



Administration of live-attenuated vaccine of *Vibrio harveyi* to improve survival of gnotobiotic brine shrimp (*Artemia salina*) model against multiple *Vibrio* infection

Y.K. Chin¹, Nurhidayu Al-saari^{1,5}, Aslizah Mohd Aris^{1,3}, Mohd Zamri-Saad^{1,4}, Ina-M.Y. Salwany^{1,2*}

¹Laboratory of Marine Biotechnology, Institute of Bioscience, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 43400 Serdang, Malaysia

²Department of Aquaculture sciences, Faculty of Agriculture sciences, Univeriti Putra Malaysia, 43400 Serdang, Malaysia

³Department of Biology, School of Biology, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Kampus Kuala Pilah, 72000 Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia

⁴Department of Veterinary Clinical Studies, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Malaysia

⁵International Institute for Halal Research and Training (INHART), International Islamic University Malaysia, 50728 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Key words: Vibriosis, *Artemia salina*, Live-attenuated vaccine, *Vibrio*, Serine protease.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.12692/ijb/14.4.1-14>

Article published on April 15, 2019

Abstract

Newly developed live-attenuated protease derivative from pathogenic *Vibrio harveyi* strain *Vh1* as a live vaccine to against Vibriosis of aquatic animals. In the current study, we used the gnotobiotic *A. salina* as model to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the live-attenuated. This study was conducted by bacterial safety experiment and bacterial efficacy experiment. During the bacterial safety, the wild type and live-attenuated of *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) were tested for 48 hours on the *Artemia* larvae (instar II). During the efficacy experiment, the *A. salina* larvae were incubated with different concentration of live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs), then challenged with *V. harveyi*, *V. alginolyticus* and *V. parahaemolyticus*. The result of safety experiment showed that the high concentration of live-attenuated mutant *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) at concentration of 10⁹ CFU/mL is safe and had improved the *A. salina* larvae survival compared to other groups. On the other hand, pathogenic wildtype *V. harveyi* caused lethal effect on *A. salina* larvae by decreasing their survival. The surprising result of efficacy experiment showed that 10⁷ CFU/mL of live attenuated MVh-vhs with 6 hours post incubation with *A. salina* larvae contributed higher survival while 10⁹ CFU/mL of live attenuated MVh-vhs with 24 hours incubated *A. salina* larvae contributed higher survival against multiple *Vibrio* challenge. In this study, we concluded that the incubation time had affect bacterial concentration uptake by *A. salina* larvae and affect the effectiveness of *Artemia* bioencapsulation for targeted hosts.

* Corresponding Author: M.Y Ina-Salwany ✉ salwany@upm.edu.my

Introduction

Artemia sp. is characterized as having a short life-span with good resilience and able to survive in high salinity environment which is suitable as good model organisms to study virulence of marine pathogenic bacteria (Lee *et al.*, 2014). In fact, *A. salina* is a small crustacean species which highly depending on the innate immune system that consists of cellular components and humoral components due to lacking of adaptive immune system (Soderhall and Lee, 2002; Hauton, 2012). Similar with other invertebrates, cellular and humoral mechanisms contribute defense reaction through preventing microbial invasions or assisting the elimination of the invading microbes in their bodies (Destoumieux-Garzon *et al.*, 2001). Moreover, during early stages of fish growth development including the developing embryos until further larval stages are all rely on innate immune system to regulate quick immune responses and protect the host against unfavorable condition (Vadstein *et al.*, 2013). Therefore, *A. salina* larvae can be a pathogen-disease study model for all live stages of marine crustacean and early developing life stages of marine fishes because they all have similar immune system. Live *Artemia* nauplii have been used as vectors for delivering compounds to larvae stages of aquatic animals, which known as bioencapsulation. Moreover, bacteria with various characteristics had been incorporated into *Artemia* nauplii and this route has been used to vaccinate fry.

Vibriosis is a disease caused by pathogenic *Vibrio* spp. that has negatively affected worldwide marine aquaculture by increase mortality of farmed fishes and potentially zoonotic to human (Haenen *et al.*, 2014; Aris *et al.*, 2018). *Vibrio* species including *V. harveyi*, *V. alginolyticus* and *V. parahaemolyticus* are few of the major species that cause vibriosis in marine crustacean shrimp, *Penaeus vannamei* and *P. monodon* (Chatterjee and Haldar, 2012) and marine finfish such as large yellow croaker, *Pseudosciaenacrocea* (Liu *et al.*, 2016). On the other hand, the fact that seawater is a reservoir of *Vibrios*, water transmission is suggested as another primary route for *Vibrio* infection in aquatic organisms,

collapsing the first physical and chemical defense barrier when the bacteria penetrates the wounded or exposed skin (Frans *et al.*, 2011). Previously, our laboratory has successfully constructed a live-attenuated serineprotease vaccine by genetically modified a local isolate of virulent *V. harveyi* (Aris *et al.*, 2018). The novel live vaccine candidate namely *V. harveyi* strain MVh-vhs was constructed by site directed mutagenesis, conjugation and allelic exchange (Aris *et al.*, 2018).

Moreover, non-selective filter feeding of *A. salina* nauplii (Instar II) was used for bioencapsulation and become vector of *Vibriosp* (Interaminense *et al.*, 2014). Therefore, the current experiments to evaluate the bioencapsulation and safety of live attenuated *V. harveyi* strain MVh-vhs on gnotobiotic *A. salina* larvae (Instar II of nauplii) by immersion method.

Materials and Methods

Gnotobiotic *Artemia* sp. culture

Axenic *A. salina* nauplii were obtained by decapsulation and hatching procedures. 0.2 g of commercial *Artemia* cysts (O.S.I. PRO 80™ Brine shrimp cysts) were hydrated with 18 L of tap water for an hour of strong aeration in sterile falcon tube. The following steps were then undertaken in sterile condition at which 10 ml of 50% cold NaOCl and 0.66 ml of 32% NaOH were added to the hydrated cysts suspension for decapsulation and sterilization. After that, the sterilized decapsulated cyst suspension was then transferred to new sterile falcon tube equipped with a 0.22 µm-filtered aeration. Later, 14 ml of sodium thiosulphate was added to remove chlorine residue and the cysts were sieved with 100 µm mesh size and washed over by using sterile autoclaved seawater. The cysts were then transferred into new sterile falcon tube with 30 ml of sterile autoclaved seawater. The strong filtered aeration was supplied and waited for 24 hours to hatch. The newly hatched *Artemia* were then continue growing for another 6 to 8 hour to let the nauplii grow into instar ii of nauplii in sterile condition (referred as gnotobiotic larvae). Axenic confirmation was performed by plating *Artemia* nauplii on TSA (Tryptic Soy Agar). No

bacteria growth on the agar indicates the success of gnotobiotic *Artemia* culture.

Identification of Vibrio spp. strain and culture conditions

Vibrio spp. were retrieved from glycerol stock stored at -80°C or slant culture, followed by streaked plate on the TSA agar supplemented with 1.5% NaCl. The plates were incubated at 28°C for 16 hours. For identifying the wildtype strain of *V. alginolyticus* and *V. parahaemolyticus*, DNA gyrase subunit B (*gyrB*) was targeted during PCR amplification (Table 1). For the characterization of wildtype *V. harveyi* (VH1) strain and live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) strain, serine protease gene (VHS) was targeted during PCR amplification (Table 2) and the identity of the gene sequence was re-confirmed using nucleotide BLAST in NCBI database. The three bases deletion (D153, H123 and S228) on VHS of MVh-vhs was checked by using gene sequence alignment software, BioEditTM.

The *Vibrios* were cultured on either tryptic soy agar (TSA) supplemented with 1.5% NaCl or thiosulfate citrate bile salts sucrose (TCBS) agar and the plates were incubated at 28°C for 24h. A colony of the vibrio was re-inoculated into tryptic soy broth (TSB) supplemented with 1.5% NaCl and incubated with at 28°C for 24 hours. After that, the broth containing the bacteria was centrifuged at 12000 rpm for 15 min at 28°C . The concentration of bacteria solution was determined by spectrophotometrically at 600 nm (OD600) with McFarland standard calculation method. List of the *Vibrio* spp. used for experiment is shown in Table 3.

Brine shrimp larvae survival studies

Two separate experiments were performed to assess the safety and efficacy of the live attenuated vaccine in cultured *A. salina* larvae (Instar II).

In the first experiment was aimed to study the dose-response relationship of wildtype strain *V. harveyi*(VH1) and live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) in *A. salina* larvae survival. For each vibrio, 20 of

A. salina larvae (Instar II) were initially transferred into sterile falcon tubes containing 25 ppt of sterile autoclaved seawater. The *A. salina* larvae were incubated with three different concentrations (10^5 CFU/mL, 10^7 CFU/mL and 10^9 CFU/mL) of wildtype *V. harveyi* (VH1) strain and live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) strain into 30 mL of final volume. For the control treatment, no bacteria were added in the *A. salina* culture. All falcon tubes were placed horizontally on a rotor at 50 rpm at 24°C . Each treatment was performed in triplicate. The survival of *A. salina* larvae was observed at 12th hour, 24th hour, 36th hour and 48th hour of incubation time. During observation, the suspension was poured into sterile petri dish, and was poured back into their respectively Falcon tube after observation under laminar flow hood. For estimating the survival, the number of swimming larvae were counted followed by calculating the survival percentage.

The second experiment was studied to verify the protective effect of Bioencapsulated live attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) into *A. salina* larvae with two incubation time which is 6 hours and 24 hours on different concentrations (10^5 CFU/mL, 10^7 CFU/mL and 10^9 CFU/mL). Each set was conducted by 300 *A. salina* larvae were transferred into sterile falcon tubes consisting sterile autoclaved seawater. Then, the larvae were incubated initially with three different concentrations (10^5 CFU/mL, 10^7 CFU/mL and 10^9 CFU/mL) of live-attenuated strain *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) into final volume of 30 mL for the pre-determined duration of incubation (6 hours or 24 hours). After incubation, the 20 of swimming larvae were collected and transferred into sterile falcon tubes that contain sterile autoclaved seawater.

The encapsulated *A. salina* larvae were challenged with wildtype *V. harveyi* (VH1) strain at concentration of 10^9 CFU/mL for 48 hours. The amount of spent medium transferred into each treatment was balanced by adding a complementary autoclaved seawater to make up the final volume of 30mL and the falcon tubes were added horizontally on a rotor at 50 rpm at 24°C . Triplicate for each

treatment was performed. The survival of larvae were observed at 12th hour, 24th hour, 36th hour and 48th hour after challenge test at which the suspension was poured into sterile petri dish and later was poured back into their respective falcon tube after the observation under laminar flow hood. After that, the survival percentage was determined.

The experiment were repeated for *V. alginolyticus* (VA2) and *V. parahaemolyticus* (FORC) challenge for cross-protective effect test. Non-encapsulated gnotobiotic *A. salina* larvae were used for the *Vibrio* spp. challenge for negative control. On the other hand, the encapsulated *A. salina* larvae without *Vibrio* sp. challenge for positive control.

Data analysis

The differences in survival were analyzed by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with post-hoc Turkey test in IBM SPSS® software.

The data was transformed into Arc-Sin and express as average \pm stdev. The values were considered significantly different if $p < 0.05$

Results

Effect of live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVH-VHS) and wild type *V. harveyi* (VH1) on survival of *A. salina* larvae

Fig. 1 shows the survival of *Artemia* larvae incubated with different concentration of liveattenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) and wildtype *V. harveyi* (VH1) compared to the untreated group. According to Fig. 1 (A), no significant differences ($p < 0.05$) were observed on the survival of *A. salina* larvae incubated with 10^5 CFU/mL bacteria and those in the control group. Insignificant larvae survival between treatments was maintained even at prolong incubation with 48 to 62% larvae were survived at 48th hour incubation.

In Fig. 1 (B), *A. salina* larvae treated with live attenuated *V. harveyi*(MVh-vhs)at 10^7 CFU/mL has significantly ($p > 0.05$) improved the survival of *A. salina* larvae compared to the larvae that were immersed with wildtype *V. harveyi* (VH1) and control at 36th hour to 48th hour incubation. However, in Figure 1 (C) shown Immersion of Live attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) improved high survival performance of *A. salina* larvae.

Table 1. Primers used for the PCR amplification.

Primer	Primer Sequence (5' to 3')	Expected sizes (bp)	Reference
Serine protease (VHS)			
F_vhs	GGTACCATGAAAAAACCATTGCTTGCG	1368	Aris <i>et al.</i> , 2018
R_vhs	GAGCTCTTAGCGGATAACGAGGTAAAC		
DNA gyrase subunit B (gyrB)			
F_gyrB	GAGAACCCGACAGAAGCGAAG	332	Chatterjee and
R_gyrB	CCTAGTGCGGTGATCAGTGTTG		Halder, 2012

This proved by the performance of *A. salina* larvae were tested with live attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) significantly higher ($p > 0.05$) than both tested by Wildtype *V. harveyi* and control from 36th hour to 48th hour.

Efficacy of live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) on *A. salina* survival against *V. harveyi*, *V. alginolyticus* and *V. parahaemolyticus*

In the second experiment, protective ability of live-attenuated *V. harveyi* was investigated against

different wild type of *Vibriosis* for *A. salina* larvae challenge. There are two trials with different live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVH-vhs) incubation time which are 6 hours and 24 hours that indicated by Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 respectively.

Fig. 2 demonstrated the result for the survival of *A. salina* larvae after 6 hours pre-treated with different concentration of live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh_vhs) and challenge with *V. harveyi* (VH1), *V. alginolyticus* (VA2) and *V. parahaemolyticus* (FORC-

_008). After 6 hours encapsulation, administration of concentration 10^5 and 10^7 CFU/mL of live attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh_vhs) gave poor significant different ($p < 0.05$) in the challenged *A. salina* survival at 48th hour. However, In Fig. 3. After 24 hours encapsulation, administration of concentration 10^5

and 10^7 CFU/mL of live attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh_vhs) gave no significant different ($p < 0.05$) but 10^9 CFU/mL contributed significantly ($p < 0.05$) high survival in the challenged *A. salina* survival at 48th hour.

Table 2. The deletion bases in catalytic sites of serine protease gene (VHS) sequence of MVh-vhs strain. (Source: Aris, unpublished).

Target Bases for deletion	Gene sequence (5' to 3')
Aspartate (D ₁₅₃)	GAGACGAGATGTCA gac ATTGCCTTGCTTAAG
Histidine (H ₁₂₃)	ATCGTAACGAACTAT cac GTTATCAAAGGCGC
Serine (S ₂₂₈)	CAATTAACAGTGGTAACT cc GGTGGCGCTT

Note: the small capital with underline indicate a target deletion in specific catalytic gene.

Table 3. Bacteria strains that used for the experiment.

Bacteria	Relevant characteristic	Source or Reference
<i>Vibrio harveyi</i> Strain VH1 Strain MVh-vhs	Complete serine endoprotease gene (VHS) 3 base deletion of DNA sequence on deficit serine endoprotease gene (VHS)	GenBank:KT266880.1, Aris <i>et al.</i> 2016. Isolation from Brown marbled grouper, <i>Epinephelus fuscoguttatus</i> Aris <i>et al.</i> , 2018 (Unpublished) Lab collection
<i>Vibrio alginolyticus</i> Strain VA2	A strain of <i>V. alginolyticus</i>	GenBank:KU141337.1 Nehlah, Ina-Salwany&Zulperi, 2016. Isolation from Brown marbled grouper, <i>Epinephelus fuscoguttatus</i>
<i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i> Strain FORC_008	A strain of <i>V. parahaemolyticus</i>	GenBank:CP013826.1 Isolation from Brown marbled grouper, <i>Epinephelus fuscoguttatus</i>

In this experiment, the strain significantly increased the survival of *A. salina* larvae that encapsulated 10^9 CFU/ML of live attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh_vhs) strain for 24 hours encapsulation after challenged with three *Vibriosp.*

Therefore, administration of Live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh_vhs) at the concentration 10^9 CFU/ML for 24 hours encapsulation in *A. salina* larvae provided the best protection from vibriosis.

Discussion

The results showed that the live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) is not only safe and harmless for *A. salina* larvae but also can recover their survival at prolong incubation of 36 h to 48 h. Previous studies showed that the same live-attenuated *V. harveyi*

(MVh-vhs) at three different concentrations 10^5 CFU/mL, 10^7 CFU/mL and 10^9 CFU/mL as vaccine candidates was harmless for tiger grouper juvenile, *Epinephelus fuscoguttatus* (Aris, 2018 Unpublished). This is possible due to loss of pathogenic and virulence factor of serine endoprotease gene which was attenuated in the *Vibrio* strain. Serine protease gene (VHS) for pathogenic *V. harveyi* has contributed as chaperone or provide thermal resistant properties for activity of proteolytic enzymes (Aris *et al.*, 2016). Therefore, the live-attenuated *V. harveyi* MVh-vhs is harmless for *A. salina* larvae. Live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) was developed previously based on deletion of three catalytic amino acids sites including Aspartate (D153), Histidine (H123) and Serine (S228) of the bacterial serine protease gene (VHS) (Aris *et al.*, 2016).

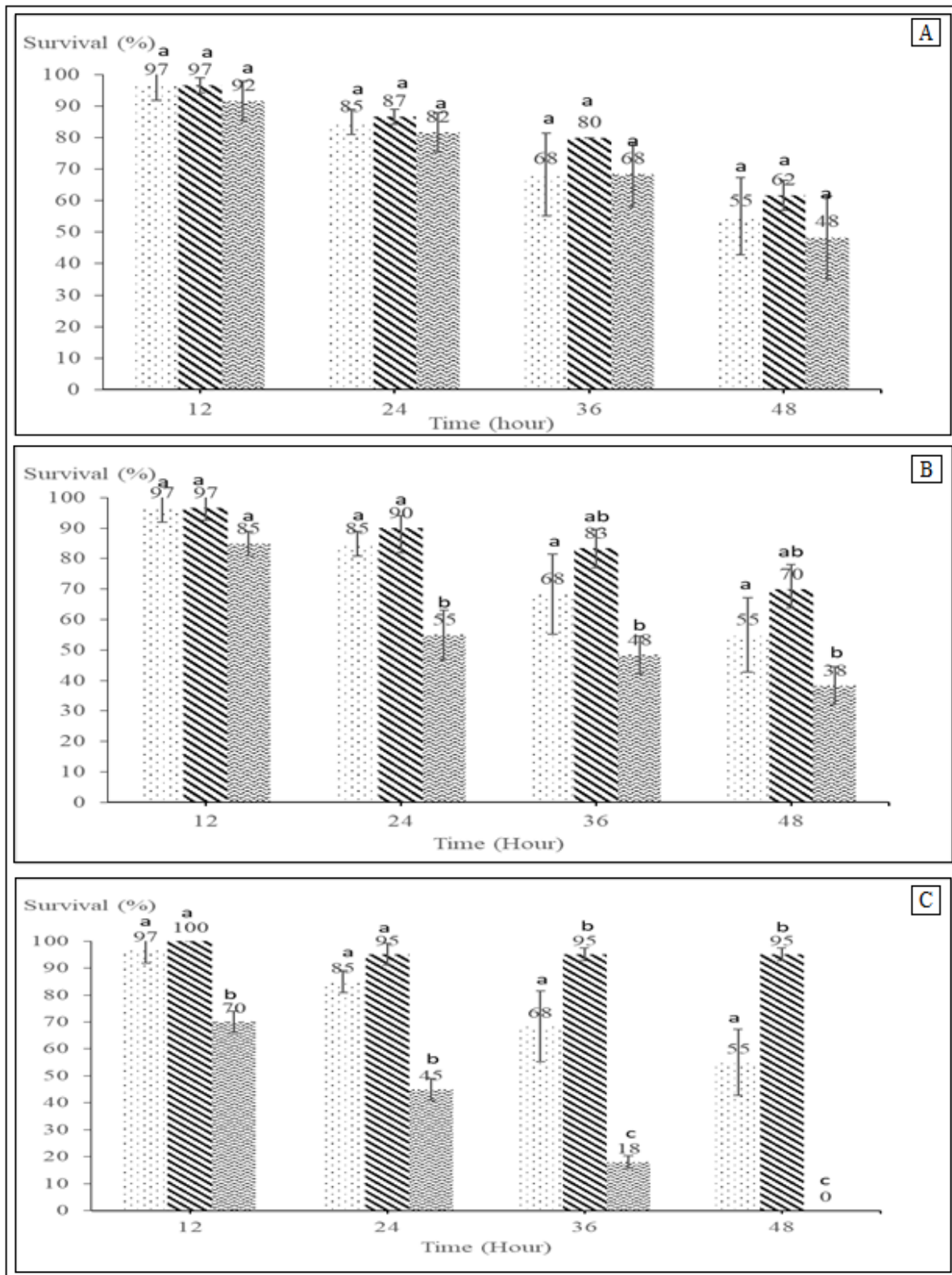


Fig. 1. Bacterial safety assay of *Vibrio harveyi* at different concentrations against *Artemia salina*. (A): *A. salina* larvae survival at 10^5 cfu/mL of *Vibrio* spp. (B): *A. salina* larvae survival at 10^7 cfu/mL of *Vibrio* spp. (C):*A. salina* larvae at 10^9 cfu/mL of both *Vibrio* spp. ▨, live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs); ▩, wildtype *V. harveyi* (VH1); and □, control. Different superscript letter above the bar graph indicated significant differences ($p < 0.05$).

According to Fig. 1, 10^7 CFU/mL and 10^9 CFU/mL bacterial concentration of live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) treatments contributed to higher survival of *A. salina* larvae compared to the wildtype *V. harveyi* (VH1) treatment and control treatment throughout the experiment period. Survival of *A. salina* larvae had improved possibly due to *A. salina* larvae consume the bacteria as their food because certain bacteria contribute nutritional value and positive effect of the growth rate as well as survival for *Artemia* spp. (Tkavc *et al.*, 2010). Obviously, high concentrations of live-attenuated *V. harveyi* MVh-vhs (at 10^7 and 10^9 cfu/mL) were more effective in improving the survival of *A. salina* larvae.

The concentration of bacterial suspension has shown to have effect on the accumulated bacteria quantity in *Artemia* spp. (Makridis *et al.*, 2000). Furthermore, the effectiveness of *Artemia* nauplii bioencapsulation depends on targeted bacteria type, exposure time and status of *Artemia* nauplii (Gomez-Gill *et al.*, 1998).

In this study, the harmless live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) has high potential for use as bio-encapsulated vaccine by encapsulate the *A. salina*.

Based on experimental result of bacterial protective efficacy assay with *A. salina* larvae (Fig. 2 and 3), the live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) was encapsulated within the *A. salina* to test its protectivity against wildtype *V. harveyi* (VH1). Besides, *V. alginolyticus* (VA2) and *V. parahaemolyticus* (FORC) were used also to test on cross-protectivity of the live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) for *A. salina* larvae. Similar to Fig. 1, the high survival of *A. salina* larvae incubated with MVh-vhs without the *Vibrio* challenge in positive controls was recorded in this experiment throughout the experiment period. However, there is no surprise that low survival of *A. salina* larvae for negative control which was challenged by wildtype of *Vibrio* sp. We investigated the optimum incubation time of *A. salina* larvae with live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) to win over the infection by *Vibrio* spp. effectively. However, there are different time required for

encapsulation or enrichment of gnotobiotic *Artemia* sp. larvae were used by researchers to test their different probiotic or immune-stimulant substance on their experiments. For example, active or autoclaved *Bacillus* sp. LT3 was incubated 6 hours with gnotobiotic *Artemia* sp. larvae for *V. campbellii* challenge test (Niu *et al.*, 2014).

The probionts, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *L. sporogenes* and yeast, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* were incubated 24 hours with *Artemia* sp. larvae respectively for *V. parahaemolyticus* and *V. cholerae* challenge tests (Immanuel, 2016).

According to Fig. 2, the result showed good performance for larvae survival when 10^7 CFU/mL of 6h pre-incubated MVh-vhs at which it has improved *A. salina* larvae survival after challenge with 10^9 cfu/mL wildtype *V. alginolyticus* (VA2) and *V. parahaemolyticus* (FORC) respectively.

The mechanism of live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) for improving survival of *A. salina* larvae is still unknown against *Vibrio* challenge. However, there are possible reasons which can explain the ability of MVh-vhs to confer protection and cross-protection to the *Artemia* larvae as demonstrated in the current experiment. Firstly, the live attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) enhanced the *A. salina* immune response possibly through prevention of the rapid reproduction of pathogens by seizing the available resources including nutrients, space, adhesion sites on the *A. salina* larvae' guts or surface etc. or secondly, through production of toxic or inhibitory substances to against pathogens (Marques *et al.*, 2005). *Artemia* spp. are lack of adaptive immune system and fully depend on innate immune system of which recognized the pathogen associated molecules to activate cellular or humoral effector mechanisms to eliminate invasive pathogens (Vazquez *et al.*, 2009).

The other possible reason to such results is the *Artemia* spp. larvae' tolerance to infection is enhanced due to stimulation of their non-specific or innate immune response (Sung *et al.*, 2009).

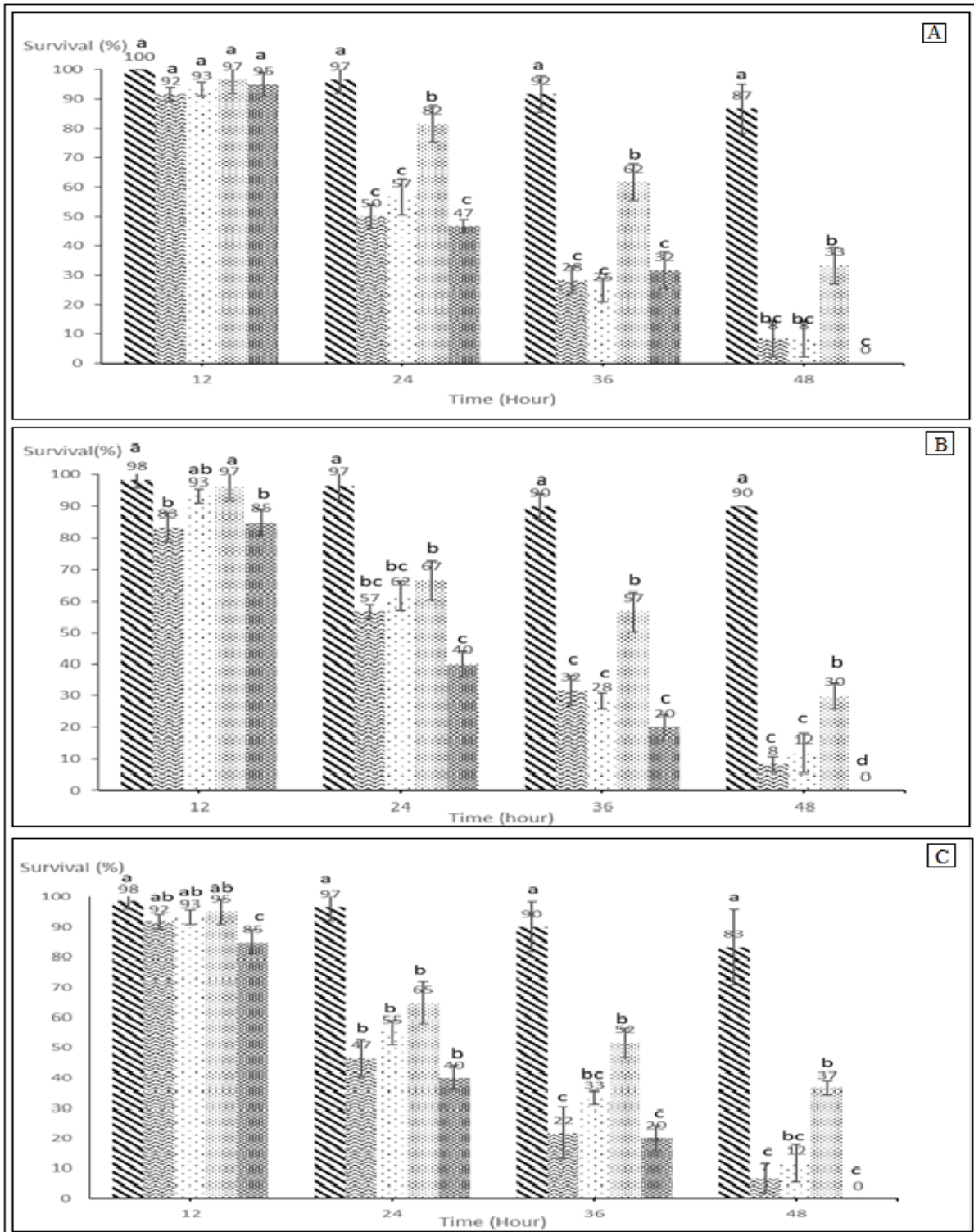







Fig. 2. Survival upon 10⁹ CFU/mL of *Vibriosp* challenge for 10⁵ CFU/mL, 10⁷ CFU/mL and 10⁹ CFU/mL of Live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) with 6 hours encapsulated *A. salina* larvae respectively. A: *V. harveyi* (VH1) challenge test. B: *V. alginolyticus* (VA2) challenge test. C: *V. parahaemolyticus* (FORC_008) challenge test. , Positive control; , Negative control; , 10⁵ CFU/mL of live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) incubation; , 10⁷ CFU/mL of live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs); and , 10⁹ CFU/mL of live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) incubation respectively. Different superscript letter above the bar graph indicated significant differences (p<0.05).

Note that the live attenuated strain of bacteria as vaccine deliver foreign antigen to stimulate both innate immune system and activate adaptive immune system against infectious diseases (Shahabi *et al.*, 2010).

In this experiment, the live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) also showed cross-protective potential for *A. salina* to against *V. alginolyticus*(VA2) and *V. parahaemolyticus* (FORC). Although the cross-protective effect was not understood, the possible reason is *V. harveyi*, *V. parahaemolyticus* and *V. alginolyticus* are closely related that recognized as members of Harveyi clade which are subset of *Vibrios* core group (Lin *et al.*, 2010). This might also related to the successful previous study which showed that formalin killed *V. anguillarum* can be cross-protected for Banana shrimp, *Fenneropenaus merguensis* via oral vaccination to against *V. harveyi* challenge (Patil *et al.*, 2013).

Nevertheless, the *A. salina* survival performance for 10^7 CFU/ml of the live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) with 24 hours pre-incubation seems not enough to confer protection to the larvae after multiple *Vibrio* challenge as shown in Figure 3. Previous study proved that non-pathogenic *V. alginolyticus* CW8T2 contributed to a relatively lower biomass production that indicated nutrient value, body length and survival compare with other non-pathogenic bacteria strains for axenic *Artemia* juveniles (Verschuere *et al.*, 1999).

Therefore, we postulated that the nutrient value of MVh-vhs is similar with the other *Vibrio* sp. and are considered low for *A. salina* metabolism and the concentration of $\leq 10^7$ CFU/mL might be insufficient for larvae survival which affected indirectly on their overall stimulated immune response. The pre-incubation time are some significant factors for bioencapsulation of live bacteria supporting the statement made by Gomez-Gill *et al.* (1998).

In support to that, other authors claimed that the higher concentration of particles, the higher the

percentage of particles filled in the *Artemia* digestive tract (Gelabert, 2003). In this experiment, *A. salina* larvae are proved as Bioencapsulation vector on live-attenuated *V. harveyi*(MVh-vhs) for other targeted organisms due to harmless if the bacteria.

In fact, *Artemiasp* were commonly exploited in vaccine development due to their characteristic of bacterial consumption and encapsulation (Mutoloki *et al.* 2015). Besides, although the live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) that more likely to categorise as a type of vaccine candidate, but we believe will have similar characteristic and functions as probiotic since they are genetic modified bacteria. Actually, microorganisms included pathogens that used for undergoing genetic modification into harmless strain can be fully new probiotics (Steidler 2003). Moreover, *Artemia* bioencapsulation effectiveness on live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) can be indicated by the survival of *A. salina* larvae after multiple *Vibriosp* challenge.

This is because improvement of *Artemia* immune system due to probiotics retention during encapsulation can convey the probiotic for the main targeted host organism (Hai, Buller and Fotedar 2010). Previous studies showed that *Artemia* bioencapsulation with formalin killed *V. anguillarum* vaccine protected antigens during digestion to trigger immune response of juvenile carp, *Cyprinus carpio* and gilthead seabream, *Sparus aurata* via oral administration (Joosten *et al.*, 1995).

In contrast, the Fig. 3 showed that the 24h pre-incubation with high concentration (10^9 CFU/mL) of MVH-vhs contributed to significant high larvae survival than other treatment after the challenge test with high concentration 10^9 CFU/ml of multiple *Vibrio*. The survival showed the effect of pre-incubation time needed for live attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) encapsulation that might contributed to the effectiveness of vaccination. Bioencapsulation is said to depends on targeted bacteria type, exposure time and status of *Artemia* sp. nauplii (Gomez-Gill *et al.*, 1998).

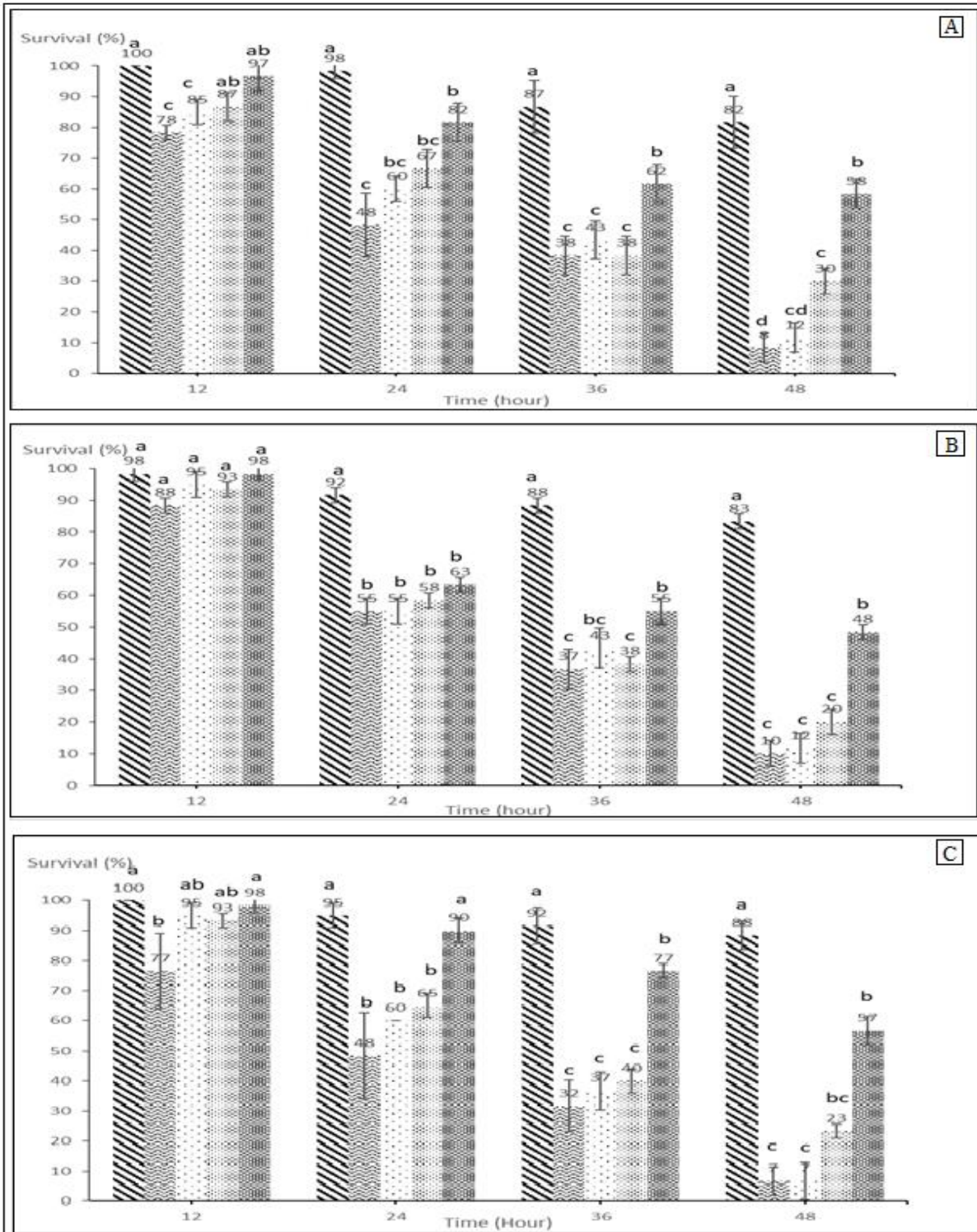


Fig. 3. Survival upon 10⁹ CFU/mL of *Vibrio* spp challenge for 10⁵ CFU/mL, 10⁷ CFU/mL and 10⁹ CFU/mL of Live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) with 24 hours encapsulated *A. salina* larvae respectively. A: *V. harveyi* (VH1) challenge test. B: *V. alginolyticus* (VA2) challenge test. C: *V. parahaemolyticus* (FORC_008) challenge test. ▨, Positive control; ▩, Negative control; □, 10⁵ CFU/mL of live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) incubation; ▤, 10⁷ CFU/mL of *V. harveyi*(MVh-vhs); and ▥, 10⁹ CFU/mL of live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) incubation respectively. Different superscript letter above the bar graph indicated significant differences (p<0.05).

Previously similar study showed that the survival of *Artemia* sp. larvae that were exposed for shorter time (less than 8 hours) to mnn9 yeast cells had decreased gradually after *V. campbellii* challenge (Soltanian *et al.*, 2007). Fig. 2 showed that, high concentration 10^9 CFU/mL of the live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) incubated *A. salina* larvae with 6 hours contributed to significant lower survival than negative control after challenge with 10^9 cfu/mL wildtype *V. harveyi* (VH1) and no significant different with negative control after challenge with 10^9 cfu/mL wildtype *V. alginolyticus* (VA2) and *V. parahaemolyticus* (FORC) respectively. In this experiment, we figured that 24 hours is the most suitable and recommended pre-incubation time compared to 6 hours. Therefore, *A. salina* might not fully activate the immune defence mechanism in a short period to withstand the accumulation of high concentration of bacteria followed by *Vibrio* spp. challenge. There is similar previous research shows that lowest survival of *Artemia* spp. larvae after incubated with 10^{10} CFU/mL of harmless probiotic yeast, *S. cerevisiae* suspension for 6 hours (Fazeli and Azari-Takami, 2006).

Conclusion

In a nutshell, concentration of live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVH) and incubation time are very crucial key factors for enhancing immune system of *Artemia* larvae as model during multiple *Vibrio* challenge. We believe that have immune-enhance potential as vaccine candidate for short term protection on other marine crustacean and early stages of marine fishes which shared similar innate immunity in the future. Therefore, further biomolecular studies are suggested will improve understanding of the actual immune mechanisms behind. Based on the experiment, we concluded that 6 hours incubation time is most suitable for 10^7 CFU/mL of *A. salina* larvae with live-attenuated *V. harveyi* (MVh-vhs) because sustainable cost-effective and time-effective for *Artemia* bioencapsulation as oral vaccination or its administration on the targeted animals directly to against effectively on high concentration of multiple *Vibrios* challenge.

Acknowledgement

This study was funded by the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) via the Higher Institution Centre of Excellence (HiCoE) with vote no: 6369100

Reference

Aris AM. 2018. Development of *Vibrio harveyi* Protease Deletion Mutant as Live attenuated Vaccine against Vibriosis In *Epinephelusfuscoguttatus* (FORSSKAL, 1775) (Unpublished Doctoral Thesis). Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia.

Aris AM, Ina-Salwany MY, Zamei-Saad M, Hassan MD, Norfarrah MA. 2016. Molecular characterization of *Vibrio harveyi* virulence-associated serine protease and outer membrane protein genes for vaccine development. International Journal of Bioscience **8(3)**, 10-28, March 2016
<http://dx.doi.org/10.12692/ijb/8.3.10-28>

Chatterjee S, Haldar S. 2012. *Vibrio* Related Disease in Aquaculture and Development of Rapid and Accurate Identification Methods. Journal of Marine Science: Research & Development 2012, S1, 002.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.4172/2155-9910.S1-002>.

Destoumieux-Garzon D, Saulnier D, Garnier J, Jouffery C, Bulet P, Bachere E. 2001. Crustacean Immunity Antifungal Peptides are generated from C Terminus of Shrimp Hemocyanin in response to microbial challenge. The Journal of Biological Chemistry **276**, 47070-47077.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M103817200>

Fazeli Z, Azari-Takami G. 2006. The Best time and Concentration for Yeast probiotic Enrichment of *Artemia urmiana* Nauplii. Pakistan Journal of Biological Sciences **9(11)**, 2159-2161. ISSN 1028-8880.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3923/pjbs.2006.2159.2161>

Gelabert R. 2002. Bioencapsulation in *Artemia*: II. Influences of the particle concentration in the

enrichment process. *Aquaculture* **216** (2003), 143-153.

[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0044-8486\(02\)00433-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0044-8486(02)00433-7)

Gomez-Gil B, Herrera-Vega MA, Abreu-Grobois FA, Roque A. 1998. Bioencapsulation of Two Different *Vibrio* Species in Nauplii of the Brine Shrimp (*Artemia franciscana*). *Applied and Environmental Microbiology* **64**(6), p 2318-2322
0099-2240/98/\$04.00+0

Haenen OLM, Fouz B, Amaro C, Isern MM, Mikkelsen H, Zrncic S, Travers MA, Renault T, Wardle R, Hellstrom A, Dalsgaard I. 2014. Vibriosis in aquaculture. 16th EAFP Conference, Tampere, Finland, 4th September 2013. *Bulletin-European Association of Fish Pathologists* **34**(4), 138-148.

Hai NV, Buller N, Fotedar R. 2010. Encapsulation capacity of *Artemia* nauplii with customized probiotics for use in the cultivation of western king prawns (*Penaeus latisuicatus* Kishinouye, 1896). *Aquaculture Research*, **41**, 893-903.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2109.2009.02370.x>

Hauton C. 2012. The scope of the crustacean immune system for disease control. *Journal of Invertebrate Pathology* **110**(2), June 2012, Pages 251-260.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jip.2012.03.005>

Hu YH, Deng T, Sun BG, Sun L. 2012. Development and efficacy of an attenuated *Vibrio harveyi* vaccine candidate with cross protectivity against *Vibrio alginolyticus*. *Fish & Shellfish Immunology* **32**(2012), 1155-1161.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.fsi.2012.03.032>

Huang YC, Jian JJ, Lu YS, Cai SH, Wang B, Tang JF, Pang HY, Ding Y, Wu ZH. 2012. Draft Genome Sequence of the Fish Pathogen *Vibrio harveyi* Strain ZJ0603. *Journal of Bacteriology*. December 2012. **194**(23), 6644-6645.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1128/JB.01759-12>

Immanuel G. 2016. Bioencapsulation of Brine shrimp *Artemia* Nauplii with Probiotics and Their Resistance Against *Vibrio* Pathogens. *Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic science*. ISSN 1816-4927.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.3923/jfas.2016.323.330>

Interaminense JA, Calazans NF, Caritas do Valle B, Vogeley JL, Peixoto S, Soares R, Lima Filho JV. 2014. *Vibrio* spp. Control at Brine Shrimp, *Artemia*, Hatching and Enrichment. *Journal of the World Aquaculture Society*.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/jwas.12096>

Joosten PHM, Aviles-Trigueros M, Sorgeloos P, Rombout JHWM. 1995. Oral vaccination of juvenile carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and gilthead seabream (*Sparus aurata*) with bioencapsulated *Vibrio anguillarum* bacterin. *Fish and Shellfish Immunology* (1995) **5**, 289-299.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1006/fsim.1995.0028>

Kim SY, Chung HY, Lee DH, Lim JG, Kim, SK, Ku HJ, Kim YT, Kim H, Ryu S, Lee JH, Choi SH. 2016. Complete genome sequence of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* strain FORC 008, a foodborne pathogen from a flounder fish in South Korea. *Pathogens and Disease* **74**, 2016, FEMS.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/femspd/ftw044>

Le Moullac G, Haffner P. 2000. Environmental factors affecting immune response in Crustacea. *Aquaculture* **191**, 121-131.

[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0044-8486\(00\)00422-1](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0044-8486(00)00422-1)

Lee CY, Cheng MF, Yu MS, Pan MJ. 2002. Purification and characterization of a putative virulence factor, serine protease, from *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*. *FEMS Microbiology Letters* **209**, 31-37.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1574-6968.2002.tb11105.x>

Lee MN, Kim SK, Li XH, Lee JH. 2014. Bacterial virulence analysis using brine shrimp as an infection

model in relation to the importance of quorum sensing and proteases. The Journal of General and Applied Microbiology **60**, 169-174.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2323/jgam.60.169>

Lee SY, Soderhall K. 2002. Early events in crustacean innate immunity. Fish and Shellfish Immunology **12(5)**, May 2002, Pages 421-437.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1006/fsim.2002.0420>

Lin BC, Wang Z, Malanoski AP, O'Grady EA, Wimpee CF, Vuddhakul V, Alves N, Jr, Thompson FL, Gomez-Gil B, Vora GJ. 2010. Comparative genomic analyses identify the *Vibrio harveyi* genome sequenced strains BAA-1116 and HY01 as *Vibrio campbellii*. Wiley Environmental Microbiology Reports. 2010 Feb; **2(1)**, 81-89.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1758-2229.2009.00100.x>

Liu L, Ge MF, Zheng XY, Tao Z, Zhou SM, Wang GL. 2016. Investigation of *Vibrio alginolyticus*, *V. harveyi*, and *V. parahaemolyticus* in large yellow croaker, *Pseudosciaenacrocea* (Richardson) reared in Xiangshan Bay, China. Aquaculture Report **3(2016)**, 220-224.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.aqrep.2016.04.004>

Liu YL, Zhao Y, Dai ZM, Chen HM, Yang WJ. 2009. Formation of Diapause Cyst Shell in Brine Shrimp, *Artemia parthenogenetica*, and its Resistance Role in Environmental Stresses. Journal of Biological Chemistry. 2009 Jun 19, **284(25)**, 16931-16938.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M109.004051>

Makridis P, Fjellheim AJ, Skjermo J, Vadstein O. 2000. Control of the bacterial flora of *Brachiomusculatilis* and *Artemia franciscana* by incubation in bacterial suspensions. Aquaculture **185**, 207-218.

[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0044-8486\(99\)00351-8](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0044-8486(99)00351-8)

Marques A, Thanh TH, Sorgeloos P, Bossier P, 2006. Use of microalgae and bacteria to enhance protection of gnotobiotic *Artemia* against different

pathogens. Aquaculture **258**, 116-128.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2006.04.021>

Miyoshi SI. 2013. Extracellular proteolytic enzymes produced by human pathogenic species. Frontiers in Microbiology **4**, 339.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2013.00339>

Mutuloki S, Munang'andu HM, Evensen O. 2015. Oral vaccination of fish – antigen preparations, uptake, and immune induction. Frontier in Immunology **6**, 519.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2015.00519>

Nehlah R, Ina-Salwany MY, Zulperi Z. 2016. Antigenicity Analysis and Molecular Characterization of Two Outer Membrane Proteins of *Vibrio alginolyticus* Strain VA2 as Vaccine Candidates in Tiger Grouper Culture. Journal of Biological sciences **16**.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.3923/jbs.2016.1.11>

Niu YF, Defoirdt T, Baruah K, Van de Wiele T, Dong SL, Bossier P. 2014. *Bacillus* sp. LT3 improves the survival of gnotobiotic brine shrimp (*Artemia franciscana*) larvae challenged with *Vibrio campbellii* by enhancing the innate immune response and by decreasing the activity of shrimp-associated *Vibrios*. Veterinary Microbiology **173**, 279-283.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.vetmic.2014.08.007>

Patil PK, Gopel C, Panigrahi A, Rajababu D, Pillai SM. 2013. Oral administration of formalin killed *Vibrio anguillarum* cells improves growth and protection against challenge with *Vibrio harveyi* in banana shrimp. Letters in Applied Microbiology **58**, 213-218.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/lam.12176>

Reis DB, Acosta NG, Almansa E, Navarro JC, Tocher DR, Andrade JP, Sykes AV, Rodriguez C. 2017. Comparative study on fatty acid metabolism of early stages of two crustacean species: *Artemia* sp. matanauplii and *Grapsus adscensionis* zoeae, as live prey for marine animals. Comparative Biochemistry

and Physiology Part B: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Volume **204**, February 53-60.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cbpb.2016.11.002>

Shahabi V, Maciag PC, Rivera S, Wallecha A. 2010. Live, attenuated strains of *Listeria* and *Salmonella* as vaccine vectors in cancer treatment Bioengineered Bugs. 2010 Jul-Aug; **1(4)**, 235-239.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.4161/bbug.1.4.11243>

Soltanian S, Thai QT, Dhont J, Sorgeloss P, Bossier P. 2007. The protective effect against *Vibrio campbellii* in *Artemia* nauplii by pure B-glucan and isogenic yeast cells differing in B-glucan and chitin content operated with a source-depended time lag. Fish and Shellfish immunology **23**, 1003-1014.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/J.FSI.2007.04.002>.

Stappen GV. 1998. Morphology and life cycle. Biology and ecology of *Artemia*. Introduction, biology and ecology of *Artemia*. Manual on the Production and Use of Live Food for Aquaculture. FAO. Rome 1996. ISBN 92-5-1103934-8.

Steidler L. 2003. Genetically engineered probiotics. Best Practice & Research Clinical Gastroenterology. **17(5)**, 861-876.
[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/s1521-6918\(03\)00072-6](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/s1521-6918(03)00072-6).

Sung YY, Dhaena T, Defoirdt T, Boon N, MacRae TH, Sorgeloos P, Bossier P. 2009. Ingestion of bacteria overproducing DnaK attenuates *Vibrio* infection of *Artemia franciscana* larvae. Cell Stress and Chaperones **14**, 603-609.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s12192-009-0122-2>

Tkavc R, Ausec L, Oren A, Gunde-Cimerman N. 2010. Bacteria associated with *Artemia* spp. along

the salinity gradient of the solar salterns at Eilat (Israel). FEMS Microbiology Ecology **77(2)**.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1574-6941.2011.01112.x>

Vadstein O, Bergh O, Gatesoupe F, Galindo-Villegas J, Mulero V, Picchiatti S, Scapigliati G, Makridis P, Olsen Y, Dierckens K, Defoirdt T, Boon N, De Schryver P, Bossier P. 2013. Microbiology and Immunology of fish larvae. Reviews in Aquaculture (2013) **5(1)**, S1-S25.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1753-5131.2012.01082.x>

Vazquez L, Alpuche J, Maldonado G, Agundis C, Pereyra-Morales A, Zenteno E. 2009. Review: Immunity mechanisms in crustaceans. Innate Immunity.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1753425909102876>

Verschuere L, Heang H, Criel G, Sorgeloos P, Verstraete W. 2000. Selected Bacterial Strains Protect *Artemia* spp. from the Pathogenic Effects of *Vibrio proteolyticus* CW8T2. Applied and Environmental Microbiology **66(3)**, 1139-1146.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-7429.2011.00787.x>

Verschuere L, Rombaut G, Huys G, Dhont J, Sorgeloos P, Verstraete W. 1999. Microbial Control of the Culture of *Artemia* Juveniles through Preemptive Colonization by selected Bacterial Strains. Applied and Environmental Microbiology, June 1999. **65(6)**, p 2527-2533. PMID: PMC91373

Interaminense JA, Calazans NF, do Valle BC, Vogeley JL, Peixoto S, Soares R, Lima JV. 2014. *Vibrio* spp. control at brine shrimp, *Artemia*, hatching and enrichment. Journal of the World Aquaculture Society **45(1)**, 65-74.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/jwas.12096>