**Table 1:** Physiological and biochemical characteristics of identified species.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Identified isolates** | ***L. casei,* N = 131** | ***L. plantarum,* N = 49** | ***L .reuteri,* N = 21** | ***L. fermentum,* N = 14** | ***L. intestinalis,* N = 7** | ***L. curvatus,* N = 6** | ***L. johnsonii,* N = 3** | ***L .paracasei,* N = 3** | ***L. brevis,* N = 2** | ***L .acidophilus,* N = 2** |
| **Fermentation group** | **B** | **B** | **C** | **C** | **B** | **B** | **A** | **B** | **C** | **A** |
| **Gas from glucose** | **-** | **-** | **+** | **+** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **+** | **-** |
| **NH3 from arginine** | **-** | **-** | **+** | **+** | **-** | **-** | **w** | **-** | **+** | **-** |
| **Growth at 15 °C** | **+** | **+** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **-** |
| **Growth at 45 °C** | **-** | **-** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **d** | **+** | **-** | **-** | **+** |
| **L-Arabinose** | **-** | **d** | **d** | **d** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **+** | **-** |
| **Cellobiose** | **+** | **+** | **-** | **d** | **-** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **-** | **+** |
| **Galactose** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** |
| **D-Glucose** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **-** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** |
| **Lactose** | **-** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **d** | **w** | **+** | **w** | **+** |
| **Maltose** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** |
| **D-Mannose** | **+** | **+** | **-** | **w** | **+** | **-** | **+** | **+** | **-** | **+** |
| **D-Mannitol** | **+** | **+** | **d** | **-** | **+** | **-** | **-** | **+** | **-** | **-** |
| **Melebiose** | **-** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **-** | **-** | **w** | **-** | **w** | **+** |
| **Raffinose** | **-** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **-** | **-** | **w** | **-** | **w** | **+** |
| **Saccharose** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **d** | **+** | **+** | **w** | **+** |
| **D-Sorbitol** | **+** | **+** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **+** |
| **D-Threhalose** | **+** | **+** | **d** | **d** | **+** | **-** | **-** | **+** | **-** | **-** |
| **Xylose** | **-** | **d** | **d** | **d** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **w** | **-** |

Symbols and abbreviations: A: Obligate homo-fermentative; B: Facultative homo-fermentative; C: Obligate hetero-fermentative; +: 90% or more of strains were positive; - : 90% or more were negative; d: 11-89% of strains were positive; w: Weak positive reaction