

Assessment of pH of Fermented Camel and Buffalo Milk by Using *Lactobacillus Fermentum* and *Lactobacillus Helveticus* as Starter Culture at Different Time Interval

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to assess the periodical evaluation of pH of fermented camel and buffalo milk collected at weekly interval for period of 2 months from camel dairy maintained at ICAR-NRC on Camel, Bikaner(Rajasthan),India and buffaloes maintained under the project "Establishment of live demonstration models of diversified livestock production systems for motivating adaption to enhancing agricultural income (RKVY-15)" CVAS, RAJUVAS, Bikaner(Rajasthan),India respectively .The samples were inoculated with *Lactobacillus fermentum* NC DC 214 (*L. fermentum*) and *Lactobacillus helveticus* NCDC 288 (*L. helveticus*) cultures @ 1% in both pasteurized camel and buffalo milk and after proper mixing the samples were drawn at 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 hours and were subjected to analyse, for change in pH. The results of present study revealed a highly significant ($P<0.01$) decrease in the pH value of camel milk samples and buffalo milk samples with advancement of fermentation hours as well as with treated bacteria that is *L. fermentum* and *L. helveticus*.

Keywords: Camel; Buffalo; Milk; pH

Introduction

Camel milk is unique in terms of having low fat (1.5-3%), low protein (2.5%), have longer shelf life, higher ratio of β -casein to k-casein, absence of Lysozyme-C and β -lactoglobulin and presence of Whey Acidic Protein and Peptidoglycan Recognition Protein. Fresh and fermented camel milk is an important nutritional and functional source. Normal camel milk has a very white colour and is foamy [1]. The taste of camel milk is usually sweet, when camels are fed on green fodder, but sometimes salty, due to feeding on certain shrubs and herbs in the arid regions [1,2]. The one-humped camels (*Camelus dromedarius*) are well-known producers of milk which differs from bovine milk in the composition

and structure of its protein content and thus has different functional and medicinal properties.

Due to high peroxidase activity, buffalo milk can be preserved naturally for a longer period. Buffalo milk contains more calcium, better calcium: phosphorous ratio and less sodium and potassium than in cow milk which makes it a better nutritional supplement for infants.

As the pH is the most common of all analytical measurements in milk processing and since it is a direct measure of acid content [H⁺] and plays an important

role in milk and milk product processing. Among the reasons for measuring pH include: to produce products with consistent well defined properties, to efficiently produce products at optimal cost, to avoid causing health problems to consumers, to meet regulatory requirements. Keeping in view the aforesaid facts, the present investigation has been planned to assess the pH of camel and buffalo milk during fermentation by lactic acid bacteria (LAB); *Lactobacillus fermentum* and *Lactobacillus helveticus*

Material and Methods

Collection of Samples

About 2 liter of fresh camel milk collected from camel dairy maintained at ICAR-NRC on Camel, Bikaner(Rajasthan) and about 2 liter of fresh buffalo milk collected from buffaloes maintained under the project "Establishment of live demonstration models of diversified livestock production systems for motivating adaption to enhancing agricultural income (RKVY-15)" CVAS, RAJUVAS, Bikaner(Rajasthan) at weekly interval for period of 2 months to perform periodical evaluation of pH of fermented camel and buffalo milk by using *Lactobacillus fermentum* and *Lactobacillus helveticus*.

Periodical Evaluation of Fermented Camel and Buffalo Milk

For study of periodical evaluation of pH of fermented camel and buffalo milk, about 2 liter of Fresh camel and 2 liter of fresh buffalo milk were skimmed to bring the fat contents to below 0.5% using cream separator after determination of its physico chemical properties. Camel and buffalo milk were heated to boil at least for 5 min to inactivate/kill the inherent microbial population present in milk, separately for the process of pasteurization. Then after cooling of milk at room temperature, *Lactobacillus fermentum* NCDC 214 (*L. fermentum*) and *Lactobacillus helveticus* NCDC 288 (*L. helveticus*) cultures were inoculated @ 1% in both pasteurized camel and buffalo milk and after proper

mixing the samples were drawn at 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 hours and were inoculated at 37°C for different time intermission and subjected to analysed for change in pH.

pH Measurement

The pH of samples was measured using combined glass electrode of Milkoscan at camel milk research laboratory, ICAR-NRC on Camel, Bikaner (Rajasthan), India.

Results and Discussion

The data related to pH of camel milk has been presented in Table 1 and depicted in figure 1. The pH of fresh milk was found to be 6.58 ± 0.020 for *Lactobacillus fermentum* and 6.52 ± 0.006 for *Lactobacillus helveticus* before inoculation. The value of pH was dropped significantly as the fermentation hour were increased, and at 12 hour of fermentation it was observed to be 4.55 ± 0.004 and 4.28 ± 0.003 for *L. fermentum* and *L. helveticus* respectively whereas the overall pH was 5.64 ± 0.100 and 5.46 ± 0.120 was observed for *L. fermentum* and *L. helveticus*.

The statistical analysis of data shown in Table 1a, revealed that there was a highly significant ($P < 0.01$) decrease in the pH value of camel milk samples with advancement of fermentation hours as well as with treated bacteria as reported by Minieri, et al., Attia, et al. and Sulieman et al., (2006) [3-5].

Process of fermentation is affected by several factors including the structure of the protein, temperature, enzyme/protein ratio, enzyme concentration and pH. In the present study, almost linear drop in pH was observed during the fermentation process in both camel and buffalo milk samples. The release of protons (H^+ ion) and/or production of acidic amino acids into the surrounding medium results in reduction in the pH of the reaction mixture.

Treatment	<i>L. fermentum</i>	<i>L. helveticus</i>	Overall
Fresh	6.58 ± 0.020	6.52 ± 0.006	$6.55^g \pm 0.015$
Hour2	6.26 ± 0.010	6.19 ± 0.002	$6.22^f \pm 0.010$
Hour4	5.97 ± 0.006	5.93 ± 0.005	$5.95^e \pm 0.008$
Hour6	5.80 ± 0.007	5.74 ± 0.003	$5.77^d \pm 0.009$
Hour8	5.39 ± 0.006	5.12 ± 0.003	$5.25^c \pm 0.040$
Hour10	4.97 ± 0.005	4.42 ± 0.003	$4.69^b \pm 0.080$
Hour12	4.55 ± 0.004	4.28 ± 0.003	$4.42^a \pm 0.030$
Overall	$5.64^b \pm 0.100$	$5.46^a \pm 0.120$	5.55 ± 0.080

Note – Means bearing different superscripts differ significantly.

Table 1: pH (Mean \pm SE) of camel milk during fermentation.

Source of variation	D.F.	Mean Square	Level of sig.
Treated bacteria	1	0.74	**
Hour	6	7.55	**
Remainder	76	0.0086	

** = Significant at 1% ($P < 0.01$)

Table 1(a): Analysis of variance for pH of camel milk during fermentation.

The data related to pH of buffalo milk has been presented in Table 2 and depicted in figure 2. The pH of fresh milk has found to be same both for *L. fermentum* and *L. helveticus* 6.76 ± 0.007 before inoculation of treated bacteria.

Treatment	<i>L. fermentum</i>	<i>L. helveticus</i>	Overall
Fresh	6.76 ± 0.007	6.76 ± 0.007	$6.76^g \pm 0.005$
Hour2	6.50 ± 0.004	6.40 ± 0.005	$6.46^f \pm 0.015$
Hour4	6.40 ± 0.005	6.33 ± 0.004	$6.37^e \pm 0.010$
Hour6	5.95 ± 0.004	5.80 ± 0.008	$5.88^d \pm 0.020$
Hour8	5.08 ± 0.007	4.98 ± 0.040	$5.03^c \pm 0.020$
Hour10	4.66 ± 0.006	4.60 ± 0.004	$4.63^b \pm 0.009$
Hour12	4.58 ± 0.006	4.48 ± 0.005	$4.53^a \pm 0.010$
Overall	$5.70^b \pm 0.130$	$5.62^a \pm 0.130$	5.66 ± 0.090

Note – Means bearing different superscripts differ significantly.

Table 2: pH (Mean \pm SE) of buffalo milk during fermentation.

Source of variation	D.F.	Mean Square	Level of sig.
Treated bacteria	1	0.14	**
Hour	6	10.21	**
Remainder	76	0.00165	

** = Significant at 1% ($P < 0.01$)

Table2a: Analysis of variance for pH of buffalo milk during fermentation.

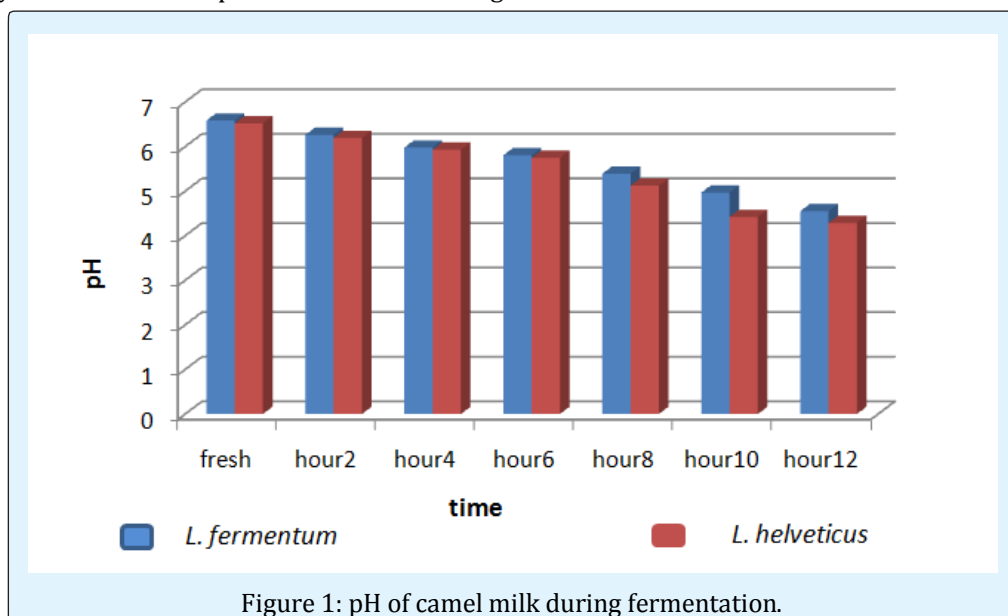
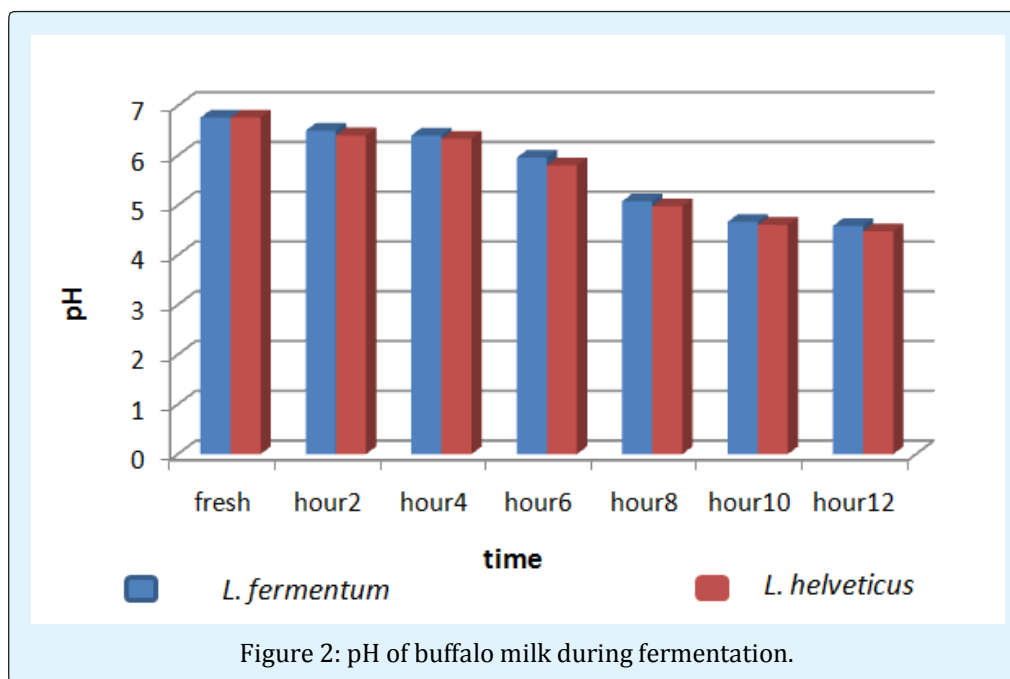


Figure 1: pH of camel milk during fermentation.



Conclusion

From the results of present study it may be concluded that during fermentation process there was a highly significant ($P < 0.01$) decrease in the pH value of camel and buffalo milk samples with advancement of fermentation hours as well as with treated bacteria that is *L. fermentum* and *L. helveticus*.

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