

## Anaerobic Bacteria from the Human Colon

ABIGAIL A. SALYERS,<sup>1\*</sup> SUSAN E. H. WEST,<sup>1</sup> JOHN R. VERCELLOTTI,<sup>2</sup> AND

TRACY D. WILKINS<sup>1</sup>

*Anaerobe Laboratory<sup>1</sup> and Department of Biochemistry and Nutrition<sup>2</sup>*

Table 1. *Species of intestinal bacteria* unit (from 7.0 to 6.0) as compared with uninoculated

Table 2. Number of strains of bacterial species from the human colon which ferment monosaccharides and plant polysaccharides

Substrate	<i>B. adolescentis</i> (11) <sup>a</sup>	<i>B. breve</i> (5)	<i>B. infantis</i> (11)	<i>B. longum</i> (10)	<i>E. aerofaciens</i> (15)	<i>E. eligens</i> (5)	<i>E. rectale</i> (20)	<i>P. productus</i> (8)	<i>R. albus</i> (5)	<i>R. bromii</i> (8)
Monosaccharides										
glucosamine <sup>c</sup>	— <sup>b</sup>	—	—	—	7	—	1	4	—	—
L-fucose <sup>d</sup>	—	3	—	—	—	2	1	6	—	—
Polysaccharides										
amylose	7	5	2	—	2	—	—	1	—	6
amylpectin	10	5	9	—	3	—	12	1	—	8
xylan	8	—	8	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
larch arabinogalactan	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
gum guar	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
gum locust bean	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
gum arabic	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
gum ghatti	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
gum tragacanth	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
pectin	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
polygalacturonate	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
laminarin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

Number of strains tested.

—, substrate not fermented by any of strains tested.

<sup>a</sup> Also fermented by one of four strains of *B. bifidum*, by 4 of 5 strains of *L. acidophilus*, and by 4 of 5 strains of *E. bifforme*.

<sup>b</sup> Also fermented by all 5 strains of *R. gnatus*, by 10 of 12 strains of anaerobic cocci, and by 1 of 5 strains of *E. bifforme*.

<sup>c</sup> Also fermented by all 5 strains of *R. gnatus*, by 10 of 12 strains of anaerobic cocci, and by 1 of 5 strains of *E. bifforme*.

<sup>d</sup> Also fermented by all 5 strains of *R. gnatus*, by 10 of 12 strains of anaerobic cocci, and by 1 of 5 strains of *E. bifforme*.

all strains of *R. albus* (Table 2). Unlike *R. albus* fermented as wide a range of complex carbohy-

strains from the bovine rumen (5), these *R. albus* strains did not ferment xylan. Human *R.* strains as the *Bacteroides* species reported previously (18). Some substances, such as alginate,

strains in their ability to ferment cellulose and      ovomucoid, which were fermented by several

may actually belong to different species (1). Pectin and polygalacturonate were fermented by *Bacteroides* species, were not fermented by any of the species tested in this survey. All of these

of human mucin, such as fucose and hexosa-

mode of action. Adv. Carbohydr. Chem. Biochem.