

Antimicrobial Activity of Different Molecular Weight Chitosan on *Bacillus subtilis*

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ABSTRACT

The antimicrobial effects of different molecular weight (MW) chitosan (water-soluble-grade W031, chitosan-grade SK10P8, food-grade N96, industry-grade A72 with 27.5、94.1、245.9、350.7 kDa, respectively) in 1% acetic acid solutions on the growth of *Bacillus subtilis* were investigated in this study.

The results showed the industry-grade A72 (350.7 kDa) could inhibit *Bacillus subtilis* growth before 4 hour. After 4 hour incubation, the inhibition was not obtained clear. The *Bacillus subtilis* has inhibited before 8 hour incubation with food-grade N96 (245.9 kDa), and incubation with soluble-grade W031, chitosan-grade SK10P8 have inhibited before 12 hour. In this, the lower molecular weight of chitosan could effective to inhibit *Bacillus subtilis* growth. The 50~60% inhibited of *Bacillus subtilis* growth in 0.02% (w/v) of chitosan concentration. When chitosan concentration was 0.04% (w/v), the *Bacillus subtilis* was not growth. In this study, we found the optimal inhibition in 0.04% (w/v) soluble-grade W031 (27.5 kDa). In health food, we suggest use food-grade N96 (0.02% (w/v)) because the *Bacillus subtilis* DYU1002 will not be inhibited in health food.

Keywords : chitosan、*Bacillus subtilis* DYU1002、molecular weight、antimicrobial activity

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