

# International Journal of Statistics and Applied Mathematics

ISSN: 2456-1452  
Maths 2023; SP-8(7): 89-94  
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<https://www.mathsjournal.com>  
Received: 27-08-2023  
Accepted: 30-09-2023

**Pulin Kerketta**  
Assistant Professor, Department  
of Zoology, Gossner College,  
Ranchi, Jharkhand, India

**Corresponding Author:**  
**Pulin Kerketta**  
Assistant Professor, Department  
of Zoology, Gossner College,  
Ranchi, Jharkhand, India

## 3<sup>rd</sup> National Conference on Livelihood and Food Security through Agriculture and Applied Sciences (LFSAAS-2023)

### Determination of minimum inhibitory concentration for chitosan extracted from freshwater prawn, *Macrobrachium dayanum* (Henderson, 1893) against gram negative bacteria

**Pulin Kerketta**

#### Abstract

Recently, antibacterial resistance is the one of the major problems faced by the people. The need of the hour is to obtain natural biopolymer with antibacterial efficacy. In the current study, chitosan was extracted from the shell of freshwater prawn, *M. dayanum*. *M. dayanum* are edible prawns, found in ponds and rivers of Jharkhand. The extracted chitosan was structurally characterized and degree of deacetylation was calculated through FT-IR spectroscopy. Further the antibacterial activity of chitosan was assayed by Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC). The result of the present study showed that FT-IR spectrum of extracted chitosan contains peak at 898,1033,1419,1554,1651, 2881 and 3263  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The degree of deacetylation of the extracted chitosan was calculated as  $79.37 \pm 0.58\%$ . The result revealed that in case of *E. coli* (ATCC 8739), MIC of chitosan was 0.15 mg/ml and percentage of bacterial growth was 75.86% and percentage of minimum bacterial growth inhibition was 24.14%. In case of *P. aeruginosa* (ATCC 10145) MIC of chitosan was 0.15 mg/ml and percentage of bacterial growth was 95.68% and percentage of minimum bacterial growth inhibition was 4.32%. Statistical analysis showed that the MIC value of chitosan concentration of 0.15 mg/ml obtained from *M. dayanum* against *E. coli* (ATCC 8739) was significantly more susceptible than against *P. aeruginosa* (ATCC 10145) with MIC value of 0.15 mg/ml ( $p < 0.001$ ) based on the O.D observed. The assay showed that chitosan has concentration dependent antibacterial activity against human pathogenic bacterial strains which designates its probable use as effective antibacterial agent.

**Keywords:** *M. dayanum*, chitosan, MIC, *E. coli*, *P. aeruginosa*

#### Introduction

In the recent era there is an upsurge of antibacterial resistance against the synthetic antibiotics. Since there are several microorganisms that are directly or indirectly associated with human infections and diseases. This has led the researchers to procure natural biopolymer with antibacterial efficacy. Some common bacterial diseases are pathogenicity caused by *E. coli* such as, intestinal *E. coli* pathotypes and Shiga toxin producing *E. coli* may induce a watery diarrhea leading to dehydration. Extraintestinal *E. coli* which are pathogenic cause diseases such as urinary tract infection, neonatal meningitis, sepsis and infections in other body parts<sup>1</sup>. Another common gram negative bacteria is *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Clinically, the primary risk of pathogenicity caused by *P. aeruginosa* is for patients with compromised immune systems including those with Cystic Fibrosis (CF), cancer, AIDS, indwelling medical devices, burn and eye injuries and non-healing diabetic wounds. The synthetic antibiotics effectively control the bacterial growth but at the same time can have side effects on its administration. Thus, from the past few years studies about antibiotic materials have been focussed on natural materials such as chitosan.

Chitosan, is a derivative of chitin, most abundantly found biopolymer polysaccharide found in crustacean's shell. Chitosan is a copolymer composed of glucosamine and N-acetyl-glucosamine linked through  $\beta$  1-4 glycosidic bonds and obtained by deacetylation of chitin. (Fig.1)

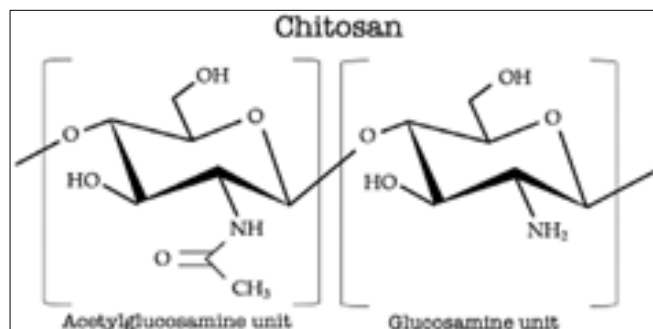


Fig 1: Molecular Structure of chitosan

Crustacean, *Macrobrachium dayanum* is a freshwater prawn, found in rivers and ponds of Jharkhand. These are relished by the local people of Ranchi and also used as medicines to cure diseases. Chinlamianger *et al.* (2013) [2] reported that Adi tribe from Arunachal Pradesh give *Penaeus indicus* in old age and diabetic people. For curing several diseases like cold, cough, genito-urinary disorder, renal disorders and body weakness [3], prawns like *Penaeus monodon* are being used.

### Objective of the research

The present research investigation includes preparation of chitosan, structural characterization and degree of deacetylation of chitosan using FTIR spectroscopy and determine minimum inhibitory concentration of chitosan at different concentration extracted from freshwater prawn, *Macrobrachium dayanum* against gram negative bacteria, *E. coli* (ATCC 8739) and *P. aeruginosa* (ATCC 10145).

### Materials and Methods

#### Preparation of Chitosan from crustacean shells

The prawns were collected from the local market in Jharkhand. The shells were removed from the flesh and washed thoroughly with water then the shells were dried and crushed using mortar and pestle. Chitosan was extracted by demineralization, deproteinization and deacetylation<sup>4,5</sup>. Extracted chitosan was dissolved in 0.2% acetic acid for antibacterial assay.

#### Antibacterial Assay

Bacterial strains namely *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 8739) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 10145) were obtained from Yugantar Bharti Analytical and Environmental Engineering Laboratory, Sidroul, Namkom, Ranchi (Jharkhand) were maintained at 4 °C on Nutrient agar media. Each of the

microorganisms were freshly cultured before the susceptibility testing by transferring them into a separate sterile test tube containing nutrient broth and then it was incubated overnight at 37 °C. A microbial loop was used to remove a colony of each bacterium from pure culture and transfer it into nutrient broth.

- Preparation of inoculum: Each organism was recovered for testing by sub culturing on fresh media. A loopful inoculum of each test bacterium was taken and suspended in 2 ml of Nutrient Broth and Luria-Bertani Broth for 4 hrs at 37 °C.
- Antibacterial assay by Minimum Inhibitory concentration method: Minimum Inhibitory concentration assay was carried out by using Serial-dilution Method [5]. The culture was emulsified in normal saline and turbidity was matched with 0.5 McFarland Standard. The inoculums were prepared to obtain approximately 150 million/ml bacterial concentration. Prior to the gradation of chitosan solution, 1.2mg of antibiotic, Ciprofloxacin was dissolved in 250 ml of distilled water to obtain concentration of 5 $\mu$ g/ml of Ciprofloxacin, used here as positive control. In this method, 10 test tubes were prepared by dispensing 1ml of chitosan solution with the highest concentrations into first test tube. Then, the two-fold serial dilutions of chitosan solutions were made by drawing up 1ml of chitosan solution in first test tube into second test tube and then move on to next test tube to achieve various concentrations, 5,2.5, 1.2, 0.6,0.3, 0.15, 0.07, 0.03 mg/ml, each containing 1ml of nutrient broth. 50 $\mu$ l of each bacterial suspension were inoculated into each test tubes. The last two test tubes were positive and negative controls, respectively. The positive control was inoculated with bacterial suspension only, while the negative was left blank without inoculation. In addition, 1ml of Ciprofloxacin (5 $\mu$ g/ml) was transferred into sterile test tube as, Antibiotic control, containing 1ml of nutrient broth, inoculated with bacterial suspension for 24 hours. The tubes were then studied for visible signs of growth or turbidity, by recording OD values under UV spectrophotometer at 600 nm, after the period of incubation. The lowest concentration that inhibited the growth of bacterial was considered as the (MIC) Minimum Inhibitory Concentration.

Calculation of Concentration: Percentage of Growth =  $\frac{\text{O.D of the Sample}}{\text{O.D of the Control}} \times 100$   
Percentage of Inhibition = 100 - % of Growth

Statistical Analysis of collected Data: Results were expressed as mean $\pm$ SD. The recorded data was subjected to statistical analysis by using student's t -test to determine the level of significance.

### Results

Table 1: Weight of dry shell powder, demineralized powder, chitin and percentage yield of chitosan of *M. dayanum*.

Batch	Weight of Dry shell powder (g)	Weight of Demineralized powder (g)	Weight of chitin (g)	Weight of Chitosan (g)	Weight of Chitosan from shell powder (%)	Weight of chitosan from chitin (%)
1	30	11.70	4.69	4.00	13.33	85.28
2	30	9.37	3.74	3.27	10.9	87.43
3	30	10.42	4.00	3.45	11.5	86.25
4	30	11.55	4.54	3.85	12.83	84.80
5	30	11.62	4.61	3.92	13	85.03
6	30	9.15	3.52	3.05	10.16	87.14
7	30	10.22	3.8	3.33	11.1	87.63

8	30	10.32	3.9	3.43	11.43	87.94
9	30	9.28	3.62	3.18	10.6	87.12
10	30	10.34	3.92	3.45	11.5	88.01
Total	300	103.97	40.34	34.93		
Average±SD	30	10.34±0.96	4.03±0.42	3.49±0.32	11.62±1.07	86.66±1.23

Table 1 showed that 30 g of shell powder was used to obtained 10.34±0.96 g demineralized powder, 4.03±0.42 g chitin and 3.49±0.32 g of chitosan after demineralization,

deproteinization and deacetylation respectively. The yield of chitosan was 11.62±1.07% from shell powder and 86.66±1.23% from chitin.

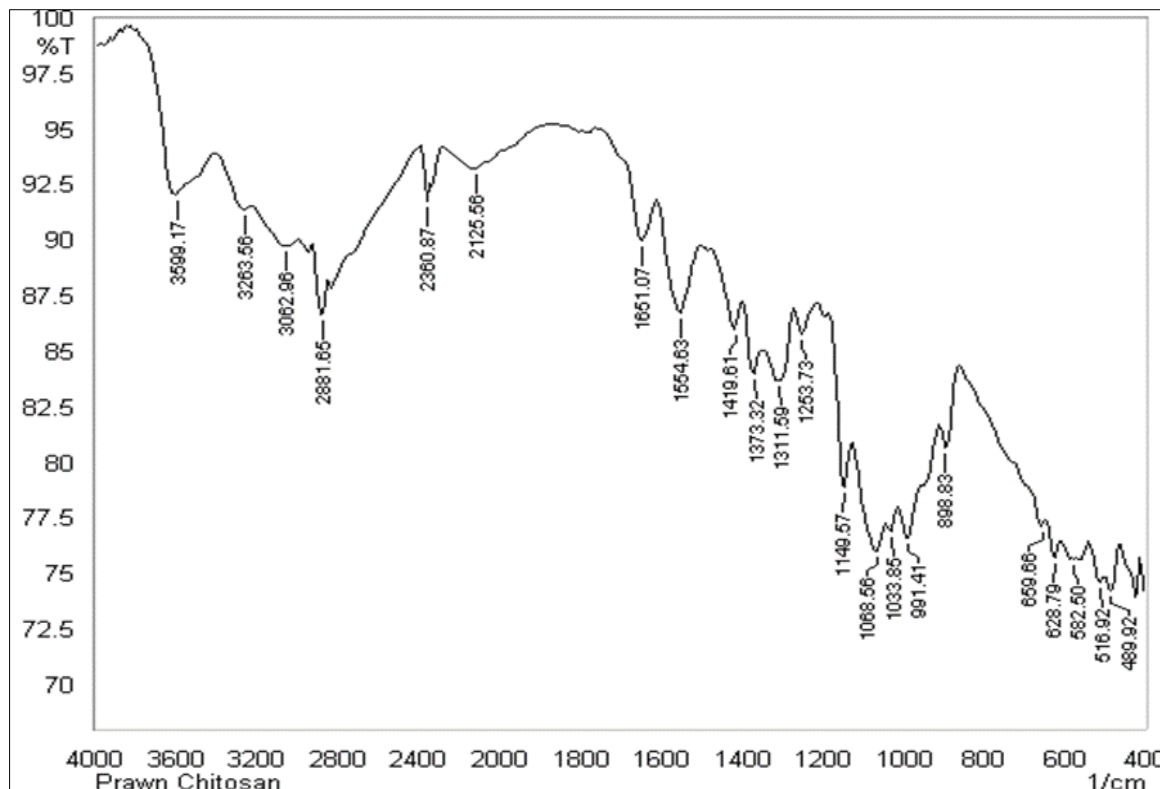


Fig 2: FT-IR spectra showing % transmission/cm of chitosan from prawn, *M. dayanum* shell.

Table 2: Comparative wave length of the main bands observed in the FT-IR spectra of standard Chitosan, *M. dayanum*.

S.N.	Vibration mode	Standard chitosan	Chitosan from <i>M. dayanum</i>
		(cm <sup>-1</sup> )	(cm <sup>-1</sup> )
1.	NH out of plane bending	752	-
2.	Ring stretching	896	898
3.	CO stretching	1026	1033
4.	CH <sub>2</sub> bending and CH <sub>3</sub> deformation	1418	1419
5.	Amide II band	1563	1554
6.	Amide I band	1661	1651
7.	CH stretching	2878	2881
8.	Symmetric CH <sub>3</sub> stretching & asymmetric CH <sub>2</sub> stretching	2930	-
9.	NH stretching	3268	3263

Figure 2 showed the absorbance bands of *M. dayanum* chitosan were observed at 898,1033,1419,1554,1651, 2881 and 3263 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Comparison of FTIR spectrum of chitosan samples with standard chitosan revealed that for *M. dayanum* chitosan, 7 out of 9 bands were very similar to that of standard chitosan. The absorbance bands of *M. dayanum* chitosan observed at 898,1033,1419,1554,1651,2881 and 3263cm<sup>-1</sup> corresponds to Ring stretching, CO stretching, CH<sub>2</sub> bending and CH<sub>3</sub> deformation, Amide II band, Amide I band CH stretching and NH stretching respectively.

Table 3: Analysis for Degree of Deacetylation of chitosan extracted from shells of *M. dayanum*

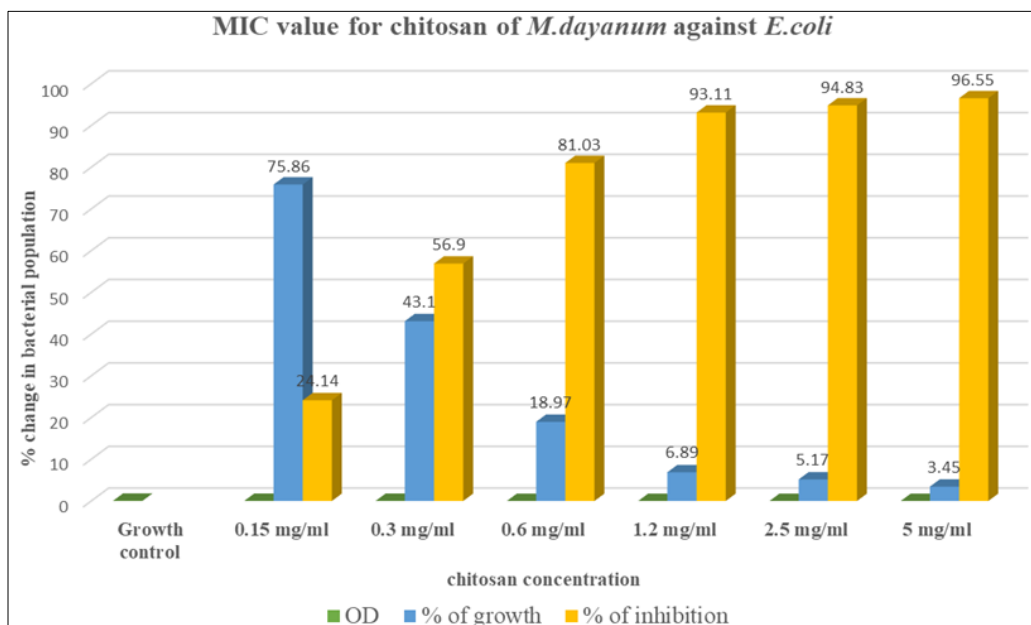
Chitosan Sample	Degree of deacetylation (%)	Average Degree of deacetylation±SD (%)
1	79.04	79.37±0.058
2	79.02	
3	80.05	

Table 3 showed Degree of deacetylation of chitosan extracted from *Macrobrachium dayanum*, was 79.37±0.58%

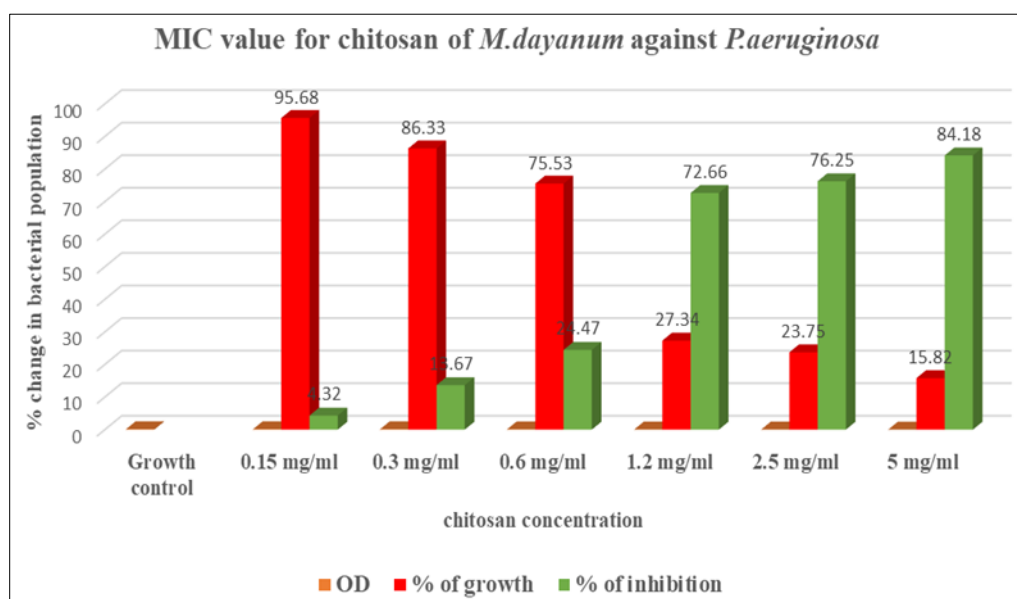
**Table 4:** Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (mg/ml) of chitosan of *Macrobrachium dayanum* against bacterial strains by two-fold Serial-dilution Method

Pathogens	Concentration	O.D @600nm	% of growth	% of inhibition	MIC value
<i>Escherichia coli</i> (ATCC 8739)	Control	0.058±0.001			0.15 mg/ml
	0.03 mg/ml	0.153±0.0006	263.80	-163.8	
	0.07 mg/ml	0.139±0.0001	269.66	-139.66	
	0.15 mg/ml	0.044±0.001	75.86	24.14	
	0.3 mg/ml	0.025±0.001	43.10	56.90	
	0.6 mg/ml	0.011±0.001	18.97	81.03	
	1.2 mg/ml	0.004±0.0006	6.89	93.11	
	2.5 mg/ml	0.003±0.0006	5.17	94.83	
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (ATCC 10145).	Control	0.139±0.0003			0.15 mg/ml
	0.03 mg/ml	0.184±0.0006	132.37	-32.37	
	0.07 mg/ml	0.176±0.0006	126.62	-26.62	
	0.15 mg/ml	0.133±0.001	95.68	4.32	
	0.3 mg/ml	0.120±0.01	86.33	13.67	
	0.6 mg/ml	0.105±0.0003	75.53	24.47	
	1.2 mg/ml	0.038±0.001	27.34	72.66	
	2.5 mg/ml	0.033±0.0006	23.75	76.25	
	5 mg/ml	0.022±0.001	15.82	84.18	

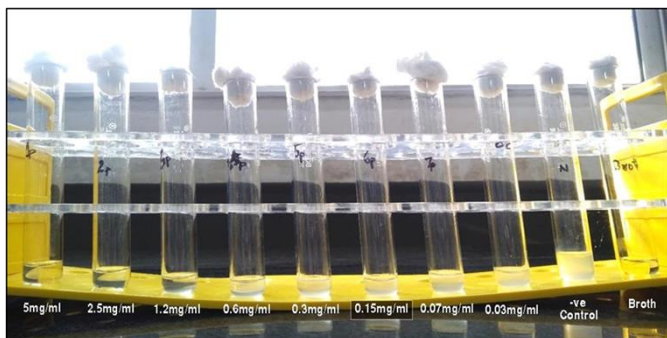
OD are expressed as means ± SD of triplicate determination



**Fig 3:** MIC value (0.15 mg/ml) for chitosan of *M. dayanum* against *Escherichia coli*. (ATCC 8739)



**Fig 4:** MIC value (0.15 mg/ml) for chitosan of *M. dayanum* against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 10145).



**Fig 5:** MIC value for chitosan of *M. dayanum* against *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 8739)



**Fig 6:** MIC value for chitosan of *M. dayanum* against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 10145).

Table-4 showed result of Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (mg/ml) of chitosan of prawn’s shell by two fold serial dilution method. Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) is defined as the lowest concentration of an antimicrobial agent that is bacteriostatic (prevents the visible growth of bacteria). In the present study, MIC was used to evaluate the antimicrobial efficacy of chitosan by measuring the effect of decreasing concentrations of chitosan over a defined period in terms of inhibition of bacterial population growth.

In case of *E. coli*, (ATCC 8739) different concentrations of chitosan (0.03 mg/ml to 5 mg/ml) from *M. dayanum* were inoculated with cultured bacteria and results were measured using two fold serial dilution method to determine at what level the MIC endpoint was established (Fig.-3). At chitosan concentration of 0.15 mg/ml, % of bacterial growth was 75.86% and % of minimum bacterial growth inhibition was 24.14%. The lowest concentration of chitosan that inhibited the visible growth of *E. coli* (ATCC 8739) was 0.15 mg/ml and was recorded as MIC value of chitosan extracted from *M. dayanum*. At chitosan concentration of 0.07 mg/ml, % of bacterial growth was 239.66% and % of bacterial growth inhibition was a negative value of -139.66%. Chitosan concentration at 0.15 mg/ml, 0.3 mg/ml, 0.6 mg/ml, 1.2 mg/ml, 2.5 mg/ml, 5 mg/ml gave a decreasing pattern of absorbance values which showed the fact that there was decrease in bacterial growth activity and increase in bacteriostatic activity due to rise in the concentration of the chitosan (Fig.-5).

In case of *P. aeruginosa* (ATCC 10145), different concentrations of chitosan (0.03 mg/ml to 5 mg/ml) of *M. dayanum* were inoculated with cultured bacteria and results were measured using two fold serial dilution method to determine at what level the MIC endpoint was established. (Fig.-4). At chitosan concentration of 0.15 mg/ml, % of bacterial growth was 95.68% and % of minimum bacterial growth inhibition was 4.32%. The lowest concentration of

chitosan that inhibited the visible growth of *P. aeruginosa* (ATCC 10145) was 0.15 mg/ml and was recorded as MIC value of chitosan extracted from *M. dayanum*. At chitosan concentration of 0.07 mg/ml, % of bacterial growth was 126.62% and % of bacterial growth inhibition was a negative value of -26.62%. Chitosan concentration at 0.15 mg/ml, 0.3 mg/ml, 0.6 mg/ml, 1.2 mg/ml, 2.5 mg/ml, 5 mg/ml gave a decreasing pattern of absorbance values which showed the fact that there was decrease in bacterial growth activity and increase in bacteriostatic activity due to rise in the concentration of the chitosan. (Fig.-6).

**Table 5:** Comparison of MIC between *E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa*

S. N.	Bacterial strains	Minimum inhibitory Concentration (mg/ml)
		Chitosan of <i>M. dayanum</i>
1.	<i>Escherichia coli</i> (ATCC 8739)	0.15***
2.	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (ATCC 10145)	0.15

Table 5 showed statistical analysis that the MIC value of chitosan concentration of 0.15 mg/ml obtained from *M. dayanum* against *E. coli* (ATCC 8739) was significantly more susceptible than against *P. aeruginosa* (ATCC 10145) with MIC Value of 0.15 mg/ml based on the OD values ( $p < 0.001$ ).

**Discussion**

In the process of extraction of chitosan from *M. dayanum* shells, 30 g of shell powder was demineralized. Average weight of demineralized powder, chitin and chitosan obtained was 10.34±0.96g, 4.03±0.42g and 3.49±0.32 g respectively (Table-2). Krithiga *et al.* (2014) [7] made study on extraction, characterization as well as antibacterial activity of chitosan from shrimp exoskeleton collected from local market of Madhurai, Tamil Nadu. They reported that from 30g of shell powder, chitin and chitosan obtained was 15g and 6.00g respectively. On comparing with the present study, yield of chitin and chitosan was higher from *M. dayanum* shells. In the present study Degree of deacetylation of prawn, *M. dayanum* (79.37±0.58%) is similar with the work of Hossain & Iqbal (2014) [8] who reported 79.57% of degree of deacetylation. Benhabiles *et al.* (2013) [9] also reported that the degree of deacetylation of chitosan was 79% extracted from shrimp shell, *Parapenaeus longirostris*. Deacetylation degree of extracted chitosan was analysed via absorption peaks of FTIR while FTIR analysis also confirms the structure of the prepared chitosan. The chitosan sample of *Macrobrachium dayanum* showed the absorption bands for free amino group between 1033.85 and 1253.73  $cm^{-1}$ . These absorption bands obtained in this study were similar to previous report by Hongpattarakere *et al.* (2008) [10] with bands between 1026.33 and 1259.94  $cm^{-1}$  in *Penaeus monodon*. The presence of primary alcoholic group peak was found in *Macrobrachium dayanum* chitosan at 1373.32  $cm^{-1}$  (Fig.-2) was close to the absorption peak found in chitosan of *Penaeus monodon* chitosan reported by Hongpattarakere *et al.* (2008) [10]. Yuan *et al.* (2020) [11] studied on antibacterial efficacy of chitosan from white shrimp and giant river prawn and reported MIC value of 0.125 mg/ml and 0.0625 mg/ml respectively. In the present study MIC value of chitosan extracted from *M. dayanum* (0.15 mg/ml) had similar MIC value with chitosan from white shrimp but higher MIC value or lower antibacterial efficacy than chitosan from giant river prawn. Sugiyanti *et al.* (2018) [12] made study on minimum

inhibitory concentration percentage of chitosan and LWCS (Low Molecular Weight Chitosan) extracted from shrimp shell waste against *E. coli*. They showed MIC of 0.16 mg/ml in both LWCS and chitosan which was similar to the MIC value (0.15 mg/ml) of *M. dayanum* chitosan. Sugiyanti *et al.* (2018) <sup>[12]</sup> study on biological activity of native and Low molecular weight chitosan obtained by steam explosion process. He reported MIC of shrimp chitosan was 2.5 mg/ml and MIC of Low Molecular Weight Chitosan (LMWC) was 0.16 mg/ml against *P. aeruginosa*. The above result corroborates with the study of present observation where MIC of *M. dayanum* chitosan was 0.15 mg/ml against *P. aeruginosa* indicating similar antibacterial efficacy with the Low molecular weight shrimp chitosan.

The present results is in agreement with the findings of Prabhu & Natarajan (2012) <sup>[13]</sup> where chitosan exhibited concentration dependent antibacterial activity. A lower MIC value shows that less chitosan was required for inhibiting growth or for bacteriostatic effect on the bacterial strains. Bacteriostatic effect of chitosan can be defined as the effect which prevents bacterial growth and reproduction but does not certainly kill them. Chitosan treatment inhibited growth of bacteria by downregulating the genes which participate in growth and metabolism. It also decreases synthesis of amino acid, nucleotide, protein, carbohydrate, RNA and lipid <sup>[14]</sup>. Moreover, studies on genetic profiles have reported that chitosan lessens the consumption of oxygen and preferred anaerobic respiration <sup>[14]</sup>. A similar result was observed in bacteria, *Bacillus cereus* when treated with chitosan, inhibited nitrogen, amino acid and gluconeogenesis metabolism <sup>[15]</sup>.

## Conclusion

- *M. dayanum* shells can be used as a promising naturally occurring substrate for the chitosan production using the standard methods
- 0.2% acetic acid used as a solvent in the present study proves to be a suitable solvent as it showed no inhibitory effect but acts as a good medium for dissolution of chitosan to give an effective antibacterial activity of chitosan.
- From the present study it can be concluded that chitosan has concentration dependent antibacterial activity against human pathogenic bacteria strains which indicates their possible use as potent antibacterial agent.
- The higher degree of deacetylation of chitosan extracted from *M. dayanum*, showed higher antimicrobial activity against bacterial strains due to the electrostatic interaction between positively charged protonated amino NH<sup>3+</sup> groups of chitosan and negatively charged cell wall of bacteria.
- The modes of antimicrobial action of chitosan can be due to disruption of cell membrane /cell wall of microbe, interaction with microbial DNA and chelation of metal and nutrients by chitosan in gram negative bacteria, *E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa* <sup>[16]</sup>.

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