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Additional Information

1 **Comparison of biopreservatives obtained from a starter culture of *Pediococcus***  
2 ***acidilactici* by different techniques**

3

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10

11 **Abstract**

12 Due to the increase by consumers of healthy products, the exploration of natural  
13 antimicrobial compounds has been promoted through the use of by-products of lactic  
14 acid bacteria. Therefore, the aim of this research was to obtain an antimicrobial powder  
15 (cell free) by freeze-drying (FD) and spray-drying (SD) from the microbial stabilisation  
16 (filtration or partial purification) of a *Pediococcus acidilactici* fermentation broths. The  
17 antimicrobial activity of these powders was quantified, *in vitro*, against *Listeria innocua*  
18 CECT 4032 as a target microorganism. The physicochemical properties tested on these  
19 powders were water content, hygroscopicity, water activity, porosity, colour and  
20 solubility. As results, microbiological stabilisation is potentially better to perform a  
21 partial purification since the antimicrobial capacity against *L. innocua* CECT 4032 is  
22 higher than with filtration. On the other hand, SD is the best technique to obtain the  
23 powder, since it obtains a better productivity with a lower cost and also a more stable  
24 powder during storage.

25

26 **Keywords:** biopreservative; lactic acid bacteria; microbial stabilisation; freeze-drying;  
27 spray-drying; physicochemical properties; antimicrobial activity

28

## 29 1. INTRODUCTION

30 For many years, there has been a growing trend towards the consumption of food  
31 without additives or chemical preservatives. In recent years there has been an increase  
32 in the interest in biological preservation methods, owing to the consumer demand for  
33 minimally processed and fresher food (O'Sullivan et al., 2002; Gálvez et al., 2007). In  
34 this context, biopreservation represents an alternative to the use of chemical  
35 preservatives, because it is based on the application of antimicrobial metabolites are  
36 produced by microorganisms (Reis et al., 2012), which are naturally present in  
37 fermented products. In this kind of food, the antimicrobial metabolites are consumed  
38 with the microorganisms, which are commonly lactic acid bacteria (LAB). Besides,  
39 these microorganisms are capable of producing a variety of antimicrobial substances,  
40 like organic acids, hydrogen peroxide, antifungal peptides, and bacteriocins (Du et al.,  
41 2017). In general, lactic acid bacteria are recognized as safe for its use in food so due to  
42 this most of them have been granted GRAS (Generally Recognized as Safe) status by  
43 the US Food and Drug Administration or Qualified Presumption of Safety (Talon &  
44 Leroy, 2011) and by with a Qualified Presumption of Safety (QPS, in the EU) (La  
45 Storia et al., 2020). So, biopreservation using LAB and/or their antimicrobial  
46 metabolites represents an alternative for improving food safety.

47 In this context, bacteriocin proteins are bacterial metabolites with antimicrobial  
48 properties against other species of bacteria (Singh et al., 2015). But, pediococcal  
49 bacteriocins are generally have large variations among the bacteriocin peptides and  
50 antimicrobial activity, alone or in combination with other peptides (Dey et al., 2019).  
51 The incorporation of this metabolites as an ingredient is the commonly used approach.  
52 Metabolite preparations used can be any forms ranging from cell free supernatant,  
53 partially purified, and purified ones (Woraprayote et al., 2016). In order to take

54 advantage of all the antimicrobial compounds of the LAB fermentation broth, a  
55 stabilisation treatment must be undergone, which stops the fermentation process, and, at  
56 the same time, maintains the antimicrobial properties of the bioactive substances  
57 unaltered. But, for commercialization and effective use in food preservation, the product  
58 should have unique properties and also the purification strategies should be less cost and  
59 time demanding (Dey et al., 2019).

60 Commonly, the MRS (de Man, Rogosa and Sharpe) medium has been considered as  
61 suitable for promoting the growth of LAB, but it is expensive for its industrial  
62 production (Pandey et al., 2019; Musatti et al., 2020). For this reason, an attractive  
63 approach is to use by-products of the agro-food industry in the formulation of culture  
64 media.

65 Nowadays, techniques like freeze-drying (FD) or spray-drying (SD) are a good  
66 alternative to obtain powder products. FD is considered as a reference process. The  
67 sublimation of ice, coupled with a low process temperature, minimize thermal damage  
68 to heat sensitive nutrients (Mastrocola et al., 1997), making it more suitable than SD for  
69 some cultures (Gardiner et al., 2000). On the other hand, SD is a well-established and  
70 widely used method for transforming a liquid food product into powder form. Besides,  
71 SD has been widely used for production of starter cultures and dehydrated probiotic  
72 bacteria (Riveros et al., 2009), since the powder obtained can be transported at a low  
73 cost and can be stored in a stable form for prolonged periods (Gardiner et al., 2000).

74 The aim of this research was to obtain an antimicrobial powder (cell free) by FD and SD  
75 from the microbial stabilisation (filtration or partial purification) as a by-product of a  
76 *Pediococcus acidilactici* fermentation simplified and economical food-grade medium  
77 that can be used in meat industry. The antimicrobial activity of these powders was  
78 quantified, *in vitro*, against *Listeria innocua* CECT 4032 as a target microorganism.

79

## 80 **2. MATERIAL AND METHODS**

### 81 **2.1. Raw materials**

82 The starter microorganisms *Pediococcus acidilactici* was specifically isolated by the  
83 company Josefa Estellés Mayor S.L., Llíria, Spain from raw-cured products for use in  
84 its meat products. Besides, the fermented broth made with food-grade ingredients (29  
85 g/L of dextrose and 31 g/L of yeast extract) and the dextrin used as support were  
86 supplied by the company Josefa Estellés Mayor S.L., Llíria, Spain.

87

### 88 **2.2. Microbial stabilisation**

89 With the aim of obtaining a broth enriched in metabolites and without microbial cells a  
90 microbial stabilisation was carried out.

91 In order to obtain the cell free extracts (CFEs), the food grade broth was inoculated with  
92 *P. acidilactici* ( $10^3$  CFU/mL) and was fermented for 8 h at 37 °C. Then, a  
93 microbiological stabilisation of this fermented broths ( $10^8$  CFU/mL) was carried out, by  
94 two techniques. Filtration (F) was described by De Jesús (2016) with modifications.  
95 Firstly, a centrifugation of the fermentation broths was carried out for 20 min at 3,000 x  
96 g and at 4 °C (Eppendorf AG 5804R, Hamburg, Germany). The supernatant was filtered  
97 under vacuum conditions using a polyethersulfone (PES) membrane of 0.22 µm  
98 (UltraStep membrane, GVS, USA), which, due to its low protein retention, would allow  
99 the pass of peptide substances, not retaining any inhibitory activity (Ananou et al.,  
100 2010).

101 Partial purification (PP) was put into practise by adapting the procedures described by  
102 Cabo et al. (1999), Guerra & Pastrana (2001) and Ünlü et al. (2016). Thus, the pH of the  
103 fermentation broths was adjusted to 3.5 with 5 N HCl (Panreac, **Barcelona**, Spain) and

104 allowed to stand for 10 min. Subsequently, a pasteurization was carried out in a thermal  
105 bath (Julabo TW20, Seelbach, Germany) at 80 °C for 10 min. After this time, the  
106 samples were cooled in an ice bath for 15 min. Then, they were centrifuged under the  
107 same conditions and time as the filtrated samples. Finally, the pH of the supernatant was  
108 adjusted to 6.5 with 10 N NaOH (Panreac), to neutralise acids and test the antimicrobial  
109 activity of the other different metabolites.

110 To check the effectiveness of the microbial stabilisation methods, lactic acid bacteria  
111 (LAB) count of fermented broths were performed using De Man, Rogosa y Sharpe  
112 (MRS) (Scharlau, Barcelona, Spain) incubated at 37 °C for 48 h.

113

### 114 **2.3. Freeze-drying and spray drying conditions**

115 Two processes were used to obtain the powder biopreservative, FD and SD, both were  
116 described by De Jesús (2016). For the preparation of the feed mixture of both processes,  
117 10% (w/v) of dextrin was added to CFEs stabilised by both F and PP, and mixed until a  
118 total dissolution.

119 For FD, the samples were placed in sterile glass Petri dishes (diameter 20 cm)  
120 (approximately 200 g per Petri dish), and was immediately frozen at -45 °C for 48 h.  
121 Then, the Petri dishes were introduced into a Telstar LyoAlfa-6 freeze dryer (Barcelona,  
122 Spain) at  $0.051 \pm 0.013$  mbar pressure and a temperature of  $-55 \pm 3$  °C, for 48 h. The  
123 obtained cakes were ground (Minimoka GR-020, Coffemotion S.L., Lleida, Spain).

124 For SD, the mixture was fed into Büchi B-290 (Switzerland) mini spray dryer with the  
125 following operating conditions: inlet temperature 157 °C; aspirator rate 85% (33 m<sup>3</sup>/h);  
126 atomization air 414 L/h with a co-current flow; 35% pump rate (10 mL/min). Once the  
127 experiment was finished, and when the air inlet temperature fell below 50 °C, the  
128 samples were collected from the product collection vessel.

129 In both cases, the powder was packed in impermeable plastic bags supplied by Josefa  
130 Estellés Mayor S.L., Llíria, Spain and these bags were stored in a cooled incubator FOC  
131 225I (VELP Scientifica, Italy) at 30 °C, to simulate the normal weather condition in the  
132 industry. Two batches were performed, one for physicochemical tests and other for  
133 antimicrobial activity analysis.

134

#### 135 **2.4. Efficiency, drying ratio and productivity.**

136 Efficiency was defined as the ratio of the mass of solutes present in the powder obtained  
137 at the end of each SD or FD period, to the mass of solutes present in the mixture prior to  
138 SD or FD respectively (Vardin & Yasar, 2012). Drying ratio and productivity for SD  
139 and FD were calculated according to Cai & Corke (2000), slightly modified. The drying  
140 ratio was calculated by equation (1) (powder solid content / feed solid content).

$$141 \quad \text{Drying ratio} = \frac{(X_w^i + 1)}{(X_w^f + 1)} \quad (1)$$

142 where  $X_w^i$  is the mixture feed moisture (dry basis), and  $X_w^f$  is the powder moisture (dry  
143 basis). Productivity (g/h) = feed rate (g/h) / drying ratio. Feed rate was calculated from  
144 the mass of mixture feed (g) and the process time (h).

145

#### 146 **2.5. Physicochemical analysis**

147 The water content ( $x_w$ ) of the biopreservative powders (g water/100 g sample) was  
148 performed by vacuum oven drying (Vaciotem, J.P. Selecta, Spain) at 60 °C until  
149 constant weight (AOAC, 2000).

150 Water activity ( $a_w$ ) of the samples was determined using a dew point hygrometer  
151 (AquaLab PRE LabFerrer, Pullman, USA).

152 °Brix of initial fermentation broths was measured using a refractometer (PAL-BX/RI,  
153 Atago, Japan).



154 The hygroscopicity (Hg) was determined using the method described by Cai & Corke  
155 (2000). Each sample was weighed seven days later. The hygroscopicity was expressed  
156 as g of water gained by the powders.

157 Solubility measurement was realised following the methodology suggested by  
158 Benlloch-Tinoco et al. (2013).

159 The porosity determination was described by Agudelo et al. (2016) with some  
160 modification. The porosity ( $\epsilon$ ) was determined from the true and bulk densities  
161 (equation 2). The true density ( $\rho$ ) was calculated from its individual components, water  
162 and carbohydrates, own and aggregates (equation 3). For bulk density ( $\rho_b$ )  
163 determination, about 2 g of the powder were put into a 10 mL graduated test tube and  
164 hit 20 times on a firm surface. The bulk density was calculated by dividing the mass of  
165 the powder by the volume occupied after hitting.

$$166 \quad \epsilon = \frac{\rho - \rho_b}{\rho} \quad (2)$$

$$167 \quad \frac{1}{\rho} = \frac{x_w^p}{\rho_w} + \frac{x_{CH}^p}{\rho_{CH}} \quad (3)$$

168 where  $\epsilon$  is the porosity;  $\rho$  and  $\rho_b$  are the true and bulk densities, respectively;  $\chi$  and  $\rho$   
169 are the mass fraction and density, respectively, of water (w) and carbohydrates (CH) of  
170 the mixture, with  $\rho$  (20 °C) 0.9976 g/mL and  $\rho_{CH}$  (20 °C) 1.4246 g/mL (Okos, 1986).

171 The colour of the powder samples was measured using a Konica Minolta CM-700d  
172 colorimeter (Konica Minolta CM-700d/600d series, Tokyo, Japan) with standard D65  
173 illuminate and 10° visual angle. The powder was placed in a circular aluminium sample  
174 holder of 17.7 mm in diameter and 9.53 mm in height. A reflectance glass (CR-A51,  
175 Minolta Camera, Japan) was placed between the sample and colorimeter lens. The  
176 measurement window was 6 mm in diameter. The results were express in CIELab  
177 system (CIE, 1986). Chroma,  $C^*_{ab}$  (saturation), hue angle,  $h^{\circ}_{ab}$ , and the total colour

178 difference ( $\Delta E$ ) were also calculated. In order to observe the colour differences  
179 produced by the stabilisation method used (F or PP),  $\Delta E_1$  was determined, and  $\Delta E_2$  was  
180 performed for the differences produced by the powder extraction process (FD or SD).  
181 The samples were analysed by quadruplicate on days 0 and 28, to know the effect of the  
182 storage.

183

## 184 **2.6. Antimicrobial activity**

185 The evaluation of the antimicrobial capacity of the samples was carried out by agar  
186 diffusion method (Guerra & Pastrana, 2001; Turcotte et al., 2004). *Listeria innocua*  
187 CECT 4032 was used as a target microorganism. After the addition of a concentration  
188 of  $10^5$  CFU/mL of *Listeria innocua* CECT 4032 in plates, 15 mL of Tryptona Soya  
189 Agar (TSA) (Sharlau, Barcelona, Spain) were added. Once solidified, 5 wells of 9 mm  
190 diameter were made. The wells were inoculated with 100  $\mu$ L of a dilution obtained from  
191 the regeneration of the biopreservative powders in peptone water (1:9, w/v). On each  
192 plate, a negative control was performed by adding 100  $\mu$ L of sterile water to a well. The  
193 plates were incubated in an oven at 37 °C for 18-24 h. After this time, the diameters of  
194 the inhibition halos were measured. The results were expressed by calculating the area  
195 of inhibition ( $\text{mm}^2$ ). Samples were analysed on days 0, 1, 2, 7, 14 and 28, to know the  
196 effect of storage.

197

## 198 **2.7. Statistical analysis**

199 Analysis of variance (ANOVA), with a confidence level of 95% ( $p < 0.05$ ), using  
200 Statgraphics Plus 5.1 Software (Statistical Graphics Corporation, USA) was applied to  
201 evaluate the differences among powder samples. A factor analysis was applied to  
202 physicochemical values of studied samples, using SPSS program version 16.0.

203

### 204 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

205 In previous studies (data not shown), *P. acidilactici* was fermented in this food grade  
206 broth during 24 h at 37 °C and the antimicrobial activity was tested in stabilised broths  
207 by filtration and partial purification. The maximum values of antimicrobial capacity  
208 were found at 8 h of fermentation in both stabilised broths (F and PP) (data not shown).  
209 So that, in this work the broth was fermented 24 h at 37 °C and the mean values (with  
210 standard deviation in brackets) of °Brix, LAB count and antimicrobial capacity of this  
211 broth stabilised by filtration and partial purification were 13.93 (0.13), 0 CFU/mL, 396  
212 (5) mm<sup>2</sup>, and 13.97 (0.06), 0 CFU/mL, 556 mm<sup>2</sup>, respectively. Those are the results  
213 which were obtained from the broth and will now be compared to the same results once  
214 the broth is turned into powder, giving us the data.

215 There are important differences between the methods of obtaining powders studied in  
216 yield term. FD is considered as a benchmark for powders of high quality (Mastrocola et  
217 al., 1997), however, the main disadvantage of this technique is its high cost, both in  
218 term of time and energy. SD is the most commonly used encapsulation method in the  
219 food industry (Rajam & Anandharamakrishnan, 2015). In this work, it can be observed  
220 that the SD efficiency was ≈72%, and FD efficiency was significantly (p<0.05) higher  
221 (≈98%), in both cases without significant differences (p>0.05) between the microbial  
222 stabilisation methods. The SD efficiency is satisfied because a successful spray-drying  
223 must have efficiency higher than 50% according to Tontul & Topuz (2017). On the  
224 other hand, the values of drying ratio and productivity in SD were significantly (p<0.05)  
225 higher than FD values. Whilst FD showed 1.85 and 1.88 g/h of productivity for FDF  
226 and FDPP respectively, SDF and SDPP showed 75 and 48 g/h. The microbial  
227 stabilisation by filtration in SD technique presented significantly higher productivity

228 than partial purification probably as a consequence of the higher fluency of SDF due to  
229 low protein retention such as peptide substances. The properties of spray-dried powders  
230 and its yield are mainly affected by the process conditions and one of the important  
231 factors is the feed properties (Igual et al., 2014). Once the powders were obtained, they  
232 were characterised in terms of their physicochemical properties and their stability  
233 during the storage.

234 Table 1 shows the mean values of physicochemical parameters studied. The values of  
235 water activity presented significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) differences between the samples. As it is  
236 shown that the sample FDF showed more  $a_w$  in comparison with the remaining samples.

237 The water content of FD powders varied between 2.51-3.02 g water/100 g, which are  
238 normal values for a freeze-dried product according to Benlloch-Tinoco et al., (2013).

239 The water content of SD powders varied between 0.4-0.52 g water/100 g. As indicated  
240 by Tontul & Topuz (2017), the water contents of the powder produced by spray-drying  
241 were generally lower than 5% and could be classified as microbiologically safe and can

242 be stored for long-term. Significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) differences can be seen between FD or SD  
243 powders. The hygroscopicity (Hg) of powders was significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) higher in  
244 those obtained by FD in comparison with SD. Generally, food powders with lower

245 hygroscopicity and water content are considered a good powdered product (Igual et al.,  
246 2014). The bulk density was higher in the samples obtained by FD. Because of this,  
247 these samples showed a lower porosity. Significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) differences in bulk density

248 and porosity were observed between the powders obtain methods (FD or SD). In both  
249 cases without significant differences between the microbial stabilisations. A greater  
250 porosity corresponds to a more free-flowing powder (Agudelo et al., 2016). For the

251 solubility (DS) values, no differences were observed in the stabilisation method nor in  
252 the obtaining of the powders, so all the samples being equal, showing an excellent

253 solubility as the results showed by Benlloch-Tinoco et al., (2013) in FD kiwifruit.  
254 Moreover, higher solubility is desirable especially when the obtained powder used as an  
255 additive in the production of different products (Tontul & Topuz, 2017). Table 1 also  
256 includes the physicochemical mean values of the samples at the end of storage. In  
257 general, significant ( $p<0.05$ ) changes were observed in water activity and water content  
258 showed an increase. In case of the SDPP sample, water activity was stable during  
259 storage. At the end of storage, the samples with the lowest water content were those  
260 obtained by SD. As for hygroscopicity a significant ( $p<0.05$ ) decrease was observed in  
261 all samples tested at the end of storage. For bulk density and porosity only significant  
262 ( $p<0.05$ ) differences were observed during storage in the case of FDPP. No differences  
263 were observed on values of solubility during storage, so it was stable. The water content  
264 of the powdered products is related to drying efficiency, playing an important role in its  
265 free-flowing behaviour and stability during storage (Santhalakshmy et al., 2015).  
266 Therefore, powders with a low  $x_w$ , Hg and a high  $\epsilon$  and productivity would be preferred,  
267 so powders with these characteristics were obtained by SD.  
268 Table 2 presents the mean values of colour parameters. In general, all studied samples  
269 showed significant ( $p<0.05$ ) differences among them in colour terms. As it can be  
270 appreciated that powder obtained by FD showed less lightness ( $L^*$ ) and both, more  
271 shades of red ( $a^*$ ) and yellow ( $b^*$ ) in comparison with samples obtained by SD. This  
272 trend in lightness was observed in grapefruit powder when comparing these techniques  
273 (Agudelo et al., 2016). The SD powder's tone was higher than FD powders whilst  
274 chrome showed the contrary trend. Table 2 includes the total colour differences for each  
275 stabilised method (PP or F) as a function of powder technique obtaining ( $\Delta E_1$ ) and total  
276 colour differences too between PP and F for FD or SD ( $\Delta E_2$ ). Both PP and F showed  
277 colour differences between studied drying techniques to obtain powders, being

278 significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) higher in F stabilisation. However, for FD or SD, the total colour  
279 differences between PP and F were below the perceptible sensory limit ( $\Delta E > 3$ )  
280 according Bodart et al. (2008) without significant ( $p > 0.05$ ) differences between them.  
281 Figure 1 shows the colour changes of obtained powders along storage time. At the end  
282 of storage, the colour of the samples slightly faded, above all FDPP (Figure 1.A).  
283 However, FD powders suffered an increase of  $a^*$  and  $b^*$  due to storage time and, for SD  
284 powders,  $a^*$  and  $b^*$  remained stables (Figures 1.B and 1.C). The total colour changes  
285 (Figures 1.D) that took place throughout the storage in FD samples were significant  
286 ( $p < 0.05$ ) higher than these in SD samples which were below the perceptible sensory  
287 limit (Bodart et al., 2008). In case of FD samples, the use of F stabilisation showed  
288 minor colour changes than the use of PP. According to colour results, SD allows for  
289 obtaining powders more stably during storage time.

290 On applying a factor analysis (Figures 2 and 3) to the values of analysed  
291 physicochemical properties (except solubility which not showed significant differences  
292 among any sample) corresponding to all the powder samples at the initial and the end of  
293 storage times, the first two factors showed eigenvalues of over 1. The consideration of  
294 both factors accounted for 90.92% of the total variability (Figure 2). The first factor  
295 (F1), explaining 73.12% of the variability, was associated with colour coordinates ( $L^*$ :  $r$   
296 = 0.98;  $a^*$ :  $r$  = 0.96;  $b^*$ :  $r$  = 0.99;  $h$ :  $r$  = 0.97;  $C$ :  $r$  = 0.99), porosity ( $r$  = 0.97), bulk  
297 density ( $r$  = 0.97) and water content ( $r$  = 0.80) values. The second factor (F2) accounted  
298 for 17.8% of the variability and it was mainly associated with hygroscopicity ( $r$  = 0.90)  
299 and water activity ( $r$  = 0.83) values.  $L^*$ ,  $h^*$  and  $\epsilon$  maintained a close relationship, whose  
300 trend is unlike the rest of the parameters associated with F1. The relation between water  
301 activity and hygroscopicity in the case of F2 is opposite. It can be observed in Figure 3,  
302 F1 separate clearly powders obtained by FD and SD. FD samples show higher values of

303 a\*, b\*, C\*, bulk density and water content and lower values of L\*, h\* and porosity.  
304 However, SD samples present the values of physicochemical properties associated to F1  
305 contraries to FD. On the other hand, F2 increase during storage in all cases. At the end  
306 of storage, powders showed higher values of water activity and lower values of  
307 hygroscopicity. Only FD samples suffered changes in physicochemical properties  
308 associated to F1 consequently to storage whilst SD samples remained stables.

309 While authors like Gardiner et al. (2000) indicated that FD is more suitable than SD for  
310 some cultures, although other research had not found differences between these  
311 methods. As human listeriosis is one of the most serious foodborne diseases under  
312 European Union (EU) (Escolar et al., 2017) and some authors have described the use of  
313 different metabolites producing by starter cultures could be used to inhibit the  
314 outgrowth of *L. monocytogenes* in raw meat (Aymerich et al., 2000). So that, in this  
315 study *L. innocua* CECT 4032 was selected as the target microorganism. Moreover,  
316 Mauriello et al. (1999) and Silva et al. (2002) indicated that SD does not affect the  
317 antagonist activity of some LABs, in this case *P. acidilactici* against *L. innocua* CECT  
318 4032.

319 Results of the antimicrobial activity of samples tested against *L. innocua* CECT 4032  
320 during the storage are shown in Table 3. For day 0, significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) differences  
321 were observed between samples, the sample with the highest antimicrobial activity was  
322 FDPP, with a value of inhibition of 581 mm<sup>2</sup>. The sample with the lowest antimicrobial  
323 activity (480 mm<sup>2</sup>) was FDF. In addition, there was a significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) increase in  
324 the antimicrobial activity of samples F regardless of the obtaining process of the  
325 powder. Regarding to the antimicrobial activity evolution during storage, it can be  
326 observed in Table 3 that samples FDPP and SDF experiment a decrease during storage,

327 remaining the latest day with less antimicrobial activity, 480 mm<sup>2</sup> and 476 mm<sup>2</sup>,  
328 respectively.

329 This may be due to the fact that these samples also presented higher water content and  
330 water activity, so their antimicrobial activity may have been diminished. Moreover,  
331 rehydration could also cause organisms to lose viability because they may have suffered  
332 sublethal injury during drying and storage, and may not be able to repair the damage if  
333 they are rehydrated under inappropriate conditions (Costa et al., 2000). The  
334 antimicrobial activity of sample FDF remained stable for 28 days. Although significant  
335 ( $p < 0.05$ ) differences were presented, these can be produced to the variability of the  
336 inhibition areas, but no significant ( $p > 0.05$ ) differences were observed between the first  
337 and the latest day of storage. Similar to some results indicated by Ananou et al. (2010)  
338 in SD enterocin AS-48 at room temperature. As for the sample SDPP, it can be  
339 observed an increase in the antimicrobial activity. As indicated by O'Bryan et al.  
340 (2015), pediocins have a narrow spectrum of activity; all pediocins are active against  
341 *Listeria*. The values of inhibition at days 0 and 28 were 543 mm<sup>2</sup> and 556 mm<sup>2</sup>  
342 respectively and significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) differences were shown between these days.  
343 Besides, this sample (SDPP) presented the highest antimicrobial activity the day 28 of  
344 storage. Thus, considerable research has been conducted on preservation by SD as a  
345 means of preserving starter cultures and probiotic products, and also packaging, storage  
346 conditions, and method of rehydration also affect viability and function (O'Bryan et al.,  
347 2015). So, these results are an evidence of the antimicrobial capacity against *Listeria*  
348 *innocua* CECT 4032, stabilising by PP and obtaining powders by SD, but investigating  
349 the effect of these by-products against other pathogens should be tested in future  
350 research.

351



352 **4. CONCLUSIONS**

353 Microbiological stabilisation is potentially better to perform a partial purification since  
354 the antimicrobial capacity against *L. innocua* CECT 4032 is higher than with filtration.  
355 However, it should be tested against other pathogens to verify its possible use as  
356 biopreservative in food. Spray-drying is the best technique to obtain the powder, since it  
357 obtains a better productivity with a lower cost and also a more stable powder during  
358 storage, both in its physicochemical properties and in antimicrobial capacity.

359

360 **5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

361 The authors confirm that they have no conflicts of interest with respect to the work  
362 described in this manuscript.

363

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369 **7. REFERENCES**

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