In vitro gas and methane production of two mixed rations influenced by three different cultures of Saccharomyces cerevisiae


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**In vitro** gas and methane production of two mixed rations influenced by three different cultures of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

M. M. Y. Elghandour\(^a\), J. C. Vázquez\(^a\), A. Z. M. Salem\(^b\), A. E. Kholif\(^b\), M. M. Cipriano\(^c\), L. M. Camacho\(^d\) and O. Márquez\(^d\)

\(^a\)Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México, Toluca, Estado de México, México; \(^b\)Dairy Science Department, National Research Centre, Dokki, Giza, Egypt; \(^c\)Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia, Universidad Autónoma de Guerrero, Altamirano, Guerrero, México; \(^d\)Centro Universitario Amecameca, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México, Amecameca, México

**Abstract**

The current study aimed to evaluate if the effect of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (SC) on *in vitro* fermentation can be affected with the crude protein (CP) content of the ration. Three commercial SC cultures of Biocell F53\(^b\), Procreatin 7\(^b\), and Biosaf SC47\(^b\) were evaluated at 0 (SC0), 2 (SC2), and 4 (SC4) mg/g dry matter (DM) was used as substrates. Two rations with 13% (low crude protein [LCP]) and 16% CP (high crude protein [HCP]) were used as substrates. Rumen gas (gas production [GP]) and methane (CH\(_4\)) productions were recorded. The HCP ration had increased (\(P = .05\)) asymptotic GP, CH\(_4\) production, and fermentation parameters. Biocell F53\(^b\) and Biosaf SC47\(^b\) increased the asymptotic GP (\(P < .05\)) in HCP and LCP rations with better effect for the dose of 2 mg/g DM substrate HCP (\(P < .05\)) and dose of 4 mg yeast/g DM substrate with the LCP ration. The highest CH\(_4\) production was observed (\(P < .05\)) with Procreatin 7\(^b\). It could be concluded that HCP ration improved GP than LCP ration. Moreover, addition of Biocell F53\(^b\) and Biosaf SC47\(^b\) at rate of 2 mg/g DM improved fermentation kinetics and nutrients degradability.

**Abbreviations:** \(b\): the asymptotic gas production; \(c\): the rate of gas production; CH\(_4\): methane; \(GY_{24}\): gas yield at 24 h of incubation; \(L\): the initial delay before gas production begins; MCP: microbial CP production; \(PF_{24}\): partitioning factor at 24 h of incubation.

1. Introduction

One of the most important problems facing ruminant production is the losing of energy and high biological value proteins as a result of ruminal fermentation. This may cause a limited productive performance (Kholif et al. 2014; Ahmed et al. 2016) and release of pollutants to the environment (Calasamiglia et al. 2007). Ionophores and antibiotics have good results to reduce these losses in energy and protein (McGuffey et al. 2001); however, the European Union banned the use of them due to the potential of appearance of residues in milk or meat (Russell and Houlihan 2003). Nowadays, researches are concerning the use of natural feed additives, generally recognized as safe for human consumption, including phytogetic extracts (Valdes et al. 2015), enzymes (Alsersy et al. 2015) or *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (SC) (Elghandour et al. 2015) to modify rumen microbial fermentation.

The SC is generally recognized as safe by the US Food and Drug Administration, and they can be legally used as animal feed additives. Yeast, as a natural feed additive, has the ability to stabilize rumen fermentation and prevents rumen flora disorders and disturbances (Pinloche et al. 2013) with increasing the numbers of viable bacterial cells (Jouany 2001). Enhanced ammonia utilization by ruminal microorganisms is another benefit from using yeast (Chaucheyras-Durand et al. 2008). Moreover, SC can provide the rumen with important nutrients and nutritional cofactors in addition to vitamins, which reported to be required for microbial growth and activity (Mao et al. 2013; Polyorach et al. 2014). The SC have the ability to increase dry matter (DM) and neutral detergent fibre (NDF) digestion (Elghandour et al. 2014, Elghandour et al. 2015), and increase initial rates of fibre digestion (Williams et al. 1991). In addition, it could enhance fungal colonization of plant cell walls, resulting in increased DM and NDF digestion (NDFD) (Patra 2012), and improved *in situ* crude protein (CP) and NDF degradation. Elghandour et al. (2014) reported an increased *in vitro* rumen degradability of forages, which was associated with ability of yeast to stimulate growth and activity of fibrolytic bacteria (Wambah et al. 2010).

Increased gas production (GP) was paralleled with administration of SC (Elghandour et al. 2014), which might stimulate the acetogens to compete or co-metabolize hydrogen with methanogens, thereby reduce methane (CH\(_4\)) emissions (Hristov et al. 2013). However, others reported increased CH\(_4\) emission (Martin and Nisbet 1992), or not affected (Mathieu et al. 1996) with SC administration. These conflicting results on CH\(_4\) emission are likely due to strain difference of SC and type of diets (Patra 2012). In general, there is inconsistency between reports regarding the effect of yeast on animals’ performance. Some of the possible causes for the inconsistency could be associated with characteristics of the strain.
(Newbold et al. 1996), differences between commercial additives (Mendoza et al. 1995), and diet composition (Elghandour et al. 2014).

The commercially available SC cultures, in general, contain mixtures of varying proportions of live and dead cells. So, as expected, the response to different SC cultures will vary depending on number of live or metabolically active SC cells, the dose used, the feeds, and/or other nutrients compounds in the cultures such as fats, proteins, ash, and carbohydrates (Elghandour et al. 2014). Therefore, the current study aimed to study the effect of three SC cultures, abundant in Mexico, at different doses on GP and fermentation kinetics of two total mixed rations with high (16% CP; high crude protein (HCP)) and low (13% CP; low crude protein (LCP)) CP levels.

### 2. Materials and methods

#### 2.1. Substrates and yeast levels

Two mixed rations with two different levels of CP of 13% (LCP) and 16% (HCP) on DM basis (Table 1) were used as substrates to be incubated with three doses of different SC cultures.

Three types of SC cultures were tested at three doses (mg/g DM of substrate): 0 (without; SC0), 2 (SC2), and 4 (SC4). Stock solution of each yeast culture doses was prepared before treatments in distilled water in order to get the suitable doses in 1 ml of each stock solution.

The three cultures of SC (Lesaffre Feed Additives, Toluca, Mexico) were used: (1) Biocell® contains a minimum guarantee of 2.0 x 10^10 CFU/g SC. (2) Procratin 7+ contains minimum guarantee of 1.5 x 10^10 CFU/g SC. (3) Biosaf SC47® contains, as a minimum count of live yeast cell 1.0 x 10^10 CFU/g SC.

#### 2.2. In vitro incubations

As described before in Elghandour et al. (2014), three sheep (35 to 45 kg body weight) fitted with permanent rumen cannula were used as rumen inoculum donors and fed on a total mixed ration of commercial concentrate and corn silage at 1:1 DM formulated to cover their nutrient requirements (NRC 1985). Sheep had a free access to fresh water during all times of rumen inoculum collection phase.

Before the morning feeding, ruminal contents were obtained from each sheep and flushed with CO2 to keep it anaerobically, then mixed and strained through four layers of cheesecloth into a flask with O2 free headspace. Feeds samples (0.5 g) were weighed into 120 ml serum bottles with appropriate addition of yeast cultures doses/g DM. About 10 ml of particle free ruminal fluid were added to each bottle followed by 40 ml of the buffer solution according to Goering and Van Soest (1970), with no trypticase added, in a 1:4 (vol/vol) proportion.

Once all bottles were filled, they were immediately closed with rubber stoppers, shaken and placed in the incubator at 39°C. The volume of gas produced and CH4 production were recorded at times of 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 24, and 48 h of incubation. GP was recorded using the pressure reading technique (Extech instruments, Waltham, USA) of Theodorou et al. (1994) while the CH4 production was recorded using Gas-Pro detector (Gas Analyzer CROWCON Model Tetra3, Abingdon, UK).

After 48 h of incubation, bottles were uncapped, pH was measured using a pH meter and the contents of each bottle were filtered to obtain the non-fermented residue for determination of degraded substrate.

#### 2.3. Degradability and sample analysis

Degradability and analysis were determined as it was described in Elghandour et al. (2014). Briefly, after 48 h of incubation, the fermentation process was stopped, where the contents of each serum bottle were filtered under vacuum through glass crucibles with a sintered filter. The obtained fermentation residues were dried at 105°C overnight to estimate DM disappearance. Both of NDF and acid detergent fibre (ADF) were determined in the residues after DM degradability (DMD) determinations for determining the degradability of NDF (NDFD) and ADF (ADF). Samples of the feeds were analysed for DM (#934.01), ash (#942.05), N (#954.01), and EE (#920.39) according to AOAC (1997). The NDF and ADF content of both feeds and fermentation residues were determined using an ANKOM200 Fibre Analyzer Unit (ANKOM Technology Corp., Macedon, NY, USA) without use of an alpha amylose but with sodium sulfite in the NDF (Van Soest et al. 1991). Both NDF and ADF are expressed without residual ash.

#### 2.4. Calculations and statistical analyses

As described before in Salem, Kholif, Elghandour, Hernandez et al. (2014), to estimate kinetic parameters of GP, results (ml/g DM) were fitted using the NLIN option of SAS (2002) according to France et al. (2000) model as:

\[
A = b \times (1 - e^{-ct-L}),
\]

where A is the volume of GP at time t, b is the asymptotic GP (ml/g DM), c is the rate of GP (/h), and L (h) is the discrete lag time prior to GP.
Metabolizable energy (ME, MJ/kg DM) and in vitro organic matter digestibility (OMD, g/kg OM) were estimated according to Menke et al. (1979):

\[
ME = 2.20 + 0.136GP (ml/0.5gDM) + 0.057CP (g/kg DM)
\]

\[
OMD = 148.8 + 8.89GP + 4.5CP (g/kg DM) + 0.651ash (g/kg DM),
\]

where GP is net GP in ml from 200 mg of dry sample after 24 h of incubation.

The partitioning factor at 24 h of incubation (PF24, a measure of fermentation efficiency) was calculated as the ratio of DMD in vitro (mg) to the volume (ml) of GP at 24 h (i.e. DMD/total GP (GP24)) according to Blümmel et al. (1997). Gas yield (GY24) was calculated as the volume of gas (ml gas/g DM) produced after 24 h of incubation divided by the amount of DMD (g) as:

Gas yields \( Y_{ijkl} \) = ml gas per g DM/g DMD.

The experimental design for the in vitro ruminal GP, CH4 production, degradability and fermentation parameters analysis was a completely random design considering, as fixed factors, type of ration (R) and yeast culture doses (D) in the linear model (Steel et al. 1997) within each yeast culture (P). Data of each of the three runs within the same sample were averaged prior to statistical analysis. Mean values of each individual sample within each species (three samples of each) were used as the experimental unit. The statistical model was

\[
Y_{ijkl} = \mu + R_i + D_j + P_k + (R \times D)_ij + (R \times P)_{ik} + (P \times D)_{jk} + (R \times P \times D)_{ijk} + \epsilon_{ijkl},
\]

where \( Y_{ijkl} \) is every observation of the \( i \)th ration (R) when incubated in the \( j \)th level D; \( \mu \) is the general mean; \( R_i \) \( (i = 1–2) \) is the ration effect; \( D_j \) is the yeast doses effect \( (j = 1–3) \); \( P_k \) is the culture type \( (j = 1–3) \), \( (R \times D)_ij \) is the interaction between ration and yeast doses; \( (R \times P)_{jk} \) is the interaction between ration and culture; \( (R \times P \times D)_{ijk} \) is the interaction between rations, yeast cultures and doses; and \( \epsilon_{ijkl} \) is experimental error. Linear and quadratic polynomial contrasts were used to examine responses of substrate to increasing addition doses of the yeast cultures.

3. Results

3.1. Gas and methane productions

Interactions were observed \((P < 0.05)\) between ration \( \times \) yeast culture, yeast culture \( \times \) yeast dose, and between ration \( \times \) yeast culture \( \times \) yeast dose for gas and CH4 productions. Compared to the LCP and without yeast addition (control treatments), HCP had increased \((P = 0.001)\) asymptotic GP and decreased lag time \((P < 0.001)\) without affecting the rate of GP \((P > 0.05)\). Compared to control treatments, Biocell F53® and Biosaf SC47® increased the asymptotic GP \((P < 0.001)\) in both rations where the dose of 2 mg yeast/g DM substrate was more effective (linear effect, \(P = 0.001\); quadratic effect, \(P = 0.023\)) than the dose of 4 mg yeast/g DM substrate with the HCP ration. Regarding the LCP ration, the dose of 4 mg yeast/g DM substrate was more effective (linear effect, \(P = 0.001\); quadratic effect, \(P = 0.023\)) to increase the asymptotic GP in both Biocell F53® and Procreatin 7® than the low dose (Table 2).

Increased CH4 production was observed \((P < 0.001)\) with the LCP ration than HCP ration after 24 and 48 h of incubation. For the HCP ration, the highest CH4 productions at 24 h of incubation were observed \((P < 0.01)\) with Procreatin 7® (at 2 mg/g DM) and with Biosaf SC47® (at 2, and 4 mg/g DM), while at 48 h of incubation was observed with the Procreatin 7® at 4 mg/g DM \((P < 0.001)\). For the LCP ration, Biocell F53® and Biosaf SC47® had the highest CH4 production at 24 h of incubation \((P < 0.01)\), while at 48 h of incubation the dose of 4 mg/g DM of all tested yeast cultures decreased \((P < 0.01)\) CH4 at 48 h of incubation (Table 2).

3.2. Nutrients degradability and fermentation kinetics

Interactions between ration \( \times \) yeast culture, yeast culture \( \times \) yeast dose, and ration \( \times \) yeast culture \( \times \) yeast dose were observed \((P < 0.05)\) for ME, PF24, MCP, GY24, DMD and OMD. The HCP ration had increased \((P < 0.05)\) ME, MCP, GY24, DMD and OMD with decreased PF24 compared to the LCP ration. Yeast culture had no effect on fermentation kinetics and nutrients degradability with exception of DMD \((P < 0.001)\). With the HCP ration, addition of Procreatin 7® at 2 mg/g DM had increased ME, MCP, GY24, DMD and OMD with decreased PF24 compared to the other doses of other yeast cultures. On the contrary and with the LCP ration, the dose of 2 mg/g DM from the culture Biocell F53® had increased ME, MCP, GY24, and OMD compared to other doses of different yeast cultures; however, the dose of 2 mg/g DM of Procreatin 7® had increased DMD compared to other doses of other yeast cultures. No effect was observed \((P > 0.05)\) on fermentation pH, NDFD and ADFD between the two rations, different yeast cultures and different yeast doses (Table 3).

4. Discussion

4.1. Gas production

Increasing protein content of the ration caused an increased GP. However, fermentability of protein produces relatively small GP compared to carbohydrate fermentation (Makkar et al. 1995). The GP, form any substrate, depends mainly on nutrient availability for rumen microorganisms (Elghandour et al. 2014; Elghandour, Kholif et al. 2015). Fermentation of dietary carbohydrates to acetate, propionate and butyrate produces gases (mainly CH4, CO2, H2) in the rumen. However, in the current study, both rations (i.e. LCP and HCP) had almost the same fibre fractions content. So, it is well clear that the increased GP was a result of increased CP content. It is well known that SC has the ability to decrease ammonia production in the rumen (Hristov et al. 2013) by decreased protein degradation and decreased the overall N excretion by the animal, which would contribute to decreased ammonia emissions from cattle manure (Mao et al. 2013). The direct result of this action was the expected increased protein bypass in the rumen to be absorbed and metabolized as a true protein in the true stomach and small intestine.
| Ration | Yeast culture | Yeast dose (mg/g DM) | b (mL/g DM) | c (/h) | L (h) | 2 h | 4 h | 6 h | 8 h | 10 h | 12 h | 24 h | 48 h | 24 h | 48 h |
|--------|---------------|----------------------|-------------|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| HCP    | Control       | SC0                  | 359.5       | 0.031  | 0.72  | 20.9| 40.6| 59.1| 76.5| 92.9| 108.4| 183.6| 272.6| 27.0| 57.3|
|        | Biocell® F53  | SC2                  | 409.6       | 0.026  | 0.40  | 20.7| 40.2| 58.8| 76.5| 93.2| 109.0| 188.6| 289.3| 38.8| 66.6|
|        | Procreatin 7* | SC4                  | 398.1       | 0.028  | 0.92  | 21.4| 41.6| 60.7| 78.8| 95.9| 112.0| 192.1| 290.6| 34.2| 68.2|
|        | SC2           |                      | 312.6       | 0.052  | 0.55  | 31.2| 59.2| 84.3| 106.9|127.3| 145.5| 222.6| 285.7| 42.0| 53.8|
|        | SC4           |                      | 309.8       | 0.051  | 0.49  | 30.3| 57.6| 82.3|104.6|124.6| 142.7| 219.7| 283.5| 23.6| 96.1|
|        | Procreatin 7* | SC2                  | 428.8       | 0.024  | 1.14  | 19.8| 38.8| 56.8| 74.0| 90.4| 106.0| 185.5| 290.2| 40.3| 54.9|
|        | SC4           |                      | 401.3       | 0.026  | 0.57  | 20.2| 39.4| 57.6| 74.8| 91.2| 106.8| 184.8| 283.9| 36.5| 64.2|
| LCP    | Control       | SC0                  | 309.2       | 0.032  | 1.47  | 19.3| 37.3| 54.1| 69.9| 84.7| 98.5| 164.9| 240.7| 58.0| 141.1|
|        | Biocell® F53  | SC2                  | 362.1       | 0.042  | 1.16  | 29.0| 55.7| 80.2|102.7|123.4| 142.4| 228.3| 311.9|143.2|164.6|
|        | SC4           |                      | 377.7       | 0.019  | 1.52  | 14.0| 27.5| 40.4| 52.9| 64.9| 76.5| 137.3| 224.3| 63.8|112.1|
|        | Procreatin 7* | SC2                  | 318.5       | 0.033  | 1.02  | 20.4| 39.3| 57.0| 73.4| 88.7| 103.0| 170.5| 245.7| 50.6|198.9|
|        | SC4           |                      | 393.6       | 0.017  | 1.35  | 12.9| 25.4| 37.4| 49.1| 60.4| 71.2| 129.3| 215.2| 48.5| 53.4|
|        | Biosa® SC47   | SC2                  | 374.5       | 0.034  | 1.35  | 24.1| 46.4| 67.2| 86.6|104.6| 121.4| 200.7| 288.6| 69.8|146.5|
|        | SC4           |                      | 328.1       | 0.050  | 1.39  | 30.8| 58.7| 83.9|106.7|127.4| 146.0| 226.4| 295.8| 69.9|108.8|
|        | Pooled SEM    |                     | 13.84       | 0.0035 | 0.283 | 2.21| 4.11| 5.74| 7.14| 8.33| 9.33| 12.56| 12.44| 7.51| 9.94|

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Note: b: asymptotic gas production; c: rate of gas production; HCP: high crude protein; L: the initial delay before gas production begins; LCP: low crude protein. Means with different superscripts within each column are differ (P < 0.05).
Decreased lag time with increased protein content (i.e. HCP ration) reflects the fast activity of SC on the fermentation process. Newbold et al. (1996) stated that SC can affect the respiratory activity that scavenges O₂ (Chaucheyras-Durand et al. 2000), which is toxic to anaerobic bacteria and causes inhibition of adhesion of cellulolytic bacteria to cellulose, and this peak in O₂ concentration occurs at approximately the time of feeding (i.e. initial time). Moreover, SC contains small peptides and other nutrients that required to predominant ruminal cellulolytic bacteria to initiate growth (Callaway and Martin 1997). Activity of SC depends on many factors including availability of nutrients for rumen microorganisms will stimulate fermentation process (Paya et al. 2007). Previous studies reported that the stimulation of cellulose degradation by SC addition was associated with a decreased lag time, which results in increased initial rates of digestion, but not in increased extent of digestion by ruminal microorganisms (Williams et al. 1991).

Both of Biocell F53® and Biosaf SC47® cultures improved GP than Procreatin 7®. This may be related with the nature of each cultures contents from other components such as CP, crude fibre, crude fat ash, and/or materials of coating.

The low dose of SC used (SC2) improved GP than the high dose (SC4). However, many reports stated an increased GP with increasing SC dose (Mao et al. 2013; Elghandour et al. 2014). The nature of substrate, and the in vitro procedure are responsible about the varied response with a different level of SC. In case of in vitro technique, the substrate amount relative to the used rumen liquid volume for incubation is much less than in the rumen of a cow (<1 vs 12%). In case of rumen modulator such as SC supplementation at different rates, SC could change the fermentation rate and cause different substrate depletion, resulting in different responses (Mao et al. 2013).

### 4.2. CH₄ production

Before the first 24 h of incubation, CH₄ production was negligible and then started to be increased quickly to reach its concentration peak at the end of incubation; however, GP started early with incubation. This reflects the nature of the produced gases. During fermentation process, amounts of gases are produced within the rumen, which mainly constitutes H₂, CO₂ and CH₄. As previously mentioned, increasing ration CP content caused an increased GP with decreasing CH₄ production. This result might be due to an increased proportion of protein in the ration, which changes the produced short chain fatty acids concentrations in such a way that less acetic and more propionic is formed, and hence, the supply of hydrogen for methanogenesis is limited (Polyorach et al. 2014) with reducing the protozoal population (Iqbal et al. 2008).

CH₄ production differed between yeast cultures. This may be illustrated based on different cultures contents from other components such as CP, crude fibre, crude fat ash, and/or materials of coating.

Moreover, the low dose of SC (SC2) increased CH₄ production than the SC4. This related with the increased GP with this dose of SC and the changed nature of produced gas due to SC addition. Elghandour et al. (2014) noted an increased CH₄ production as the produced gases was increased when SC was added. However, increasing the dose of SC decreased CH₄ production. Some studies suggested that SC culture might stimulate the acetogens to compete or to co-metabolize H₂ with methanogens, thereby reducing CH₄ productions (Mwenya et al. 2004; Elghandour et al. 2014). Polyorach et al. (2014) noted that CH₄ production in the rumen was decreased when animals fed SC fermented cassava chip protein instead of...
soybean meal. They returned it to the ability of SC to affect H₂ metabolism in the rumen with altering the fermentation process in a manner that reduces the formation of CH₄. However, other studies (Martin and Nisbet 1992) reported an increased CH₄ production. These conflicting results on CH₄ production are likely due to strain difference of SC cultures and nature of rations (Patra 2012).

### 4.3. pH and nutrient degradabilities

Ruminal pH was not affected during fermentation processes. Several studies have suggested that SC moderate the ruminal pH by increasing lactate utilization making pH relatively more stable and meet the needs of rumen microbes to perform its activity (Elghandour et al. 2014).

Nutrients degradability showed an improved DMD and OMD without affecting on NDFD and ADFD with HCP even with SC addition. However, different SC cultures affected only on DMD. Both of rations had a much closed without affecting on NDFD and ADFD with HCP even with SC conditions to microbial growth (Mosoni et al. 2007). It is well known that SC had the ability to stimulate growth and activity of total ruminal anaerobes bacteria (Jouany 2001). Polyorach et al. (2014) showed that SC can increase rumen microorganism’s total numbers and improve the utilization of feeds. However, most of the reports showed an improved fibres fractions’ degradability (Elghandour et al. 2014) as a result of increased cellulolytic digester species *Fibrobacter succinogenes, Ruminococcus flavefaciens* and *Selenomonas ruminantium* (Callaway and Martin 1997). Guedes et al. (2008) stated unaffected fibre fractions with addition of SC.

### 4.4. In vitro rumen fermentation kinetic

Improved ME, MCP, and GY₂₄ were observed with the HCP ration. Rations with high protein content provide ruminal microflora with the essential nutrients for its activity. The highly activity reflected on higher GP, higher microbial protein synthesis, and higher degradability. This can be generalized for the effect of SC addition on the fermentation activity. Mao et al. (2013) and Elghandour et al. (2014) showed that addition of SC increased ME. They returned their results to the high activities of microbes in the rumen as a result of produced growth factors for microbial growth and activity in the rumen, and to the ability of SC to provide conducive anaerobic conditions to microbial growth (Mosoni et al. 2007). Result of PF₂₄ reflects decreased conversion of degraded substrate into microbial biomass (Harikrishna et al. 2012). Elghandour et al. (2014) showed that addition of SC decreased PF from different poor-quality roughages.

### 5. Conclusions

The high CP rations increased GP and decreased CH₄ production versus the low CP ration. Addition of *S. cerevisiae* improved ruminal fermentation kinetics with reducing CH₄ production. The commercial *S. cerevisiae* cultures of Biocell F53® and Biosaf SC47® addition at rate of 2 mg/g DM improved fermentation kinetics and nutrients’ degradability.

### Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

### ORCID

A. Z. M. Salem http://orcid.org/0000-0001-7418-4170

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