*Allium sativum*) ، البصل الأحمر (*Allium cepa*) ، الحلبة (*Trigonella foenum-graecum L.*) والكمون (*Cuminum cyminum L.*) ، والتعرف على مركباتها الفينولية. باستخدام طريقة الكروماتوغرافيا العالية الأداء ، وتقييم الخصائص المضادة للأكسدة لهذه النباتات ودراسة الفعاليات المضادة لبكتيريا *Helicobacter pylori* للمستخلصات النباتية المذكورة ، وبعض أنواع بكتيريا حامض اللاكتيك مثل *Lactobacillus Streptococcus* ، *Bifidobacterium* و *Lactococcus* خارج و داخل الجسم .و. أظهرت نتائج التحليل الفيزيوكيميائي أن هذه النباتات هي مصدر جيد للبروتينات والدهون والألياف والطاقة. كما أظهر التحليل الكيميائي النباتي أن المستخلصات النباتية غنية بنواتج الأيض الثانوية وهي البوليفينول الكلي والفلافونويد والعفص المكثف والمتحلل بالماء . أعطى التحليل الكروماتوغرافي للعينات خمسة مركبات كيميائية نباتية لمستخلص البصل الأحمر (حمض الغاليك ، كيرسيتين ، روتين ، هابيروسيد وكاريمبفيرول) ؛ مركب واحد لمستخلص الثوم (حمض الجاليك) ؛ ثمانية مركبات لمستخلص الكمون (حمض الكافيك ، أيزوكيرسيتين ، حمض الفانيليك ، ميريسيتين 3-0 ، الروتينوسيد ، سيرينجارسينول ، الليمونين ، حمض روزمارينيك ، حمض الكوماريك) وسبعة مركبات لمستخلص الحلبة (حمض الغاليك ، سينابيك ، حمض الكافيك ، حمض الأستيروجينيك حمض ، بيروجالول ، hyperoside وحمض الفيروليك). أظهرت نتائج النشاط المضاد للأكسدة التي تم قياسها بواسطة طريقة تثبيط الجذر الحر أن جميع النباتات المدروسة لديها نشاط مضاد للأكسدة جيد ، خاصة الحلبة مع تركيز مثبط بنسبة 50% من 4.73 ± 343.75 ميكروغرام / مل و في المقابل فإن نتائج مضادات بكتيريا المعدة عن وجود مناطق مثبطة مهمة ، لا سيما بالنسبة لاتحاد مستخلص الحلبة و *Bifidobacterium breve* (29 ملم) و أظهرت الدراسات الأولية حول طريقة عمل بكتيريا حامض اللاكتيك ضد بكتيريا المعدة أن التثبيط كان بسبب حمض اللاكتيك والبكتيريوسينات . علاوة على ذلك ، عندما أعطيت الفئران المصابة بالبكتيريا المعدة *B. breve* ، انخفض معدل الإصابة ببكتيريا المعدة بشكل كبير ، في حين أدى الجمع بين بكتيريا *B. breve* ومستخلص الحلبة إلى تثبيط فعالية *H. pylori* بالإضافة إلى ذلك ، قلل المزيج المعقد من مستخلص الحلبة و *B. breve* التهاب المعدة بشكل ملحوظ في الفئران المصابة بالبكتيريا الحلزونية .

الكلمات الدالة: *Helicobacter pylori* ، بكتيريا حامض اللاكتيك ، الثوم ، البصل ، الحلبة ، الكمون ، أمراض معدية معوية، التأثير المشترك.