

Natural protective agents and their applications as bio-preservatives in the food industry:

An overview of current and future applications

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PAPER

Abstract

Today, the usage of natural additives in the food matrix has increased. Natural antimicrobial compounds include peptides, enzymes, bacteriocins, bacteriophages, plant extracts, essential oils, and fermented compounds that can be used as alternatives to chemical antimicrobials. Plant extracts and essential oils contain terpenes, flavonoids, aldehydes, and phenolic compounds that cause antimicrobial and antioxidant activity. The synergistic activity of compounds synthesized from lactic acid bacteria (LAB) prevents the growth of bacteria and fungi. In addition to removing mycotoxins, LAB compounds have antioxidant and anticancer potentials and increase food safety and nutritional value. One of these antimicrobial molecules is bacteriocin, which is made by various microorganisms. Nisin is one of these bioactive peptides that are used widely in food bio-preservation. Antimicrobial peptides can be used alone or along with other compounds to enhance food security. This article reviews natural preservatives and their applications in food products.

Keywords: bioactive compounds; antioxidants; protective culture; Antimicrobial peptides; bacteriocin; essential oils

Introduction

Microorganisms and lipid oxidation are important problems in food safety (Aziz and Karboune, 2018). Bacteria, yeasts, and molds are microorganisms that spoil food products (Figure 1) (Gonelimali *et al.*, 2018). Many strains of *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium* produce mycotoxins that cause disease (Varsha and Nampoothiri, 2016). In general, the food industry relies on chemicals for food preservation. Food additives include the following: preservatives (antimicrobials, antioxidants, and anti-browning agents), nutritional additives, coloring agents (azo compounds, xanthan, chinophthalon derivatives, indigo, and triarylmethane), flavors (sweeteners and

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flavor enhancers), and textural ingredients (stabilizers and emulsifiers) (Carocho *et al.*, 2018).

Usually, chemical preservatives are applied to prevent lipid oxidation and microorganisms growing in the food industry. The use of nitrite and sulfur dioxide (chemical preservatives) can have side effects on foods and human health. Owing to the extensive use of these substances, bacteria have become resistant, and consumers are looking for natural products with nonchemical preservatives, so there is a need to find natural preservatives (Amiri *et al.*, 2021a; Mahmud and Khan, 2018; Pisoschi *et al.*, 2018; Rai *et al.*, 2016). With regard to these needs, biopreservation, super chilling, and active packaging were Amiri S et al.

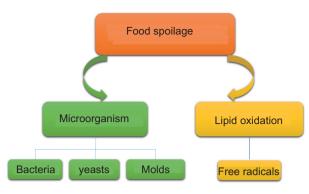


Figure 1. The cause of food spoilage.

considered (Aziz and Karboune, 2018; Tumbarski *et al.*, 2020).

Most natural antimicrobial compounds include extracts (grape seed, tea, strawberry, cranberry, and blueberry), spices (garlic, nutmeg, cinnamon, clove, black pepper, and ginger) herbs (basil, oregano, rosemary, marjoram, and sage), enzymes (lysozyme, lactoferrin), bacteriocins (BACs) (nisin and natamycin), peptides, organic acids (propionic, citric acid, and sorbic), vitamins (α -tocopherol and ascorbic acid), and natural polymers (chitosan) (Table 1). They are added directly to foods

or put into packaging because the latter is beneficial (Aziz and Karboune, 2018; Mahmud and Khan, 2018; Bai-Ngew *et al.*, 2021; Sohrabpour *et al.*, 2021). All herbal essential oils (EOs) and extracts have an inhibitory effect against viruses, bacteria, fungi, oxidative corruption, and insects (Xing *et al.*, 2012). Various herbal and spice antimicrobial agents are used to eliminate foodborne microorganisms such as *Listeria monocytogenes, Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus aureus, Bacillus cereus,* and *Salmonella,* and to enhance the quality of different foods. The most common sources of EOs of clove, cinnamon, oregano, citrus, garlic, coriander, parsley, lemongrass, sage, rosemary, and vanillin are antimicrobial and antioxidant agents that are used in bioactive packaging of foods (Gonelimali *et al.,* 2018; Mahmud and Khan, 2018).

Bio-preservation is applying bacteria or their bioactive metabolites to inhibit foodborne pathogens (Amiri *et al.*, 2021b; Azizi *et al.*, 2021; Gonelimali *et al.*, 2018; Tumbarski *et al.*, 2020). The most crucial advantage of antimicrobial peptides is that they do not alter food quality and are harmless (Rai *et al.*, 2016). Lactic acid bacteria (LAB) is used as a protective culture in dairy foods due to the production of lactic acid, hydrogen peroxide, fatty acids, acetaldehyde, and BACs that inhibit the growth of microorganisms (Amiri *et al.*, 2020a, 2020b, 2020c;

Table 1. Natural antimicrobials and antioxidants in the food industry.

Natural preservatives				
Natural Antimicrobial			Natural antioxidant	
Plant based	Essential oils	Cinnamon, Oregano, Clove, Garlic, Rosemary, Parsley, Coriander, Lemongrass, Rosemary, Allspice, Litsea Cubeba, Sage, purple, and bronze Muscadine seeds	Pigments	Anthocyanins, Anthocyanins
	Spices	black, white, cayenne Peppers, Mustard, Chillies, Paprika, Coriander, Clove, Cumin, Dill fennel, Nutmeg, Mace, Cinnamon, Garlic, Ginger	Spices	Cinnamon, Cloves, Nutmeg, Ginger, Black pepper, Garlic, Onion, Cumin, Turmeric
	Herbs	Thyme, Basil, Bay leaf, Marjoram, Shallot, Onion, Garlic, Oregano, Rosemary, Sage	Herbs	Rosemary, Oregano, Marjoram, Sage, Basil, Thyme
	Extracts	Grape seed, Tea, Strawberry, Cranberry, Blueberry	Extracts	Tea, Grape seed, Cranberry, Blueberry, Strawberry, Pomegranate, Citrus fruits
	peptides	Lipid transfer protein 2, Snakin1, Kalata B1, Thionin, Defensins	Vitamins	$\alpha\text{-}Tocopherol,$ Ascorbic acid
Animal based	Enzymes	Lysozyme, Lactoperoxidase,		
	Peptides	Pleurocidin, Protamine, Magainins, Sarco toxin, Hymenoptaecin, Attacin, Diptericin, Coleoptericin, Lactoferricin, kappacin, k-casecidin, S1- S2- A-B Caseins		
	Natural polymers	Chitosan, Poly-L-Lysine		
Microbial based	Enzymes	Glucose oxidase		
	Bacteriophages	ListexTMP100, EcoshieldTM, SalmofreshTM		
	Organic acids	Propionic, Citric acid, Sorbic, Lactic acid		
	Bacteriocins	Nisin, Natamycin, Enterocin, Pediocin, Reuterin,		

Rai et al., 2016; Tumbarski et al., 2020). BACs are ribosomally synthesized proteins or peptides from certain bacteria. BACs are efficient against antibiotic-resistant pathogens such as S. aureus and Enterococcus faecalis without showing toxicity (Ahmad et al., 2017; Amiri et al., 2021c; Mahmud and Khan, 2018). LAB produces a diversity of antifungal compounds and may be used as a bio-protective without changing the organoleptic characteristics. LAB has been found naturally in various foods for centuries and has been used in fermented foods without side effects. It is known as GRAS (generally recognized as safe) (Amiri et al., 2019a; Favaro et al., 2015; Maleki et al., 2020; Rezazadeh-Bari et al., 2019; Varsha and Nampoothiri, 2016). The Food and Drug Administration of USA (FDA) accepted LAB as a safe agent for fermented foods (Upendra et al., 2016). It is heat resistant and has a tremendous antimicrobial effect against Gram-positive (G^+) and Gram-negative (G^-) pathogens after pasteurization and also does not alter the taste, aroma, or texture and physical, chemical, or biological properties of foods (Figure 2) (Rai et al., 2016).

Natural Antimicrobial Agents

Plant-based antimicrobial agents

Essential oils

Essential oils (EOs) are natural and volatile compounds determined by odor and taste (Mohajeri *et al.*, 2021; Ghamari *et al.*, 2021; Regnault-Roger *et al.*, 2012). EOs are include terpenes, alcohols, acids, esters, epoxides, aldehydes, ketones, amines, and sulfides. They are synthesized in the cytoplasm and plastids of plant cells through malonic acid, mevalonic acid, and Methyl-D-erythritol-4-phosphate pathway. Terpenes are hydrocarbons and consist of various isoprene units. At the same time, terpenoids are made from the biochemical alteration of terpenes by enzymes that add oxygen molecules and transfer methyl. Terpenoids have high antimicrobial activity (Pisoschi et al., 2018). The constituents in EOs are the following groups: terpenes and terpenoids that are more effective to G⁺ bacteria (Mahmud and Khan, 2018). G⁻ bacteria's resistance is due to the presence of an outer membrane of lipopolysaccharide around the cell wall (Tongnuanchan and Benjakul, 2014). However, there are reports that EOs of cinnamon, oregano, clove, garlic, rosemary, parsley, coriander, lemongrass, sage, purple, and bronze muscadine seeds are effective on both types of bacteria, many of which are carvacrol, thymol, eugenol, and citral (Aziz and Karboune, 2018; Irkin and Esmer, 2015). EOs of cinnamon, oregano, clove, garlic, coriander, parsley, lemongrass, rosemary, and sage have good effects. EOs with great amounts of eugenol (allspice, clove, and cinnamon), trans-cinnamaldehyde (cinnamon), and citral (litsea cubeba, lemon myrtle, and lime) have strong effects (Dussault et al., 2014).

The oregano EO has irreversible damage (in 1 min) against *E. coli* O157: H7 cells (Pisoschi *et al.*, 2018). The role of oregano, thyme, and savory as an antimicrobial agent is because of phenolic compounds caracole, thymol ρ -cumene, and y-terpinene (Aziz and Karboune, 2018; Dussault *et al.*, 2014). The existence of a hydroxyl group in the structure of phenolic compounds and its position is the reason for the antimicrobial effect. The antimicrobial effect of sage is caused by terpene thujone. Rosemary EO has an inhibitory effect against G⁻ bacteria (*E. coli, Klebsiella pneumonia*) and G⁺ bacteria (*Bacillus subtilis, S. aureus*) (Aziz and Karboune, 2018; Tongnuanchan and Benjakul, 2014). This is because of terpene groups such as borneol, camphor, 1, 8-cineole, a-pinene, camphone,

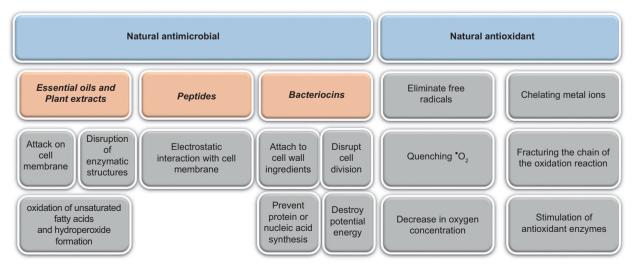


Figure 2. Mechanisms of action of natural protective agents.

verbenonone, and bornyl acetate. The antimicrobial activity of garlic and onion is due to allicin and mustard caused by allyl and isothiocyanates. Allyl isothiocyanate is effective against fungi and G- bacteria (Aziz and Karboune, 2018). Ginger, oregano, rosemary, sage, thyme, and peppermint are significant sources of EOs and include alcohols, aldehydes, phenylpropanoids, terpenes, and ketones that are antioxidants. In addition to antioxidant activities, EOs can provide antibacterial activity (S. aureus, E. faecalis, E. coli, Clostridium perfringens, and Clostridium sporogenes) in meat foodstuffs (Mahmud and Khan, 2018). Marei et al. (2012) studied 12 monoterpenes' antifungal activity against Rhizoctonia solani, Fusarium oxysporum, and Penicillium, and digitatum and Aspergillus niger thymol were the good antifungal compounds comparable to fungicide and carbendazim. Allyl isothiocyanate, cinnamon oleoresin, cinnamon Chinese cassia, and oregano Chinese cinnamon EOs have antimicrobial activity against E. coli O157:H7, S. aureus, B. cereus, L. monocytogenes, and Salmonella enterica serovar typhimurium. The coriander seed oil has antimicrobial efficacy against G^+ and G^- bacteria, some yeasts, dermatophytes, and molds (Silva and Domingues, 2017). Low pH, temperature, and oxygen content can complete EOs' performance (Aziz and Karboune, 2018; Dussault et al., 2014). These compounds are GRAS and can be used as food additives (Mahmud and Khan, 2018; Bai-Ngew et al., 2021).

Mechanisms of action

Plant material affects microorganisms through various mechanisms, such as attacking the cell membrane, disrupting enzymatic structures, compromising bacterial genetic material, and fatty acid hydroperoxide formation by oxygenation of unsaturated fatty acids (Tajkarimi *et al.*, 2010). The function of phenolic compounds of EOs likely depends on alteration of bacterial cell permeability, damage to the cytoplasmic membrane, disruption of the cellular production system of cellular energy (ATP), proton motility, and cell death that occurs by damaging the cytoplasmic membrane (Mahmud and Khan, 2018).

Herbs and spices

Herbs are obtained from the same plant's leaves, but spices are obtained from different parts of the plant. Herbs and spices are divided into the following categories: hot spices (peppers), mild flavor spices (paprika and coriander), aromatic spices (clove, cumin, dill fennel, nutmeg, mace, and cinnamon), and aromatic herbs and vegetables (thyme, basil, marjoram, shallot, onion, and garlic). Phytochemicals are bioactive compounds that contain flavonoids and other phenolic ingredients, carotenoids, plant sterols, glucosinolates, and other sulfur compounds. Extracts and herbs act against G^+ bacteria. Also, the shelf life can increase using bioactive ingredients such as phenol, alcohol, aldehyde, ketone, esters, and hydrocarbons (cinnamon, cloves, garlic, mustard, and onions) (Embuscado, 2015; Mahmud and Khan, 2018). Cinnamon has antibacterial activity against both types of bacteria, such as *B. cereus, L. monocytogenes, S. aureus, E. coli*, and *Salmonella anatum* (Shan *et al.*, 2007).

Plant extracts

Grape seed and green tea extracts

Grape seeds contain high amounts of phenolic compounds, including catechin, epicatechin, epicatechin-3-O-gallate, dimeric, and trimeric tetrameric procyanidins. Green tea leaves have epicatechin, epicatechin gallate, epigallocatechin, teaflavin gallate, teaflavin monogallate A, and B teaflavin digallate. Extracts of grape and green tea postpone growing of microorganisms in raw beef (Banon et al., 2007). Tea phenols have antimicrobial properties against both types of bacteria. The antimicrobial effect of arrowroot tea is related to catechins. Green tea has antibacterial activity against pathogens (Kim and Fung, 2004). It has been reported that grape seed extract decreased E. coli O157: H7 and S. Typhimurium, and postponed the growth of L. monocytogenes and Aeromonas hydrophila in cooked meat (Aziz and Karboune, 2018). Antibacterial compounds of coffee are caffeic acid, chlorogenic acid, and protocatechuic acid. The growth of E. coli O157: H7 is inhibited by trimethylated alkaloid caffeine (Ibrahim et al., 2006).

Cranberry extracts

Phenolic compounds, such as low molecular weight phenolic acids, condensed tannins, proanthocyanidins, and flavonoids (anthocyanins, especially proanthocyanidins), which are composed of tetramers of type A and pentamer type A, are the main factors of antimicrobial activity in cranberry (Khaneghah *et al.*, 2018). Extract of cranberry fruit at 15% concentration inhibited *A. hydrophila*, *B. cereus*, *Enterobacter aerogenes*, *E. coli*, *K. pneumonia*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *P. aeruginosa*, *S. typhimurium*, *S. aureus*, and *Yersinia enterocolitica* (Sagdic *et al.*, 2006).

Mechanisms of action

An accurate way has not yet been elucidated. Nevertheless, plant substances can be affected by attacks on the cell membrane's phospholipid bilayers, disruption of enzyme activity, endangering the genetic material of bacteria, and oxidation of unsaturated fatty acids (Tajkarimi *et al.*, 2010). The inhibitory activity of aromatic and phenolic compounds is due to affecting the cytoplasmic membrane's structure and function. The outer membranes of *E. coli* and *S. typhimurium* was dissipated after exposure to carvacrol and thymol. The antimicrobial effect of nonphenolic isothiocyanates is due to the denaturized of extracellular enzymes. Terpenes can disrupt and affect the bacterial cell wall's fat composition

and ultimately cause bacterium death (Aziz and Karboune, 2018). Carvacrol can split G^- bacteria's outer membrane diffusing lipopolysaccharides and enhancing the permeability to ATP. Its activity against G^+ bacteria is because of its interplay through the bacterial membrane, which changes H^+ and K^+ cations (Tongnuanchan and Benjakul, 2014).

Animal-based antimicrobial agents

Enzymes

Lysozyme

It is an enzyme and natural antimicrobial agent that hydrolyzes the-beta 1, 4 glycosidic bonds between N-acetylmuramic acid and N-acetyl glucosamine existing in peptidoglycan. G⁺ bacteria are sensitive to lysozyme since 90% of these bacteria's cell wall is composed of peptidoglycans. Therefore, it is a natural antimicrobial agent (Irkin and Esmer, 2015). G- bacteria are resistant to lysozyme because of the lipopolysaccharide layer, which prevents lysozyme from approaching the peptidoglycan layer. However, this enzyme can also affect Gbacteria if membrane destabilizing factors, for example, detergents and chelating agents, are present. Lysozyme has a high resistance to a wide range of temperatures and pH, which enables its usage in edible active films (Bayarri et al., 2014). Inovapure is a commercial lysozyme studied in model studies, either alone or with other compounds, against L. monocytogenes, Clostridium botulinum, Campylobacter jejuni, Pseudomonas spp., Salmonella enteritidis, Clostridium thermosaccharolyticum, Bacillus stearothermophilus, and Clostridium tyrobutyricum. Lysozyme derived from egg white has been allowed by Health Canada to be used in hard cheeses to inhibit the gas blowing of C. tyrobutyricum (Aziz and Karboune, 2018; Baines and Seal, 2012). Lysozyme has also been assayed in eggs, milk, beef, and part in edible films and coatings, along with other antimicrobial materials (Bayarri et al., 2014).

Lacto-peroxidase system

One of the natural antimicrobial systems is the lactoperoxidase system obtained from milk, saliva, and tears. It consists of lactoperoxidase, thiocyanate, and hydrogen peroxide. Lacto-peroxidase accelerates the oxidation of thiocyanate ions using H_2O_2 . Afterward, hypothyroidism and acid hypothyroidism show inhibitory effects on microorganisms through the oxidation of sulfhydryl groups to enzymatic systems and proteins. It shows antimicrobial activity against bacterial and fungal species (Campos *et al.*, 2011). The general application of lactoperoxidase is to preserve raw milk (especially if the refrigerator is not available). Because thiocyanate in milk is not enough to stimulate the lactoperoxidase system's activity, thiocyanate should be added. Its use in juice storage and food coating is suggested (Marcio Carocho *et al.*, 2018). Considerations of using the lactoperoxidase system in packaging films depend on the cost and the antimicrobial activity of the lactoperoxidase system (thiocyanate and H_2O_2). If H_2O_2 levels are exceeded in food products, it may raise toxicological concerns (Aziz and Karboune, 2018).

Antimicrobial peptides

Eukaryotic peptides

Animal peptides. Mammalian antimicrobial peptides are secreted into mucosal, epithelial, and paneth cells. Mammalian leukocytes are a rich origin of cationic antimicrobial peptides that prevent bacterial infection. Several of them can rapidly destroy the lipid layer of the cell membranes of microorganisms. In addition to inhibition of both types of bacteria, they also have antifungal and antiviral activity. These are considered a suitable option for antibiotic resistance (Aires et al., 2009; Tiwari et al., 2009). Pleurocidin and protamine isolated from fish have antimicrobial activity on G⁻ bacteria such as Vibrio parahemolyticus, L. monocytogenes, E. coli O157:H7, Saccharomyces cerevisiae, and Penicillium expansum. Nevertheless, magnesium and calcium prevent their efficacy (Burrowes et al., 2004). Magainins from amphibians have shown extensive activity against both types of bacteria and are generally used to preserve meat and cheese (Rai et al., 2016).

Insect's peptides. Antimicrobial peptides such as sarco toxin IIA, hymenoptaecin, attacin, diptericin, and coleoptericin act against *Micrococcus luteus, Aerococcus viridians, Bacillus megaterium, B. subtilis, Bacillus thuringiensis,* and *S. aureus* secreted by insects (Wang *et al.,* 2016).

Plant peptides. These peptides are cysteine-rich (molecular weight 2–9 kDa), such as lipid transfer protein 2, Snakin1, Kalata B1, thionin, and potato defensins. They have antimicrobial effects against *L. monocytogens, S. Typhimurium*, and *E. coli* O157:H7. In particular, defensins have antimicrobial potential against microorganisms (Rai *et al.*, 2016; Tiwari *et al.*, 2009).

Milk peptides. Lactoferricin (an 80 kDa iron-binding glycoprotein), kappacin, and k-casecidin are antimicrobial peptides of milk proteins. Lactoferrin (as a GRAS) is an iron-binding glycoprotein with antimicrobial effect on both types of bacteria, such as *Salmonella* and *E. coli*, and fungi. In the past, it was used in baby formulas and to treat beef carcasses, but currently, lactoferrin approved in the USA for use on beef (Aziz and Karboune, 2018; Baines and Seal, 2012; Rai *et al.*, 2016; Tiwari *et al.*, 2009). Casocidin is a byproduct of the casein hydrolysis and has an antibacterial effect against *Staphylococcus* spp.,

Sarcina spp., *B. subtilis, Diplococcus pneumoniae*, and *Streptococcus pyogenes*. Casein A and casein B inhibit the growth of *Enterobacter sakazakii*. The peptides containing an S2-casein, an S1-casein, and k-casein have good inhibitory effect on *E. coli* and *B. subtilis* (Elbarbary *et al.*, 2012).

Mechanisms of action

Antimicrobial peptides act through an electrostatic interaction with the membrane and have a permeability function. They can enter the membrane and eventually disrupt it (Rai *et al.*, 2016). Several mechanisms are responsible for antibacterial activity of lactoferrin: prevention of growing by isolating iron from pathogens, the potential of cations in the surface of lactoferrin for a direct reaction with lipid A, and modifying the permeability of the outer membrane and causing the release of lipopolysaccharide (Jenssen and Hancock, 2009).

Chitosan

Chitosan is natural cationic linear polysaccharides made up of (1, 4) linked 2-amino-deoxy-β-D-glucan. Sources of chitosan are shrimp shells, fungi, and green algae (Dutta et al., 2009; Irkin and Esmer, 2015). It is effective against most microorganisms (both types of bacteria, yeasts, and molds). Due to the positive charge on C_2 of glucosamine monomer at pH below 6, chitosan is soluble than chitin and has higher antimicrobial effect (Irkin and Esmer, 2015). The positively charged amino group of chitosan can interact with the negatively charged cell membrane, causing leakage of intracellular compounds of microbes. Chitosan can inhibit toxin synthesize and bacterial growth by chelating the trace metals. It can activate some protection systems in the host tissue and prevent several enzymes' activity. Also, it can penetrate the nucleus of microorganisms and interfere in the translation process. The inhibitory mechanism of chitosan is diverse in G⁺ and G⁻ bacteria; antimicrobial effect on E. coli increases with decreasing molecular weight of chitosan, while it has the opposite effect on S. aureus (Aziz and Karboune, 2018; Pisoschi et al., 2018).

Microbial-based antimicrobial agents

Glucose oxidase

Glucose oxidase is synthesized by *A. niger* and *Penicillium* spp. Glucose oxidase is an oxidoreductase that catalyzes the oxidation of D-glucose to H_2O_2 and D-glucono- δ -lactone. D-glucono- δ -lactone reacts with water to form D-gluconic acid. The antimicrobial role of glucose oxidase is because of the cytotoxicity of H_2O_2 , lowering of pH by the formation of D-gluconic acid. Hydrogen peroxide levels may also exceed the acceptable levels by the FDA and cause toxic problems. Long-dated disposal of foods to H_2O_2 can enhance lipid oxidation and lead to

laxity. H_2O_2 can be removed from foods using catalase, which changes it to water and oxygen. Microbial glucose oxidase is allowed to remove oxygen and preserve taste and aroma in bottled beverages and is used as an additive in bakery products, flour, yolk, and white egg. D-gluconic acid, a catalytic product of glucose oxidase, is secure, and the WHO does not have a regulation for it (Aziz and Karboune, 2018).

Bacteriophages

Bacteriophages are viruses that attack bacteria. Lithium bacteriophages disrupt the metabolism of bacteria that results in bacterial death. Bacteriophages have been shown to be innocuous to mammalian cells, so they can be used for biological control of pathogens in foods (Carvalho et al., 2017). Bacteriophages are suitable for use in carcasses, vegetables, and fruits to increase various food products' shelf life. In 2006, ListexTMP100 and LMP102 bacteriophages were accepted by the FDA to control L. monocytogenes contamination, and in 2010, approved the use of ListexTMP100 against L. monocytogenes in meat, fish and poultry, vegetable, and some dairy products (Chibeu et al., 2013). In 2014, Canadian Health accepted the use of EcoshieldTM in meat to control E. coli O157: H7 and SalmofreshTM to control Salmonella growth in all foods (Aziz and Karboune, 2018). Bacteriophages have been investigated as antimicrobial agents in food packaging by immobilization on cellulose membrane or by encapsulating phages in alginate beads (Lone et al., 2016). Also, chitosan film contains liposome-encapsulated beef meat storage (Cui et al., 2017).

Fermented ingredients

Fermentation ingredients can be prepared by propionic acid bacteria and LAB from raw materials such as milk, sugar, or plant materials. The preservative role of LAB is because of producing organic acids (acetic, lactic, propionic, and formic acids) diacetyl, acetylene, hydrogen peroxide, fatty acids, antifungal agents (phenyl-lactate, hydroxyphenyl-lactate, propionate, cyclic dipeptides, and 3-hydroxy fatty acids), and the BACs (reuterin, reutericyclin, nisin, pediocin, lacticin, and enterocin). LABs are used as antimicrobials and sugars, sweeteners, polymers, disinfectants, aromatic compounds, and various enzymes (Favaro *et al.*, 2015).

LAB and bio-preservation

The biologically active ingredients in kimchi, such as benzyl isothiocyanate, indole, thiocyanate, and cystosterol, are antibiotics, anticancer, and immune stimulation. LAB was used to prevent *L. monocytogenes* and *S. enteritidis* in poultry and inhibition of *S. typhimurium*, *E. coli*, and *L. monocytogenes* in lettuce and apples. *Enterococcus* and *Pediococcus* were used to vacuum-package cold-smoked salmon (Varsha and Nampoothiri, 2016). MicrogardTM is a commercial milk supply that is fermented by dairy microorganisms. MicrogardTM could be effective against G- bacteria (Yersinia, Salmonella, and Pseudomonas) and some fungi but ineffective against the G⁺ bacteria (L. monocytogenes, S. aureus, and B. cereus). FDA has approved propionibacterium metabolites as GRAS. The MicrogardTM products are used in dairy desserts, cheese, yogurt, pasta, sauces, and others (Aziz and Karboune, 2018; Favaro et al., 2015). LAB produces antifungal compounds, for example, hydroxyl fatty acids, organic acids, low molecular weight bioactive ingredients, and proteinaceous components. Some species of Enterococci, Lactobacilli, Pediococci, and Lactococci are also known as antifungal agents (Favaro et al., 2015; Gholam-Zhiyan et al., 2021). The antifungal effect of Lactococcus lactis on Aspergillus, Penicillium, Mucor, and Rhizopus has been reported (Oranusi et al., 2013). Also, Lactobacillus acidophilus and Bifidobacterium bifidum were efficient in preventing A. niger from growing on the surface of brined white cheese (Moghanjougi et al., 2020). Use of L. plantarum on Botrytis cinerea, Glomerella cingulate, Phytophthora drechsleri, P. citrinum, and F. oxysporum and application of Lactobacillus and Weisella cultures on A. niger, Candida albicans, Aspergillus tubingensis, and P. crustosum have been reported (Varsha and Nampoothiri, 2016). Feedtech Silage F3000 is a commercial compound of antifungal bacteria (L. plantarum Milab 393, P. acidilactici, E. faecium, and L. lactis) that improves growth beneficial bacteria and prevents yeast fungi and Clostridia. DuraFresh (Kerry) is also a commercial preservative derived from the fermentation of LABs that inhibits G- bacteria, yeast, and mold. ALTA 2341 is another fermented product. Therefore, the use of LAB in food has existed for a long time, and recent studies indicate their potential as an alternative to chemical preservatives (Varsha and Nampoothiri, 2016).

Bacteriocins

BACs are ribosomal antimicrobial proteins that usually have antimicrobial activity against similar genetic strains. The beneficial properties of BACs are stability to high temperature and low pH and sensibility to proteolytic enzymes. Their application can decrease the intensity of heat treatment and the use of chemical preservatives. Also, BACs and other methods as a hurdle can be helpful (Favaro et al., 2015). BACs are used in food products because they are harmless, do not change foods' nutritional characteristics, are efficient in low concentration, and active in refrigerator storage, and, therefore, an ideal bio-preservation (Mahmud and Khan, 2018; Milicevic et al., 2021). BACs isolated from G⁺ bacteria are classified into the following groups: Class I, Class II, Class III, and Class IV. Class I are divided into (A, B, and C) subgroups: Type A corresponds to linear peptides and is further subdivided into two subgroups including AI subtype contains nisin like (nisin A, nisin U, streptin), and subtype AII contains SA-FF22 like (SA-FF22, lacticin 481, salvaricin A, sublancin 168). Type B are spherical peptides such as meracidin and cinnamycin belong to globular peptides, and type C are a few details BACs such as lactin, 3147 and cytolysin, that made by more than one part and biological activities are needed. Class II BACs are divided into (IIa, IIb, and IIc) subgroups: type IIa is related to pediocin (pediocin Pa-1, carnobacteriocin B2, listerocin 743A, and ubericin A), type IIb is related to multifactorial BACs (lactococcin G, thermophilin 13, lactacin F, and lactocin 705), and Type IIc are sundry such as sakacins Q, T, and X, and aureocin A53. Class III contains lysins (class IIIa) and nonlytic BACs (class IIIb). Class IV contains circulating inhibitory peptides such as enterocin AS-48 (Favaro *et al.*, 2015; Milicevic *et al.*, 2021).

Nisin

Nisin is produced by fermenting milk modified by the strains of *L. lactis*. Nisin is a Canadian Food and Drug and Health License and is accepted as a preservative in more than 48 countries. Nisin is efficient on most G^+ bacteria such as *L. monocytogenes* and *S. aureus*, and Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) can also inhibit G^- bacteria (Aziz and Karboune, 2018; Campos *et al.*, 2011; Pisoschi *et al.*, 2018).

Enterocin

Enterocin AS-48 is one of the cyclic BACs that exhibit significant stability in pH and heat. The effectiveness of AS-48 for the control of *staphylococci* in culture has been represented. Also, chemical preservatives (sodium nitrite, sodium lactate, and sodium chloride), clusters, and temperate heat are in synergy with AS-48 on *B. cereus, S. aureus, Salmonella choleraesuis*, and *E. coli* O157:H7 (Favaro *et al.*, 2015). Enterocin AS-48 has the ability to eliminate the parasitic protozoan *Trypanosoma brucei*, and Enterocin V effectively decreases *C. albicans* (Martínez-García *et al.*, 2018).

Pediocin

Pediocins are produced by *P. acidilactici* and *P. pento-saceus*. They are thermal resistant and can work in a wide range of pH. Pediocins have an antimicrobial effect against *L. monocytogenes*, *E. faecalis*, *S. aureus*, *C. per-fringens*, and *Oenococcus oeni*. Pediocin can be used in dairy products or as a film in crushed ham and vegetables (Díez *et al.*, 2012; Juneja *et al.*, 2012).

Natamycin

Natamycin is a polyene macrolide that is synthesized by *streptomyces* species with an antifungal activity that has almost no effect on bacteria, protozoa, and viruses. Natamycin is associated with ergosterol, so it does not develop resistance in fungi. It has been used as a free, encapsulated, or film-forming agent to control yeast growth in cheese, salami sausages, and beverages (Pisoschi *et al.*, 2018).

Reuterin

Reuterin (b-hydroxypropionaldehyde) is a BAC produced by *L. reuteri* that affects both types of bacteria (*L. monocytogenes, S. aureus, S. typhimurium,* and *E. coli*). It is soluble in water and stable to temperature and proteolytic and lipolytic enzymes. It is characterized by resistance in a wide range of pH. Reuterin is used in combination with *lactobacillus* in glycerol as starter cultures in cheese or as pure extract at the level of sausages and salmon or inside cheese (Gyawali and Ibrahim, 2014; Montiel *et al.*, 2014).

Mechanisms of action

BACs affect the basic functions of living cells such as transcription, translation, replication, and cell wall biosynthesis, but most of the time, destroy the potential energy of sensitive cells by creating channels or pores in the membrane (Milicevic et al., 2021). BACs perform their function on bacteria (both types of bacteria) by disrupting cell division and preventing protein or nucleic acid synthesis, using various mechanisms. BACs can attach to cell wall ingredients using specific or nonspecific receptors, such as the lipid-binding site or the molecular surface, leading to the formation of pores or direct cell lysis and ultimately to death through the loss of the proton motor bacterial system. Nisin is a more effective combination with EDTA attacking the cytoplasmic membrane of G⁻ bacteria due to the chelating effect of EDTA on cell wall components. By inhibiting the cell wall, mercasidine eliminates G⁺ bacteria. Colicin eliminates G⁻ bacteria's membrane pore-forming mechanism (Ahmad et al., 2017; Mahmud and Khan, 2018).

Poly-L-Lysine

Poly-L-Lysine is a lysine homopolymer as a GRAS that is used as a staple in foods. Large quantities produce a bitter flavor. It has high antimicrobial power, so it is used in small quantities. It also acts better with other antimicrobial agents. It is used in rice, noodles, soups, salads, cakes, custard, and for external protection of fish and sushi (Baines and Seal, 2012).

Natural Antioxidant Agents

Oxidation of lipids is the most important cause for the lower quality of foods (Prakash *et al.*, 2012). Antioxidants inhibit oxidation by preventing the making of free radicals or by stopping their release—large amounts of synthetic antioxidants (BHA or BHT) may be carcinogenic in some animals. Therefore, natural antioxidants are a good option (Ahmad *et al.*, 2015). Foods that use antioxidants include meat, dairy, oil, fried or extruded foods, and sauces (Baines and Seal, 2012). All polyphenol derivatives (phenolic-hydroxybenzoic acids or hydroxyquinamic acids, flavonoids including anthocyanins, tannins, lignins, acetylbases, and coumarins) due to high antioxidant ability and health properties can be used as bioactive substances in foods (Savaş *et al.*, 2020; Carocho *et al.*, 2018).

Plant-based antioxidant agents

Vitamins (ascorbic acid and α -tocopherol), spices (cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, ginger, black pepper, and garlic), herbs (rosemary, oregano, marjoram, sage, and basil), and plant extracts (tea, grape seed, cranberry, blueberry, and strawberry) contain antioxidant ingredients (Ahmad et al., 2015; Amiri et al., 2019b). The antioxidant role of plant extracts is because they contain phenolic acids (gallic, protocatechuic, caffeic, and rosmarinic acids), phenolic diterpenes (carnosol, carnosic acid, rosmanol, and rosmadial), flavonoids (quercetin, catechin, naringenin, and kaempferol), and volatile oils (eugenol, carvacrol, thymol, and menthol). Plant pigments such as anthocyanins and anthocyanins also have antioxidant roles. Catechins, epicatechins, phenolic acids, proanthocyanidins, and resveratol confer antioxidant effect in tea and grape seed extract (Aziz and Karboune, 2018; Gonelimali et al., 2018). Ferric acid, a hydroxyaminic acid, is used as an antioxidant and other preservatives in edible films and gels (Kumar and Pruthi, 2014). Catechin is a 3-ol flavon that has antioxidant activity. Ascorbic acid can be used as an oxygen scavengers to stabilize lipids and oils in foods, regenerating phenolic oxidants and oxidized tocopherols. Carotenoids also have antioxidant effects but are sensitive to light oxidation and, therefore, less used. Lycopene is the primary carotenoid in tomatoes. Beta-carotene is used as a singlet oxygen quencher in cooked foods, eggs, and dairy products. As a maker of vitamin E, tocopherols are powerful antioxidants that are used individually or in combination with ascorbic acid (Carocho et al., 2018).

Herb extracts

Rosemary

The antioxidant role of rosemary is found in phenolic diterpens (carnosic, carnosol, rosmanol, rosmadial, 1, 2-methoxycarnosic acid, and epi- and iso-rosmanol) and phenolic acids such as rosmarinic and caffeic acid (Brewer, 2011). Carnosic acid, a hydroxybenzoic acid derivative found in rosemary extract, has the highest antioxidant effect and is used in oils, sauces, bakeries, meat, and fish (Birtić *et al.*, 2015). Rosemary extract E 392 is available on the European Food Additives list (EU Regulation 1129/2011). Rosemary extracts for food preservation alone or with other antioxidants, such as nisin, polyphenols, BHA, and BHT, are examples of the application of natural antioxidants (Carocho *et al.*, 2018).

Oregano and Sage

Oregano extract has large amounts of phenolic acids (especially rosmarinic acid), phenolic carboxylic acids, apigenin, dihydroquercetin, and glycoside antioxidant agents that help eliminate superoxide anion radicals (Brewer, 2011). Oregano EO especially reduces lipid and protein oxidation and improves the color of chicken meat (Al-Hijazeen *et al.*, 2016).

Marjoram

Marjoram EO contains high amounts of rosmarinic acid, carnosol, terpinen-4-ol, cis-sabinene hydrate, p-cumene, and Y-terpinene (Brewer, 2011).

Basil and Thyme

The main constituents of basil aromas include 3,7-dimethyl-1,6 octadien 3-ol, 1 methoxy 4(2-propenyl) benzene, methyl cinnamate, 4 allyl 2 methoxyphenol, and 1,8 cineole. Eugenol, thymol, carvacrol, and 4 allyl phenol are antioxidant agents comparable to BHT and α -tocopherol (Aziz and Karboune, 2018).

Spice extracts

Cinnamon

Cinnamon contains the highest amount of polyphenolic compound with the highest antioxidant and antiradical activity. Eugenol and cinnamaldehyde are the most important elements known in cinnamon leaf oil and oleoresin in cinnamon bark. Vanillic, caffeic, gallic, photochatechuic, p-hydroxybenzoic, p-coumaric, ferulic acids, and phydroxybenzaldehyde are also antioxidant components of cinnamon (Brewer, 2011; Bai-Ngew *et al.*, 2021).

Garlic and Onions

Garlic and myrrh contain the major antioxidants of flavonoids (flavones and quercetins) and the sulfuric components (allyl-cysteine, diallyl sulfide, and allyl trisulfide) (Brewer, 2011). In addition, it has antioxidant roles *in vitro* and *in vivo* due to its antimicrobial efficacy. Allicin is one of the major constituents of thiosulfinates in garlic that has a specific garlic odor. When the garlic crumbles, allicin is converted to alliin by alliinase. Onion extracts have higher free radical removal than garlic due to their higher total phenolic content (Aziz and Karboune, 2018). Fresh or oil extract and dried powder of garlic can prevent lipid oxidation and increase sausage persistence (Sallam *et al.*, 2004).

Other spices

Fresh and dried ginger contains a high concentration of volatile oils of camphene, p-cineole, α -terpineol,

zingiberene, and pentadecanoic acid. Ginger extract exhibits approximately equal antioxidant activity to BHA and BHT. The main constituents of cumin are cuminal, Υ-terpinene, and pinocarveol. The effect of cumin EO on reducing Fe³⁺ ions is better than fresh and dried ginger. Turmeric is mainly composed of curcumin, dimethoxycurcumin, bis-dimethoxycurcumin, and 2,5-xylenol, which is associated with vitamin E and BHT in the removal of free radical. α- and β-turmerone, curlone, and α-terpineol are the most important turmeric oil compounds with antioxidant activity. Black pepper, nutmeg, and cloves also have antioxidant activities (Brewer, 2011; Gonelimali *et al.*, 2018).

Tea and fruit extracts

Tea and grape seed extracts

Green tea extract has the highest total phenolic content, 94% of which contains flavonoids. Oolong tea has about 18% total phenols and 4.4% flavonoids. In black tea, teaflavins and thearubigins are the predominant ones. The high antioxidant role of tea is due to flavonoids, tannins, and vitamins. Grape seed extract contains catechin and epicatechin. The total phenolic amounts depend on the grape varieties, climatic conditions, degree of maturity, extraction, and solvents (Brewer, 2011).

Pomegranate extracts

The pomegranate peel contains a good amount of tannins, anthocyanins, and flavonoids. Pomegranate juice has three times more antioxidant effects than green tea and red wine (Ahmad *et al.*, 2015).

Other fruit extracts

Cranberries have one of the highest levels of total phenol and antioxidant properties among fruits, and citrus fruits have antioxidant efficacy (Ahmad *et al.*, 2015). Citrus fruits contain flavonoids, especially glycosylated flavanones, and polymethoxy flavones. Citrus juice has been reported at about 5–10% to decrease extra nitrite content and degree of lipid oxidation in tending sausages (Aziz and Karboune, 2018).

Mechanism of action

Some of the factors that contribute to the oxidation of lipids are oxygen and metal ions, moisture, heat, and light. EOs have different mechanisms, including inhibition of chain initiation and inhibition of hydrogen accumulation, free radical scavengers, termination of peroxides, singlet oxygen formation quenchering, and binding of metal ions (Mahmud and Khan, 2018). Most antioxidants of spices and plants react with free radicals when autoxidation begins, while others form complexes with metal ions. Eighty-five percent EOs are phenolic compounds such as carvacrol, eugenol, and thymol, which are effective as primary or fragile chain antioxidants and free radical scavengers (Hyldgaard *et al.*, 2012).

Antioxidants are important components that inhibit autoxidation by preventing the making of free radicals and/or scavenge free radicals by the following mechanisms: Eliminating those that begin to peroxidize, chelating metal ions, quenching O_2 , which prevent the making of peroxides, fracturing the chain of the oxidation reaction, decreasing oxygen concentration, or stimulating antioxidant enzymes. Antioxidants that are able to disrupt free radical chain reactions are most effective. In general, they have aromatic phenolic rings with hydroxyl groups and can donate H to free radicals that convert themselves to radicals. Phenolic acids trap free radicals, and flavonoids can quench free radicals and chelate metals (Brewer, 2011).

Food Applications

Natural antimicrobial compounds can be used as preservatives in foods. There are two major issues for the application of plant compounds in foods, one being the odor caused by the high concentrations of these substances and the other being the cost. The safety of natural antimicrobials for use in foods is paramount, so toxicity tests must be done before application.

Meat products

Natural antibacterial components, such as spice and plant extracts, EOs, organic acids, salts, and BACs, are used to modify the shelf life of meat. To improve sausages' retention, lemon and thymol are used with modified atmospheric packaging (MAP). A combination of bay EO and oxygen-free MAP showed that it controls L. monocytogenes and E. coli growing and increases chicken meat's retention time. One study showed that separate extracts of clove, rosemary, cassia bark, and liquorice extracts alone have potent antimicrobial efficacy. The mixture of rosemary and liquorice extracts showed a good repressor effect on L. monocytogenes, E. coli, Pseudomonas fluorescens, and Lactobacillus sake in freshly packed pork slices with atmospheric packaging and vacuum ham slices (Mahmud and Khan, 2018). Nisin, Pediocin PA-1, Enterocin AS-48, Enterocins A and B, sakacin, and leucocin A can be used for bio-preservation of meat products and increase their shelf life. Pediocin is a good bio-preservative in meat products. The antimicrobial efficacy of the mixture of lysozyme, nisin, and EDTA against L. monocytogenes was observed in packed ostrich slices. Immersing meat products in thyme and oregano oil (0.1 and 0.3% concentrations) improves shelf life (Gonelimali et al., 2018; Rai et al., 2016). Massani et al. (2014) showed that active polymers including Lactobacillus curvatus CRL705 BACs reduced L. monocytogenes levels in Wiener sausages. Bukvički *et al.* (2014) studied the efficacy of *Satureja horvatii* (containing EOs of pcymene, thymol, and thymol methyl ether) on pork meat. In addition to inhibiting *L. monocytogenes*, these compounds also improved meat color and taste during storage.

Fish products

G⁻ bacteria spoil fish and fish products. Clostridium spp. and L. monocytogens are responsible for spoilage in vacuum-packed fish. Application of thyme EO and odor leaves increased the shelf life of fish. The combination of MAP and thyme EO increased the retention time of Mediterranean fish fillets. Oregano oil has a strong effect against Photobacterium phosphoreum in codfish fillets than salmon. EOs of Aloysia sellowii were effective on both types of bacteria and two yeasts in brine shrimp. Coating with EOs is a good way to increase the product quality of fish. Also, application of chitosan coated with cinnamon EOs prolongs salmon fillet and increases texture, odor, and color. Nisin can be used to store fish and other seafood. The combination of nisin with MicroGARD is the best way to preserve fish and prevent aerobic microorganisms' growth (Mahmud and Khan, 2018; Rai et al., 2016).

Vegetables and fruits

Some of the methods used to maintain fruit quality and fresh vegetables are immersion, coating, and spraying. Alginate coating with EOs (lemongrass, cinnamon EOs, citral, and cinnamaldehyde) reduced E. coli O157:H7 in Fuji apple slices and increased their shelf life. Antimicrobial activity of propionic, maleic, acetic, lactic, and citric acid was also demonstrated in red apple and lettuce against E. coli O157:H7, S. typhimurium, and L. monocytogenes. Garlic oil encapsulates in β-cyclodextrin has influenced the microbial and sensory property of fresh-cut tomatoes. Fruit juices are susceptible to yeasts such as Pichia anomala, S. cerevisiae, and Schizosaccharomyces pombe. Standard processes such as heat treatment, aseptic packaging, or the use of weak acids prevent yeast. EOs are acidic to prevent yeast growth. Lemon EO added to apple juice prolongs the time of "open" storage at room temperature and gives a fresh and pleasant taste (Mahmud and Khan, 2018). Lu et al. (2014) used a washing solution containing thymol that reduced salmonella and total aerobic bacteria in grape tomato without altering its quality.

Enterococci could be applied as starter cultures or cocultures to inhibit microbial contamination. BAC-producing LAB are screened in olives, sourdough, miso, sauerkrauts, refrigerated pickles, and mungbean sprouts. Nisin is used to prevent the growth of *C. thermosacchrolyticum* and *Geobacillus stearothermophilus* in canned food (canned peas, carrots, and potatoes), fruit juice, and vegetables. Enterocin AS-48 is utilized in fruit juice and canned vegetables to prevent contamination (Rai *et al.*, 2016).

Cereal products

Chitosan-coated bread improves bread quality by reducing microbial growth and delaying oxidation. The use of citrus oils also affects the sensory characteristics of the bread and inhibits microbial growth. Natural components, for example, anise, black cumin, rosemary, and sage, indicated antimicrobial and antioxidant activity in bakery products. EOs of basil, oregano, and thyme have antibacterial activity against *B. cereus* in rice-based foods (Mahmud and Khan, 2018). The antifungal activity of hydrolyzed goat whey as a bio-preservation agent against *Penicillium* spp was effective in pita bread (Luz *et al.*, 2020).

Dairy products

Microorganisms, especially fungi, contaminate dairy products. The effect of natural ingredients has been documented either alone or with other technics such as spraying, immersion, or dusting on milk or cheese directly or in packaging materials. It has been found that mango seed extract reduces bacterial count and inhibits coliforms' growth, has a significant antimicrobial effect on E. coli, and increases the longevity of pasteurized milk. Lysozyme and EDTA in MAP-packaged burrata cheese resulted in increased cheese retention time, particularly at high lysozyme amounts. Enterocin CCM4231 and EJ97 are applied in soy milk and zucchini puree. Entrosine As-48 is used in mangoes, milk, and cheese. Nisin in sodium caseinate films has been used in Babybel mini red cheese (Mahmud and Khan, 2018). Nisin is very effective with other antimicrobial ingredients such as thymol and lysozyme. Lipid nanoparticles with nisin have an antibacterial effect on food pathogens. Pediocin ACH has shown an antimicrobial effect on L. monocytogens, E. coli, and S. aureus. Oregano and Thyme with MAP have been used in Feta cheese against E. coli O157:H7 and L. monocytogenes. The addition of eucalyptus oil and lemongrass had a high effect on West African soft cheese's nutritional, sensory, and microbial characteristics (Mahmud and Khan, 2018; Rai et al., 2016).

Conclusions

Given the resistance of microorganisms to antibiotics and consumers' tendency to eat healthy foods, the use of bio-preservatives is a reasonable approach. Some chemical additives may alter specific nutrient properties. For example, sulfites destroy vitamin B1 or nitrate was reduced to nitrite in the meat which converts to carcinogenic nitrosamines. Natural compounds such as EOs of cinnamon, cloves, lemongrass, and their active ingredients are GRAS. The antimicrobial and antioxidant effects of plant extracts and EOs owe to have phenolic compounds such as terpenes and flavonoids. However, despite the tremendous potential, flavor problems and toxicity can limit their use. To alleviate these problems and improve effectiveness, encapsulation of EOs and active compounds and coatings containing these compounds are the best options. Due to the potency of enzymes to produce antimicrobial compounds and their capability to separate some bacteria's outer membrane, they can be known as natural antimicrobials compounds. However, their use in foods needs to be further studied. Bacteriophages are used as an auxiliary process to control some pathogens but do not increase products' shelf life. BACs are antimicrobial or peptide proteins that are ribosomally encoded and widely used in food production. BACs can be used as bio-preservatives because they are safe. The use of antimicrobial peptides in the form of nanoparticles can be very effective. For example, antimicrobial peptide coatings with metal nanoparticles will be beneficial in removing food contamination. The application of films and coatings, including natural agents, is expanding due to their biodegradability and potency to enhance food safety, quality, and shelf life. This study has shown that EOs, BACs, enzymes, organic acids, and coatings can change chemical additives, but more research is needed.

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