

## Review Form 1.7

Journal Name:	European Journal of Nutrition & Food Safety
Manuscript Number:	Ms_EJNFS_102912
Title of the Manuscript:	BIOCHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF MICROBIAL ISOLATES AND EFFECT OF CONCENTRATION AND INCUBATION TIME OF PLANT AND COW MILK YOGHURT USING RESPONSE SURFACE METHODOLOGY.
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

### General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<https://www.journalejnfs.com/index.php/EJNFS/editorial-policy> )

### PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<b>Compulsory</b> REVISION comments		
1. Is the manuscript important for scientific community? (Please write few sentences on this manuscript)	The manuscript investigates the use of bacteria isolated from commercial yoghurt to produce plant-based fermented product as an alternative to yoghurt obtained from cow milk. Tiger nuts, dates and coconut were used as plant material. Thus, biochemical characteristics, optimal growth temperatures, and the influence of incubation time and inoculum concentration on the taste and desirability of plant-based fermented product. Response Surface Methodology has used to obtain an optimized ratio formulation.	
2. Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	Yes, the title is suitable. It reflects the content of the manuscript.	
3. Is the abstract of the article comprehensive?	The abstract is concise and briefly states the purpose of the research, the experimental part, the principal results and the significant conclusions.	
4. Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?	The structure of the manuscript is appropriate. It contains the abstract, keywords, introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion, conclusion, and references.	
5.		
6. Do you think the manuscript is scientifically correct?	Yes	
7. Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form.  (Apart from above mentioned 6 points, reviewers are free to provide additional suggestions/comments)	<p>The references are sufficient and recent enough. However, other references could be found in the literature (see below Montemurro <i>et al.</i>, 2021 as an example).</p> <p>The lines of the manuscript were numbered to provide additional comments, observations and suggestions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Yoghurt is a slightly sour, thick liquid made from milk with bacteria added to it. When plants are used to obtain a similar product, it is better to name it a „plant-based alternative to yoghurt” or a „plant-based fermented product” („plant could be replaced with the specific name of a plant). See, for example: Montemurro M., Pontonio E., Coda R. &amp; Rizzello C.G. 2021. Plant-Based Alternatives to Yogurt: State-of-the-Art and Perspectives of New Biotechnological Challenges. Foods, 10(2), 316. <a href="https://doi.org/10.3390/foods10020316">https://doi.org/10.3390/foods10020316</a></li></ul> <p>Also, plant-based yoghurt (L206-207, 236) is acceptable.</p> <p>Similarly, avoid using „plant milk” (L79, 83, 84) and „plant yoghurt” (L80, 133, 181-182, 185, 187, 191, 194, 195, 216, 224). Suggestions: „plant-based milk” instead of „plant milk” and above for</p>	

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	<p>„plant yoghurt“. L82 Correct „plant base milk“. The author(s) should be consistent in using the terms, i.e., „plant based“ (L12, 34, 40) and „plant-based“ (L17, 31, 32).</p>	
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<b>Minor</b> REVISION comments  1. Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?	The English quality is good. However, several minor mistakes are presented below (typos, minor grammar errors, etc.).	
<b>Optional/General</b> comments	<p>The author(s) used both North American and British spellings in the manuscript. Both variants are acceptable, but it is best to be consistent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> L4 For British spelling, the correct word is „characterisation”.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> The author(s) should be consistent in using the terms, i.e., „tigernut” (17, 19, 24, 43, 47, 104, 151, 200) and „tiger nut” (L41, 83). The references were not included in the lists. Suggestion: British spellings use „tiger nut”.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Decide the spelling: „microorganism” (L145) or „micro-organism” (L53).</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> L77 Correct color” with „colour” as in L44, 67, 100, 125 (Table 2), 203, 212</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> L116 The correct word for British spelling is „modelled” instead of „modeled”.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> L221, 239 The correct word for British spelling is „fibre” instead of „fiber”.</li></ul> <p>All the Latin names of plants and microorganisms should be written in italics: L28 <i>Lactobacillus bulgaricus</i> and <i>Streptococcus thermophilus</i> L52 <i>Cocos nucifera</i> L53 <i>Arecaceae</i> L55 <i>Lactobacillus</i> Table 4 <i>Lactobacillus bulgaricus</i>, <i>Lactobacillus acidophilus</i>, <i>Streptococcus thermophilus</i>, <i>Lactobacillus lactis</i>, <i>Lactobacillus casei</i></p> <p>The rule is to use the full name for the first time, then use an abbreviated form, i.e., <i>L. bulgaricus</i> for <i>Lactobacillus bulgaricus</i>.</p> <p>Typos and minor grammar errors: L6 Remove the dot from the title. L10, 26, 60, 122, 198, 234 Remove the colon (:) after subtitles. L14, 125, 150 Correct the name of the microorganism <i>Lactobacillus „bulgricus”</i> with „<i>bulgaricus</i>”.</p> <p>L16 Correct „syneris” with „syneresis” L17 Use the plural „products” instead of „product”. L17 Write „dates” and „coconut” in small letters. L18 Correct „methodology” with „Methodology”. L18 British spelling use „centred”, not „centered” and „optimised” instead of „optimized”. L19 Insert „for” before „coconut” and „dates”. L20 Insert a comma before „respectively”. Use the Symbol function of Word to insert the degree symbol (°) and avoid using „0” (L20, 21, 151 (Table 4), 207) or „o” (L22, 140, 141, 142, 143, 163, 171, 176) as superscripts for Celsius degree (°C). L21 Correct „were notice” with „was noticed”. L22 Insert a comma after „44°C” and „the” before „duration”. Use small letters for „yoghurt” (L27, 29, 30, etc.), „plant” (L40) ... – check the whole manuscript. L27 The plural verb „have” does not appear to agree with the singular subject „production”. Consider changing the verb form for subject-verb agreement. Suggestion: replace „have” with „has”, L28 Correct „bulgaris” with „bulgaricus”. Correct „thermophilis” with „thermophilus”. L29 Insert the article „a” before „decrease”. L30 Consider using a semicolon (;) or a period before „however”. L35 Insert a comma before „which”. L37 Insert a comma after „lactose”. L38 Insert „The” before „consumption”. Correct „have” with „has” (the noun „consumption” is singular). Replace „to” with „for” before „the consumers”. L41 Write „coconut”, „soybean”, and „tigernut” in small letters. L44 Insert a hyphen between „cream” and „coloured”. L46 Replace the comma with a dot after „benefits”. L50 Insert the article „a” before „chalky”.</p>	

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	<p>L51 Insert the article „the” before „nutritional”.</p> <p>L55-56 The verb „have” does not seem to agree with the subject „Lactobacillus”. Consider changing the verb form with „has”, or better, insert „strains” after „Lactobacillus”.</p> <p>L56 Insert the article „an” before „inhibitory”.</p> <p>L57 Correct „bio-chemical” with „biochemical”.</p> <p>L73, 74 Insert the article „the” before „standard”.</p> <p>L81, 105 Replace „in the production of” with „to produce”.</p> <p>L84 Write „tiger” and „dates” in small letters.</p> <p>L86 Correct „evident” with „evidence”.</p> <p>L105 Correct „cocoanut” with „coconut”. Use the comma correctly after „coconut”.</p> <p>L108 Insert „The” before „P-value”.</p> <p>L119, 123, 145, 151, 160, 167, 179, 194 Replace the colon (:) with a dot after „Table” and „Figure”.</p> <p>L124 Write „strains obtained” in small letters.</p> <p>L132 Correct „riffanose” with „raffinose”.</p> <p>L133 Insert a comma after „fructose”.</p> <p>L134 Use the plural „sources”.</p> <p>L137 Correct the word order. Suggestion: move „further” after „species”.</p> <p>L142 Correct the comma splice. Suggestions: a) replace the comma with a semicolon (;), b) replace the comma with a dot and start the following sentence with „Growth”.</p> <p>L142-143 Write „no growth” in small letters.</p> <p>L153 (Table 4) Correct „thermophiles” with „thermophilus”.</p> <p>Table 4 Write the second name of microorganisms with small letters: „bulgaricus”, „acidophilus”, „termophilus”, „lactis”, and „casei”.</p> <p>L230 Remove the comma after „such as”.</p>	
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PART 2:

	<b>Reviewer’s comment</b>	<b>Author’s comment</b> <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<b>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</b>	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

Reviewer Details:

Name:	Maria Turtoi
Department, University & Country	„Dunărea de Jos” University of Galati, Romania