<sup>1</sup>University of Giresun, Faculty of Engineering, Department of Food Engineering. Giresun, Türkiye. <sup>2</sup>University of Giresun, Faculty of Engineering, Department of Genetics and Bioengineering. Giresun, Türkiye. <sup>3</sup>University of Osmaniye Korkut Ata, Faculty of Kadirli Applied Sciences, Department of Food Technology. Osmaniye, Türkiye. \*Corresponding author: <u>emelunalturhan@gmail.com</u>

Identification of lactic acid bacteria isolated from traditional cheeses

of the Black Sea Region

# ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to isolate and to identify lactic acid bacteria from traditional cheeses of the Black See Region. Artvin Sor, Giresun Tecen, Kargı Tulum, Ordu Kesik and Trabzon Telli cheese were used as cheese samples of the Black Sea Region. The number of lactic acid bacteria in traditional cheese of the Black Sea Region were ranged from  $4.62 \pm 0.76$  and to  $7.87 \pm 0.64$ log cfu·g<sup>-1</sup>. Gram–positive and catalase–negative colonies were evaluated as lactic acid bacteria based on the morphological and biochemical properties. According to biochemical analysis results, 39 lactic acid bacteria strains were identified by 16S rDNA isolated from cheese samples. Based on the sequence analysis, the indigenous lactic acid bacteria population was identified as Enterococcus faecium (35.9%), as Levilactobacillus brevis (12.8%), as Lactiplantibacillus plantarum (15.3%), as Pediococcus acidilactici (7.6%), as Enterococcus durans (7.6%), as Lacticaseibacillus paracasei (5.1%), as Lacticaseibacillus casei (7.6%), as Leuconostoc mesenteroides (2.5%), as Leuconostoc lactis (2.5%) and as Weissella cibaria (2.5%). Enterococcus spp. was the dominant lactic acid bacteria in cheese sample. The present findings revealed that lactic acid bacteria populations varied depending on cheese types in terms of cell counts and diversity.

Key words: Cheese; identification, lactic acid bacteria, PCR

# RESUMEN

Este estudio tuvo como objetivo aislar e identificar bacterias lácticas a partir de muestras de quesos tradicionales de la región del Mar Negro. Se utilizaron quesos Artvin Sor, Giresun Tecen, Kargı Tulum, Ordu Kesik y Trabzon Telli. El número de bacterias lácticas osciló entre 4,62±0,76 y 7,87±0,64 log ufc·g<sup>-1</sup>. Las colonias grampositivas y catalasa-negativas se evaluaron como bacterias de ácido láctico en función de las propiedades morfológicas y bioquímicas. Se identificaron 39 cepas de bacterias lácticas mediante 16S rDNA aislado de muestras de gueso. Con base en el análisis de secuencia, la población de bacterias ácido lácticas autóctonas se identificó como Enterococcus faecium (35,9%), como *Levilactobacillus brevis* (12,8%), como *Lactiplantibacillus* plantarum (15,3%), como Pediococcus acidilactici (7,6%), como Enterococcus durans (7,6%), como Lacticaseibacillus paracasei (5,1%), como Lacticaseibacillus casei (7,6%), como Leuconostoc mesenteroides (2,5%), como Leuconostoc lactis (2,5%) y como Weissella cibaria (2,5%), Enterococcus spp. fue la bacteria ácido láctica dominante en la muestra de queso. Los presentes hallazgos revelaron que las poblaciones de bacterias ácido lácticas variaban dependiendo de los tipos de queso en términos de recuentos celulares y diversidad.

Palabras clave: Queso; identificación; bacterias lácticas; PCR

NIVERSIDAD



Revista Científica, FCV-LUZ / Vol. XXXV

cadémico

# INTRODUCTION

Cheese is a food product with high nutritional value, obtained by pre-treating milk and usually fermenting it, and consumed with pleasure all over the world. In addition, cheese is one of the oldest fermented food products made by human [1]. France, Netherlands, and Italy were famous for cheeses. Also, Turkey is a very rich country in terms of cheese diversity [2]. Nowadays, 4,000 different variety of cheese are present in the world. Turkey manufactures approximately 200 variety of cheese [3]. Although the production methods of these cheese varieties are similar to each other, their chemical, physical and sensory properties vary depending on the milk, microflora or starter culture, environmental factors such as climate and region. The Black Sea Region is one of the regions of Turkey with rich cheese varieties. More than 30 types of cheese are manufactured in this region. The most well-known cheese types in the Black Sea Region are Civil Cheese, Kargi Tulum Cheese, Imansiz Cheese, Kurchi Cheese, Minzi Cheese and Kolot Cheese [4]. Kargi Tulum Cheese is a traditional cheese originating from the Kargi district in Corum province, Turkey. It is crafted using a variety of milks, such as cow, sheep, or buffalo milk, depending on local availability and preferences. It is typically made from milk collected during the autumn season, which contributes to its rich, high-fat content. Telli cheese is a traditional cheese from the central districts of Trabzon and Artvin, as well as the Sürmene and Akçaabat administrative districts of Trabzon in Turkey. It is made primarily from cow's milk. Telli cheese has thicker threads compared to the thinner threads of Civil Cheese, which is also sourer and salt-free in flavor. Artvin Sor cheese is made in the Savsat district of Artvin and its vicinity. Its name derives from the word Şor which means "bitter" in the region. This cheese is of a dark yellow color, is very salty and has a bitter taste [4].

In recent years, due to the increasing demand of consumers for natural products, interest in local cheese varieties has increased [5]. It is possible that local cheese varieties will be produced industrially and delivered much more and subsequently become a demanded product in the world market [6]. However, cheese industrially produced with starter cultures is different from traditional cheese with spontaneous lactic microflora (i.e. nonstarter lactic acid bacteria) regarding sensory quality properties. Starter lactic acid bacteria (LAB) are deliberately added to the milk for the production of acid during cheese processing. However, nonstarter lactic acid bacteria or indigenous microflora are inherently present in raw milk and play an important role in the developing of cheese flavor [3, 7].

The presence of numerous enzymes and indigenous lactic acid bacteria in milk improves quality properties of traditional cheeses. Native LAB develop texture and flavour properties of cheeses with microbiological and biochemical changes [7]. In industrial cheese production, the main lactic acid bacteria utilized as starter cultures are *Lactobacilus casei*, *Lactobacillus helveticus* and *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* subsp. *bulgaricus* [8]. In order to produce traditional cheese industrially, it is essential to determine the microflora of the local cheese. Additionally, the characterization of the dominant microflora provides whether it is possible to use as a starter culture [9]. Recently, molecular methods have been utilized to identify lactic acid bacteria. Especially, the sequences of the gene 16S of the ribosomal RNA is highly effective method to describe the phylogenetic degree of relatedness among bacteria. Hence, 16S rRNA sequence analysis has been progressively performed to characterize the bacterial diversity of various cheeses [10].

The dairy industry works with the limited variety of starter cultures. However, there is a need for indigenous LAB strains as starters to produce more flavorful cheeses [<u>11</u>]. A few studies have reported to determine indigenous lactic acid bacteria in the traditional cheese of the black sea region. This research aims to identify lactic acid bacteria in the traditional cheese of the black sea region by using PCR based molecular techniques.

# MATERIALS AND METHODS

## **Cheese samples**

Cheese samples were obtained from Black Sea Region in Turkey. Traditional Turkish cheeses of Black Sea Region used in this study are Telli cheese (TP) from Tonya/Trabzon, Şor cheese (AŞ) from Artvin, Tecen cheese (TC) from Giresun, Kargı Tulum cheese (KT) from Kargı/Çorum and Kesik cheese (OK) from Ordu.

# Isolation and enumeration of lactic acid bacteria in traditional cheeses

Cheese sample (25 g) was diluted with 225 mL of peptone water (Sigma) and then homogenized with stomacher for 2 min at 10 strokes per second. Serial dilution method is used for the enumeration of lactic acid bacteria. Using a 1/10 dilution rate, the homogenate was diluted to a dilution level of 107. By taking 0.1 mL from the appropriate dilutions, the homogenate was cultivated in petri dishes containing the selective medium. The two selective media were utilized for enumeration and isolation of bacteria. LAB with mainly lactococci are grown on M17 agar acc. to TERZAGHI (M17 Agar, Merck, Germany) at 30°C for 48–72 h under anaerobic conditions; LAB with mainly lactobacilli are grown on de MAN, ROGOSA and SHARPE (MRS) Agar (Merck, Germany) at 37°C for 48–72 h under anaerobic conditions. For anaerobic conditions, anaerobic jars and anaerocult A were applied. Following incubation, the colonies grown on M17 and MRS plates were enumerated. From each cheese sample, approx. Ten colonies with distinct morphological characteristics were selected from MRS and M17 agar plates and subsequently transferred to fresh plates for further purification. The assessment of Gram-positive and catalasenegative colonies was performed in a medium containing 6.5% and 18% NaCl and at temperatures of 10 and 45°C, at pH 4.4 and pH 9.6. Furthermore, CO<sub>2</sub> production as a result of glucose metabolism of the isolates and arrangement of cells (tetrad form, chain form) was assessed. Gram-positive and catalase negative pure isolates were selected from all cheese samples, and they were stored at -20°C (Arcelik, 4252EY, Türkiye) with glycerol (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) stocks [7, 12, 13].

## Extraction of bacterial DNA from pure isolates of cheese samples

Bacterial DNA from pure isolates was extracted using method described in previous studies [7, 14, 15]. 2 mL overnight culture were obtained for total DNA extraction. Microbial cells were centrifugated (Hermle Z326K, Germany) for 5 min at 4,000 g at 4°C. Supernatant was poured and then the pellets were resuspended in 500  $\mu$ L of the lysis buffer. After incubation (Nuve ES 120 cooled incubator, Türkiye) for 10 min at 65°C, 150  $\mu$ L potassium acetate was added. The mixture

was transferred into sterile Eppendorf tube by adding isopropyl alcohol at equal volume. The mixture was centrifugated (Hermle Z326K, Germany) for 2 min at 4°C and at 12,000 g and then supernatant was discarded. The pellets were suspended in ethanol (70%, V/V) and this mixture was centrifugated (Hermle Z326K, Germany) for 1 min at 4°C and at 12,000 g. The pellet washed in ice–cold 70% ethyl alcohol. DNA was dried by vacuum centrifugation and resuspended in 50  $\mu$ L ultrapure water. The PCR products were electrophoresed (MS Major Science, Mini 300, Taiwan) on a 1.5% agarose gel to examine the excepted size and to separate amplification products. DNA was stored at -20°C (Arcelik, 4252EY, Türkiye) for following trials.

## 16S rDNA sequence analysis

This research utilized two universal primers: 27F (5'-CCGCGGCTGCTGGCACGTA-3') and 1492R (5'-GTGCGGGCCCCCGTCAATT-3'). For reaction, the mixture of 2  $\mu$ L dNTP (10 pM), 2  $\mu$ L primer (10 pM), 3  $\mu$ L MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 10  $\mu$ L10X tampon, 0.25  $\mu$ L Taq polymerase (Go Taq Hot Start Polymerase) was suspended with distilled pure water at 50  $\mu$ L total volume. After an initial denaturation was performed at 94°C for 5 min., the products were amplified (PCR-BioRad T100 Thermal Cycler, USA) through 35 cycles. Each cycle was denaturation at 94°C for 30 s, annealing at 52°C for 40 s, elongation at 72°C for 90 s. Lastly, the final extension step was performed at 72°C for 5 min. The resulting PCR products were then sent to BMLabosis (Ankara, Türkiye) in Ankara for the process of sequencing. The sequences were compared with those in the NCBI GenBank database utilizing the BLAST tool [7, 14, 15].

## **Statistical analysis**

Statistical analyses were conducted utilizing Windows SPPS 20.0 software statistical package program (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) according to the randomized block experimental plan. The data were evaluated using one–way analysis of variance and significance differences were determined according to Duncan's multiple comparison test.

# **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

## Number of lactic acid bacteria in traditional cheeses

TABLE I gives the mean quantities of LAB in cheese samples. The numbers of LAB on MRS and M17 plates varied from 4.62 and 7.87, and from 4.89 to 8.80 log cfu·g<sup>-1</sup>, respectively.

<i>TABLE I</i> The numbers of LAB in cheese samples (log CFU·g )			
Samples	MRS agar	M17 agar.	
TP	$7.87 \pm 0.64^{\circ}$	$8.80\pm0.59^{\rm d}$	
AŞ	$6.28\pm0.25^{ m b}$	7.95 ± 2.93°	
TC	$7.14\pm0.12^{\rm bc}$	7.35 ± 0.61°	
KT	$6.38 \pm 0.21^{b}$	$5.72\pm0.03^{\text{b}}$	
ОК	$4.62 \pm 0.76^{a}$	$4.89\pm0.40^{\rm a}$	

<sup>a-b</sup>: Different superscripts in the same column indicate a significant difference at *P*<0.05., TP: Telli cheese from Tonya/Trabzon, AŞ: Şor cheese from Artvin, TC: Tecen cheese from Giresun, KT: Kargı Tulum cheese from Kargı/Çorum and OK: Kesik cheese from Ordu The lowest LAB counts belong to Ordu Kesik cheese samples, while the highest LAB counts belong to Trabzon Telli cheese samples. In general, LAB counts in Kesik cheese and Telli cheese was statistically different (P<0.05) from other cheese while difference among LAB counts in Şor cheese, Tecen cheese and Kargi Tulum cheese was found to be insignificant (P>0.05) except Kargi Tulum cheese sample in M17 plate.

In line with the present results, previous researchers stated that traditional cheeses contain lactic acid bacteria counts at wide range from 4 and to 9 log cfu·g<sup>-1</sup>[3, 7, 16]. Various researchers highlighted those differences in the number of LAB may result from production methods, the type of milk, storage period, and regional factors [2, 16, 17]. For example, the number of LAB in Telli cheese is found quite high in this study since Trabzon Telli cheese is primarily produced in farms under primitive conditions and usually based on spontaneous fermentation [18]. In brief, spontaneous fermentation, a long period of ripening period and traditional production techniques are responsible for numerous LAB in cheese [18].

# Isolation and identification of lactic acid bacteria in traditional cheeses

A total of 147 strains were isolated, with 75 strains from MRS agar and 72 strains from M17 agar. These strains were subjected to morphological and biochemical tests. Lactic acid bacteria isolates were morphologically examined using a light microscope following gram–staining and catalase tests.

The morphological and biochemical properties of lactic acid bacteria colonies were examined before DNA extraction. The Gram-positive and catalase negative colonies were divided into three groups consisting of cocci, bacilli or coccobacilli. In the M17 plates, the cocci form (61.90%), bacilli form (28.58%) and coccobacilli form (9.52%) were observed at different proportions. In the MRS plates, bacilli and cocci colonies were 55.56% and 38.88% of the total lactic acid bacteria colonies, respectively while coccobacilli represented 5.56% of all isolates. The cocci mesophilic colonies were significantly higher in Tecen and Şor cheese according to other cheese samples and bacilli colonies were higher in Kargi Tulum cheese.

According to biochemical test results, total 39 strains including 8 strains from Kesik cheese, 5 strains from Şor cheese, 10 strains from Tecen cheese, 8 strains from Kargi Tulum cheese and 8 strains from Telli cheese were selected for further identification. These 39 isolates were defined as lactic acid bacteria according to the results of PCR. FIG. 1 presents the gel images obtained after the PCR analysis of the samples. These 39 strains include 14 *Enterococcus faecium* (35.9%), 5 *Levilactobacillus brevis* (12.8%), 6 *Lactiplantibacillus plantarum* (15.3%), 3 *Pediococcus acidilactici* (7.6%), 3 *Enterococcus durans* (7.6%), 2 *Lacticaseibacillus paracasei* (5.1%), 3 *Lacticaseibacillus casei* (7.6%), 1 *Leuconostoc mesenteroides* (2.5%), 1 *Leuconostoc lactis* (2.5%) and 1 *Weissella cibaria* (2.5%).

TABLE II displays identification of LAB isolates from cheese samples. As a result of sequence analysis, the autochthonous LAB strains was defined as *Enterococcus* spp. (43.58%), *Lactiplantibacillus* spp. (15.38%), *Lacticaseibacillus* spp.

#### Lactic acid bacteria in traditional cheeses / Kalkan et al.



FIGURE 1. Gel images of LAB isolates by16S rDNA PCR

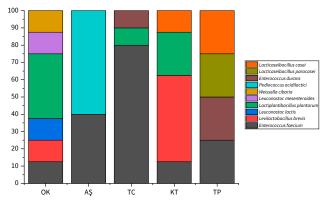
(12.82%), Levilactobacillus spp. (12.82%), and Pediococcus spp. (7.69%), Leuconostoc mesenteroides (5.12%), as Weissella cibaria (2.56%). Out of the 17 Enteroccus spp., 14 were classified as Enterococcus faecium, and 3 as Enterococcus durans. Out of the 5 Lacticaseibacillus spp., 3 were classified as Lacticaseibacillus casei and 2 as Lacticaseibacillus paracasei. Out of the 2 Lecuconostos spp. were classified as 1 Leuconostoc lactis and as 1 Leuconostoc mesenteroides. Out of the other 15 strains were classified as 6 Lactiplantibacillus plantarum, as 5 Levilactobacillus brevis, as 3 Pediococcus acidilactici, and as 1 Weissella cibaria.

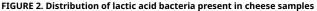
In addition to the counts of the microbial populations, the distribution of their morphological types (cocci, bacilli and coccobacilli colonies) and the distribution of their species may vary depending on environmental and genetic parameters [10]. The Enterococcus spp. (47.2%) were the predominant group which is in line with the study results of Aktaş and Erdoğan [19] Enterococccus strains show tolerance to salt concentration and acidic conditions. The presence of *Enterococcus* strains in cheese resulted from insufficient hygiene and sanitation practices during the handling of raw milk or processing equipment. Additionally, Enterococcus strains are present in milk because of contamination from the external surface of dairy animals, unhygienic dairy equipment, dairy storage tanks, or water sources contaminated with feces. These strains affect quality properties of traditional cheeses such as mainly flavor and texture [7]. In line with the present results, Demirci et al. [20] stated that *Enterococcus* spp. is the dominant species in traditional cheese. Similarly, in another study, it was reported that *Enterococcus* isolates from Ezine cheese were mostly *E. faecium* (64.3%) [11]. Enterococcus strains are part of the natural microflora in cheese produced from raw milk and induce the ripening process and improve sensory guality. In addition to this, the presence of enterococci in dairy products results from the process of milking and storing [21].

FIGURE 2, gives distribution of lactic acid bacteria present in cheese samples. In the present study the greatest prevalence among genera was of *Enterococcus* spp. Particularly, *Enterococcus feacium* is the common strain identified for all cheese samples. Additionally, Şor cheese and Tecen cheese contain higher amount of *E. feacium* according to the other cheeses. *Lactiplantibacillus plantarum* was the second most prevalent lactic acid bacteria

Cheese samples	Isolate	Similarity based on 16S rDNA	Similarity (
Kesik cheese	OK-M17-1	Enterococcus faecium	100
	OK-M17-5	Levilactobacillus brevis	99
	OK-M17-9	Leuconostoc lactis	99
	OK-M17-13	Lactiplantibacillus plantarum	100
	OK-M17-15	Leuconostoc mesenteroides	97
	OK-MRS-2	Lactiplantibacillus plantarum	99
	OK-MRS-4	Weissella cibaria	100
	OK-MRS-14	Lactiplantibacillus plantarum	100
Şor cheese	AŞ-M17-2	Pediococcus acidilactici	100
	AŞ-M17-5	Pediococcus acidilactici	99
	AŞ-M17-11	Enterococcus faecium	98
	AŞ-M17-15	Enterococcus faecium	99
	AŞ-MRS-7	Pediococcus acidilactici	99
	TC-M17-3	Enterococcus faecium	99
	TC-M17-5	Enterococcus faecium	99
	TC-M17-7	Enterococcus faecium	99
Tecen cheese	TC-M17-8	Enterococcus faecium	99
	TC-M17-11	Lactiplantibacillus plantarum	99
	TC-MRS-2	Enterococcus faecium	99
	TC-MRS-3	Enterococcus faecium	99
	TC-MRS-7	Enterococcus faecium	99
	TC-MRS-9	Enterococcus durans	100
	TC-MRS-15	Enteroccoccus faecium	100
Kargı Tulum cheese	KT-M17-2	Levilactobacillus brevis	100
	KT-M17-8	Levilactobacillus brevis	100
	KT-M17-10	Levilactobacillus brevis	99
	KT-M17-12	Enteroccocus faecium	99
	KT-MRS-3	Lacticaseibacillus casei	99.8
	KT-MRS-6	Lactiplantibacillus plantarum	100
	KT-MRS-13	Levilactobacillus brevis	100
	KT-MRS-14	Lactiplantibacillus plantarum	99
-	TP-MRS-5	Lacticaseibacillus paracasei	100
	TP-MRS-6	Lacticaseibacillus casei	99.57
	TP-MRS-11	Lacticaseibacillus paracasei	100
Telli cheese	TP-MRS-12	Lacticaseibacillus casei	100
	TP-MRS-15	Enterococcus faecium	100
	TP-M17-3	Enterococcus durans	99
	TP-M17-7	Enterococcus durans	98
	TP-M17-8	Enterococcus faecium	98

TABLE II





in cheese samples of the present study. The highest diversity of lactic acid bacteria species was verified in the Ordu Kesik cheese samples with 6 different species including *Enterococcus faecium*, *Levilactobacillus brevis*, *Leuconostoc lactis*, *Lactiplantibacillus plantarum*, *Leuconostoc mesenteroides* and *Weissella cibaria*. Furthermore, *Weissella cibari* and *Leuconostoc lactis* were identified in only Ordu Kesik cheese. *Pediococcus pentosaceus* (FFH20) was only isolated from the Artvin Şor cheese samples. Telli cheese is rich in *Lacticaseibacillus* spp. compared with other cheese samples. Similar to the results in TABLE I, and FIG. 2 shows that in terms of similarity in the distribution of LAB, Şor cheese, Tecen cheese and Kargı Tulum cheese form a similar group while Telli cheese and Kesik cheese form another group. In this study, *Enteroccus durans* was identified in Tecen cheese and Telli cheese.

Medeiros *et al.* [10] highlighted that high lactic lactic bacteria counts indicate microbial richness. On the contrary, in this study, kesik cheese with low LAB counts had much more microbial richness involving a large variety of different lactic acid bacteria species. As known from literature reports, microorganisms have antagonistic activity and dominant microflora may inhibit other species of strains (Rençber *et al.* [7]). This explains the high variety of LAB and low variety of LAB in Ordu kesik cheese and Artvin Şor cheese, respectively.

Similarly, previous researchers reported that *Lactiplantibacillus* spp. was second dominant microflora in Tulum cheeses [7, 22]. They have great potential to utilize as starter culture since *Lactiplantibacillus* species are resistant to low pH and high amounts of salt in cheese [11]. *Lactobacillus* was another dominant species in cheese manufactured from raw milk due to their growth under hard selective conditions and proteolytic activities [23].

Chourasia *et al.* [24] stated that *Enterococcus durans* was the main LAB in chhurpi cheese. The excessive use of antibiotics in agricultural and clinical practices has boosted the prevalence of antibiotic–resistant bacteria in food products. Antibiotic–resistant enterococci are among the most crucial microorganisms associated with infections [24].

The distribution of LAB genus of traditional cheeses was not homogeneous in all locations or regions. The deficiency of standardization of the traditional cheeses manufactured in all regions causes heterogeneity in distributions of LAB genera. This heterogeneity provided specific sensory characteristics of this traditional food product [10].

Diversity of LAB strains resulted from specific to traditional cheese, commonly processed with raw milk. Raw milk or non-pasteurized milk is abundant in all lactic acid bacteria including non-starter lactic acid bacteria. The main source of the cheese microflora is considered as the environment, water, the mammary gland, processors of dairy products or other materials during the milk manufacturing process [10]. Traditional cheeses involve indigenous lactic acid bacteria populations which cause unique texture and aroma of cheese. Pasteurization damages the natural microflora of milk and dairy products. Hence, traditional starter cultures are added into milk after the pasteurization process [16]. Nonstarter lactic acid bacteria are naturally present in raw milk microflora. Particularly they improve aroma and flavor in long-term ripened cheese [21].

#### CONCLUSIONS

The present results indicated a great and important diversity of LAB in the traditional cheeses of the Black Sea Region. The sequencing of the 16S rRNA gene was a highly effective technique for the identification of lactic acid bacteria in cheeses. The most prevalent genera in cheese samples were *Enterococcus* spp. and *Lactiplantibacillus* spp. In general, the distribution of the LAB species in cheese samples was different from each other. In the next study, the influence of identified lactic acid bacteria on the technological properties of cheeses and the potential for use as a starter culture may be focused on.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To Giresun Üniversitesi Bilimsel Araştırma Projeleri (BAP) Komisyon Başkanlığına (Proje No: FEN–BAP–C-281119-78).

#### **Financial Support**

This study was supported by Giresun Üniversitesi Bilimsel Araştırma Projeleri (BAP) Komisyon Başkanlığına (Project No: FEN–BAP–C-281119-78).

#### **Conflict of Interest**

The authors declared that there is no conflict of interest.

#### Ethics approval

Not required. Any of the author conducted no human or animal studies in this article.

#### **Consent for publication**

Not required.

#### **Compliance with ethical standards**

There are no studies with human or animal subjects in this article

## **Author Contributions**

S.K.: Conceptualization, supervision, methodology, statistical analysis, writing-original draft, review & editing, K.Ö.: Methodology, data curation and analysis, writing-original draft, review & editing. G.Ö.: Review, writing-original draft, data curation and analysis E.U.T: Methodology, supervision, writing-original draft, review & editing

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

- Irlinger F, Layec S, Hélinck S, Dugat–Bony E. Cheese rind microbial communities: diversity, composition and origin. FEMS Microbiol. Lett. [Internet]. 2015; 362(2):1-11. doi: https://doi.org/gg9jdn
- [2] Rençber F, Çelik Ş. Farklı ambalaj materyalinde olgunlaştırılan Muş Tulum peynirinin bazı karakteristik özellikleri [Some Characteristic Properties of Muş Tulum Cheese Ripened in Different Packing Materials]. Atatürk Üniv. Ziraat. Fak. Derg. [Internet]. 2021; 52(1):1-10. Turkish. doi: <u>https://doi.org/pbts</u>
- [3] Tomar O, Akarca G, Beykaya M, Çağlar A. Some characteristics of Erzincan tulum cheese produced using different probiotic cultures and packaging material. Kafkas Univ. Vet. Fak. Derg. [Internet]. 2018; 24(5):647-654. doi: <u>https://doi.org/pbt6</u>
- [4] Kalkan S, Altuntas EG. Traditional turkish cheeses of Black Sea region. In: Oluk CA, Karaca OB, editors. Traditional cheeses from selected regions in Asia, Europe, and South America [Internet]. Sharjah (United Arab Emirates): Bentham Books; 2020. p. 170-198. doi: <u>https://doi.org/pc5j</u>
- [5] Halkman AK, Taşkın Y. Ulusal düzeyde laktik starter kültür üretimi [National level lactic starter culture production]. Paper presented at: 1<sup>st</sup> International "Traditional Foods from Adriatic to Caucasus" Symposium;15-17 Apr. 2010; Tekirdağ, Turkey.
- [6] Kiraz Ş. Çorum yöresinde üretilen geleneksel Kargı tulum peynirlerinin bazı bileşim özelliklerinin belirlenmesi [Determination of some compositional properties of traditional Kargı tulum cheese produced in Çorum region ][master's thesis on the Internet]. Çorum (Türkiye): University of Hitit; 2018 [cited 20 Sep. 2024]; 57 p. Turkish. Available in: https:// n9.cl/8lryp
- [7] Rençber F, Önlü H, Atasoy AF. Assessment of lactic acid bacteria isolated from traditional Muş Tulum cheese. Mljmlekarstvo [Internet]. 2024; 74(4):296-311. doi: <u>https:// doi.org/pbvc</u>
- [8] Mistry V. Low fat cheese technology. Int. Dairy J. [Internet]. 2001; 11(4-7):413-422. doi: <u>https://doi.org/d9tvxg</u>
- [9] Kırmacı HA. Geleneksel Urfa peynirinde yer alan laktik asit bakterilerinin izolasyonu, moleküler karakterizasyonu ve starter kültür olarak kullanım olanakları [Isolation, molecular charaterization of lactic acid bacteria in traditional Urfa cheese and possible use as a starter culture] [dissertation on the Internet]. Şanlıurfa (Türkiye): Harran University; 2010 [cited 20 Sep. 2024]. 152 p. Turkish. Available in: https://goo.su/JuIjw

- [10] Medeiros RS, Araújo LM, Queiroga Neto V, Andrade PP, Melo MA, Gonçalves MMBP. Identification of lactic acid bacteria isolated from artisanal Coalho cheese produced in the Brazilian Northeast. CyTA J. Food. [Internet]. 2016; 14(4):613-620. doi: <u>https://doi.org/pbvd</u>
- [11] Uymaz B, Akçelik N, Yüksel Z. Physicochemical and microbiological characterization of protected designation of origin Ezine cheese: Assessment of non–starter lactic acid bacterial diversity with antimicrobial activity. Food Sci. Anim. Resour. [Internet]. 2019; 39(5):804-819. doi: https://doi.org/pbvf
- [12] Kara R, Akkaya L. Afyon Tulum peynirinin mikrobiyolojik ve fiziko-kimyasal özellikleri ile laktik asit bakteri dağılımlarının belirlenmesi [Determination of microbiological, physicochemical properties and distribution of lactic acid bacteria of Afyon Tulum cheese]. AKU. J. Sci. Eng. [Internet]. 2015; 15(1):015401. Turkish. doi: <u>https://doi.org/pbvh</u>
- [13] Doğan M, Ozpınar H. Investigation of probiotic features of bacteria isolated from some food products. Kafkas Univ. Vet. Fak. Derg. [Internet]. 2017; 23(4):555-562. doi: <u>https://doi.org/pbvj</u>
- [14] Gevers D, Huy SG, Swings J. Applicability of rep-PCR fingerprinting for identification of *Lactobacillus* species. FEMS Microbiol. Lett. [Internet]. 2001; 205(1):31-36. doi: <u>https:// doi.org/dxjm34</u>
- [15] Kesmen Z, Yetiman AE, Güllüce A, Kaçmaz N, Sagdıç O, Çetin B, Adıgüzel A, Sahin F, Yetim H. Combination of culture– dependent and culture–independent molecular methods for the determination of lactic microbiota in sucuk. Int. J. Food. Microbiol. [Internet]. 2012; 153(3):428-435. doi: <u>https://doi.org/d5vs3w</u>
- [16] Çiçek ŞK, Erdoğmuş S. Microbiological quality of probiotic added traditional Çamur cheese. Emir. J. Food Agric. [Internet]. 2023; 35(5):452-457. doi: <u>https://doi.org/pbvn</u>
- [17] Kamber U, Terzi G. The traditional cheeses of Turkey: Middle and eastern black sea region. Food Rev. Int. [Internet]. 2008; 24(1):95-118. doi: <u>https://doi.org/b3gt6h</u>
- [18] Öründü S, Tarakçı Z. Effects of different starter culture applications pre – and post–scalding on the biochemical and sensory properties of pasta filata type cheeses. LWT–Food Sci. Technol. [Internet]. 2020; 136(Part 1):110288. doi: <u>https:// doi.org/pbvp</u>
- [19] Aktaş HM, Erdoğan A. Characterization of technological properties of lactic acid bacteria isolated from Turkish Beyaz (white) cheese. J. Food Process. Preserv. [Internet]. 2022; 46(10):e16837. doi: <u>https://doi.org/grs9pw</u>
- [20] Demirci T, Akın N, Atik D S, Özkan ER, Dertli E, Akyol İ. Lactic acid bacteria diversity and dynamics during ripening of traditional Turkish goatskin Tulum cheese produced in Mut region assessed by culturing and PCR–DGGE. LWT–Food Sci. Technol. [Internet]. 2021; 138:110701. doi: https://doi.org/pbvq
- [21] Kırmacı HA, Ozer B H, Akcelik M, Akcelik N. Identification and characterisation of lactic acid bacteria isolated from traditional Urfa cheese. Int. J. Dairy. Technol. [Internet]. 2016; 69(2):301-307. doi: <u>https://doi.org/pbvm</u>

- [22] Gezginç Y, Karabekmez–Erdem T, Tatar HD, Dağgeçen EC, Ayman S, Akyol İ. Metagenomics and volatile profile of Turkish artisanal Tulum cheese microbiota. Food Biosci. [Internet]. 2022; 45:101497. doi: <u>https://doi.org/gprrvj</u>
- [23] Poyraz N, Mammadova K, Mollayeva N, Mutlu MB. Investigation of the lactic acid bacteria in different traditional cheeses of Azerbaijan. Biol. Bull. [Internet]. 2024; 51(2):286-293. doi: <u>https://doi.org/pbvk</u>
- [24] Chourasia R, Kumari R, Singh SP, Sahoo D, Rai AK. Characterization of native lactic acid bacteria from traditionally fermented chhurpi of Sikkim Himalayan region for the production of chhurpi cheese with enhanced antioxidant effect. LWT–Food Sci. Technol. [Internet]. 2022; 154:112801. doi: https://doi.org/pbvr