

# Insights on fungal solid-state fermentation for waste valorization: conidia and chitinase production in different reactor configurations



**THESSALONIKI2021**  
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on  
Sustainable Solid Waste  
Management

Logos: National Technical University of Athens, GLOBAL WUERT COUNCIL, WORLD BIOGAS ASSOCIATION

Arnau Sala Martí  
24/06/21

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Universitat Autònoma  
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## CHEMICAL PESTICIDES



### Major drawbacks:

1. Harmful for the environment (toxicological effect).
2. Harmful for humans (mutagenic capabilities).
3. Resistance induction in pests.
4. Not host specific.

## BIOPESTICIDES



### Major advantages:

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2. Effective on more than 1000 species.
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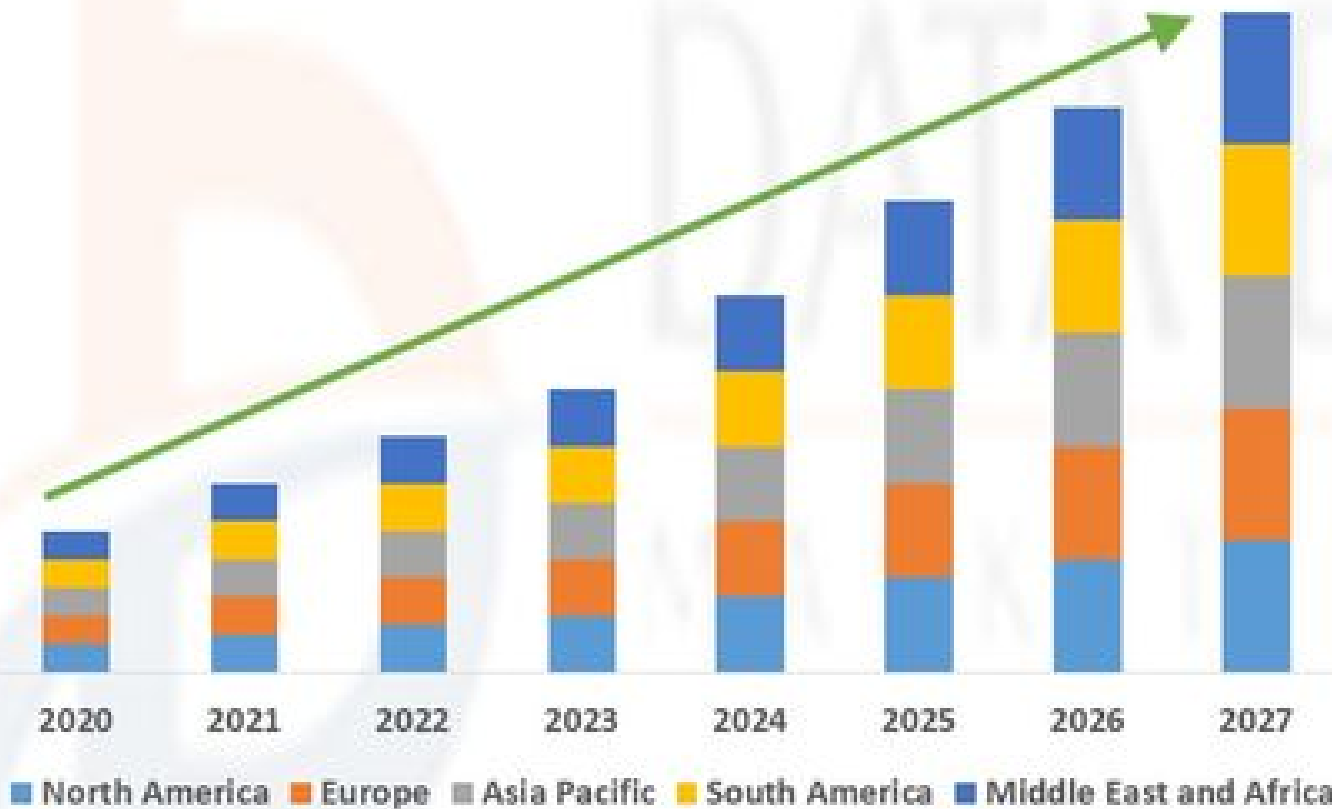
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Global Biopesticides Market is Expected to Account for USD 8.8 Billion by 2027



Global Biopesticides Market, By Regions, 2020 to 2027

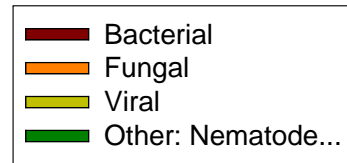
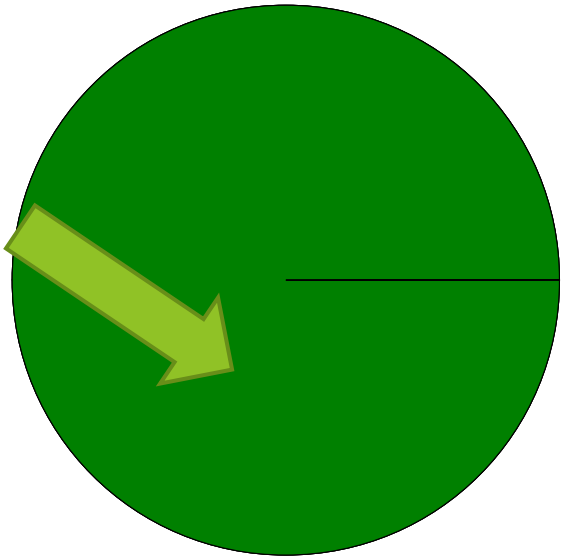


DATA BRIDGE MARKET RESEARCH



Major

1. Har effect
2. Har
3. Res
4. Do

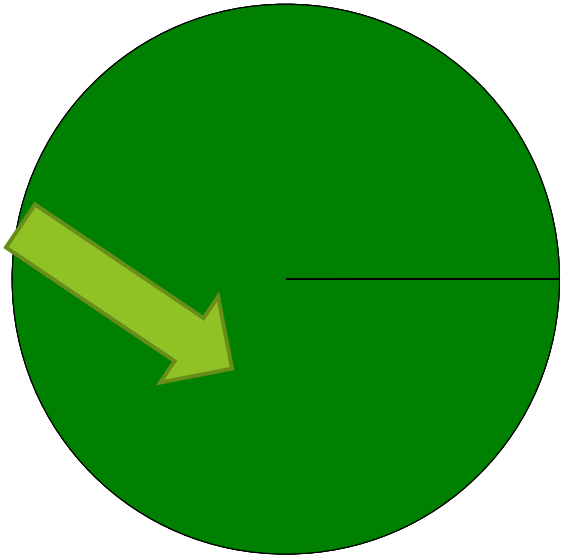


Adapted from Mishra et al., 2015

Major fungal biopesticides advantages:

1. Direct infection by penetration of the cuticle (contact pathogens).
2. Direct pathogens of more than 1000 invertebrate species.
3. Completely innocuous for humans.





<span style="color: brown;">█</span>	Bacterial
<span style="color: orange;">█</span>	Fungal
<span style="color: yellow;">█</span>	Viral
<span style="color: green;">█</span>	Other: Nematode...

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*B. Bassiana* (BB)

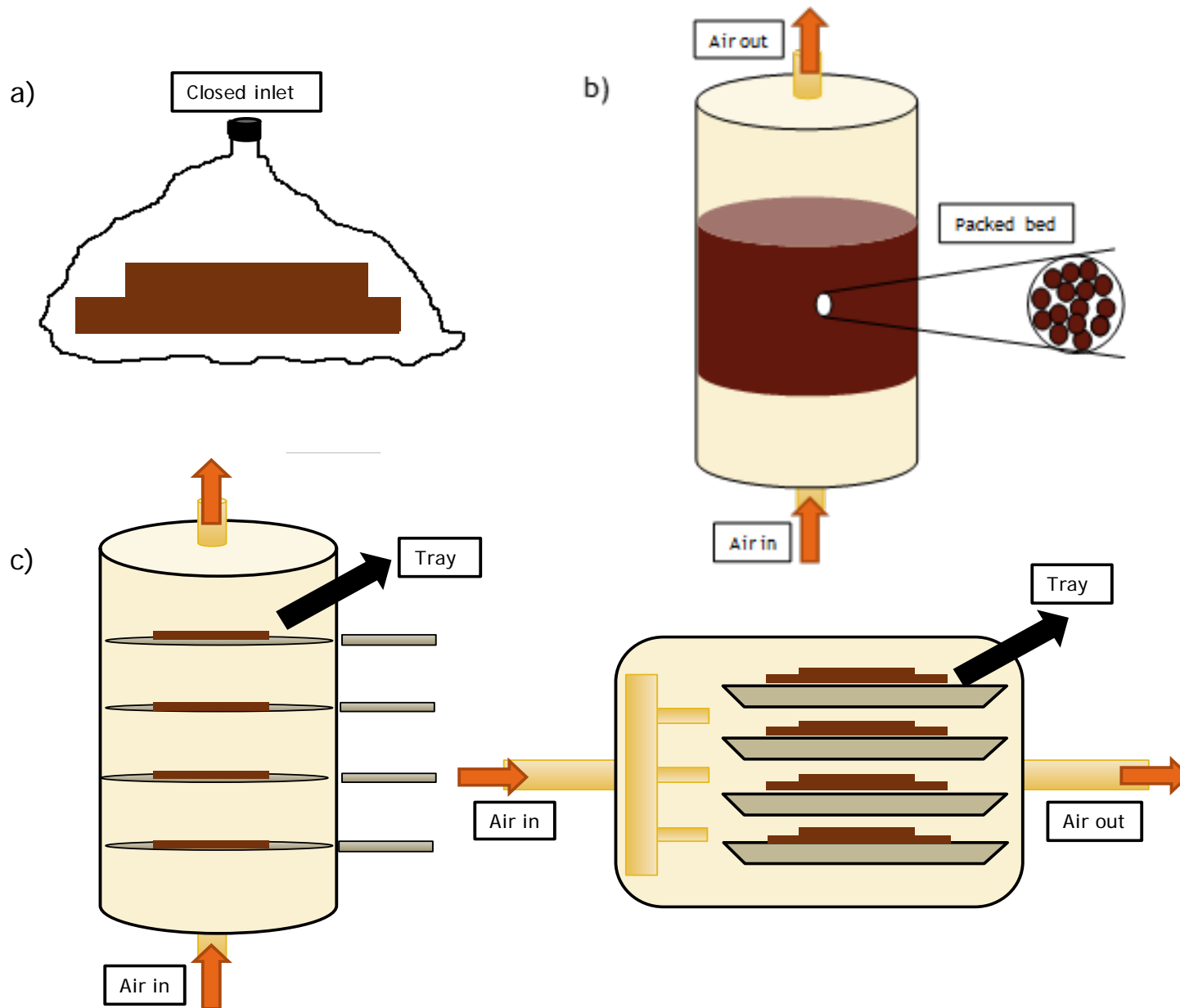
Entomopathogenic fungi, pathogenic to more than 700 host species.



*T. Harzianum* (TH)

Antagonistic fungi, specially effective against soil-borne diseases.

## SOLID-STATE FERMENTATION (SSF) CONFIGURATIONS

**a) Bags.**

- Preferred for commercial production.
- Easy and simple.
- Less occupied space.

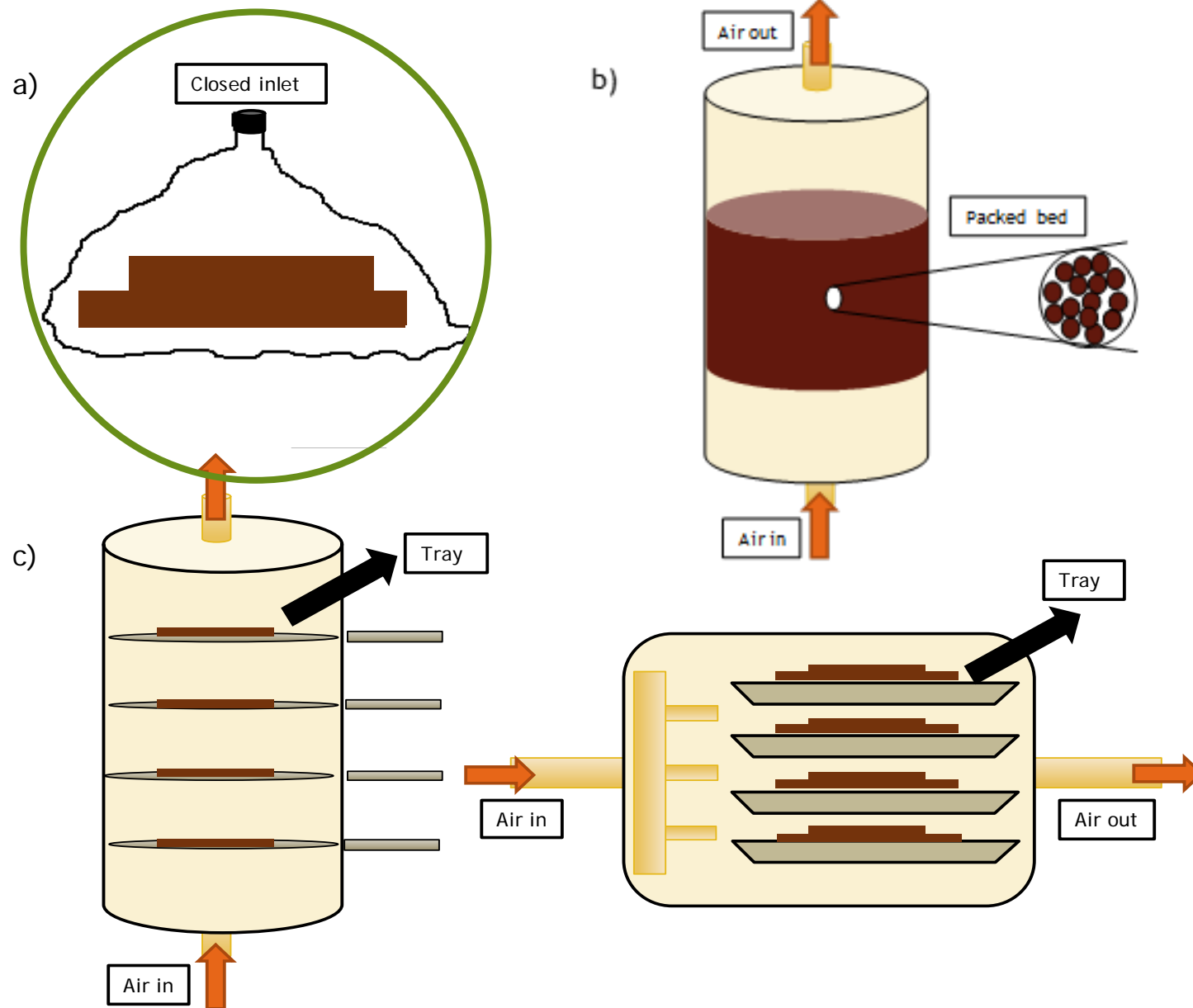
**b) Columns/packed bed reactors (PBB).**

- Least used at commercial scale.
- Heat transfer and oxygen limitations due to bed thickness.
- Better forced aeration.
- Easy to handle and less labour intensive when compared to tray.

**c) Tray reactors (TB).**

- Used for commercial production despite required space in comparison to bags.
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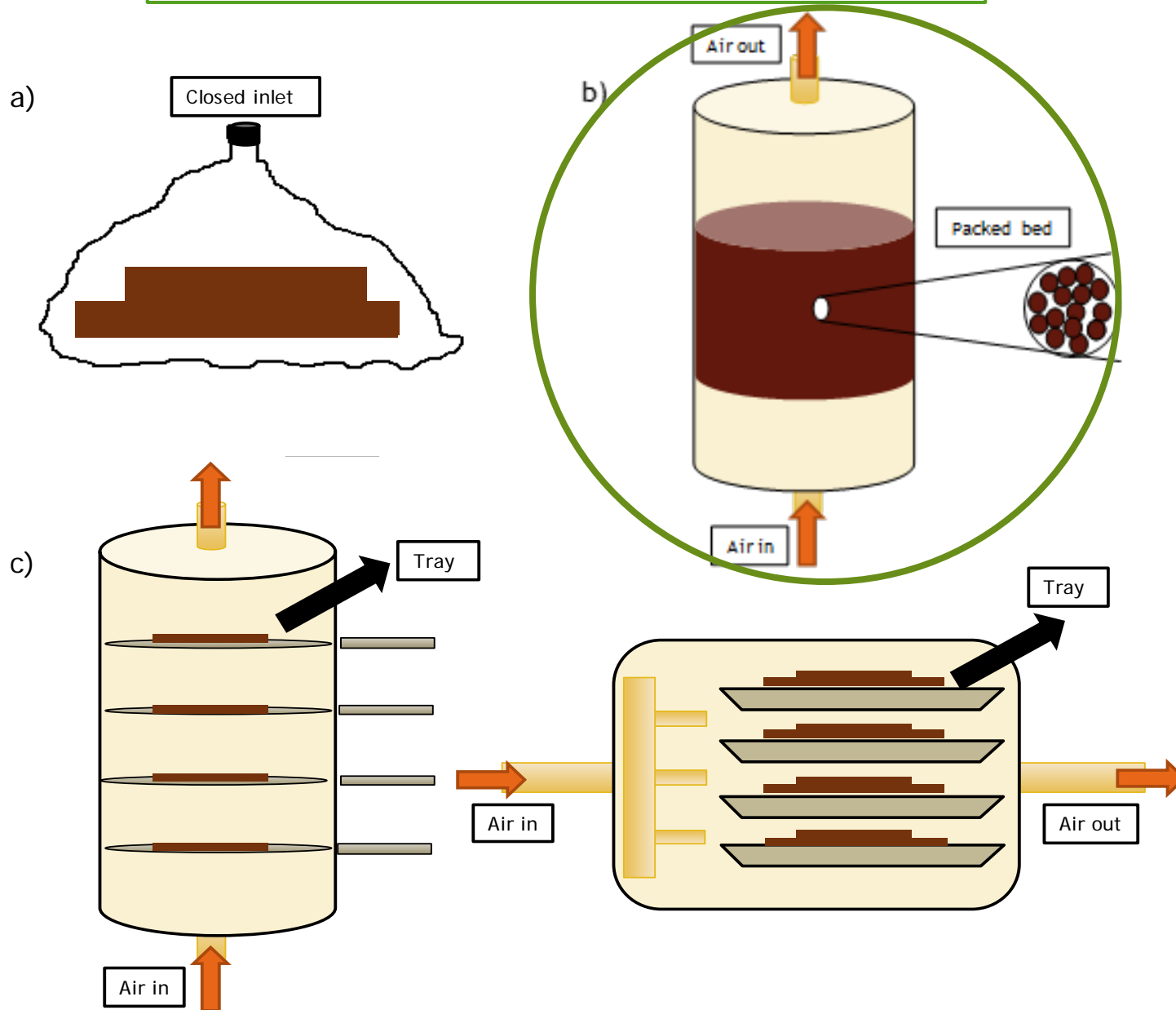
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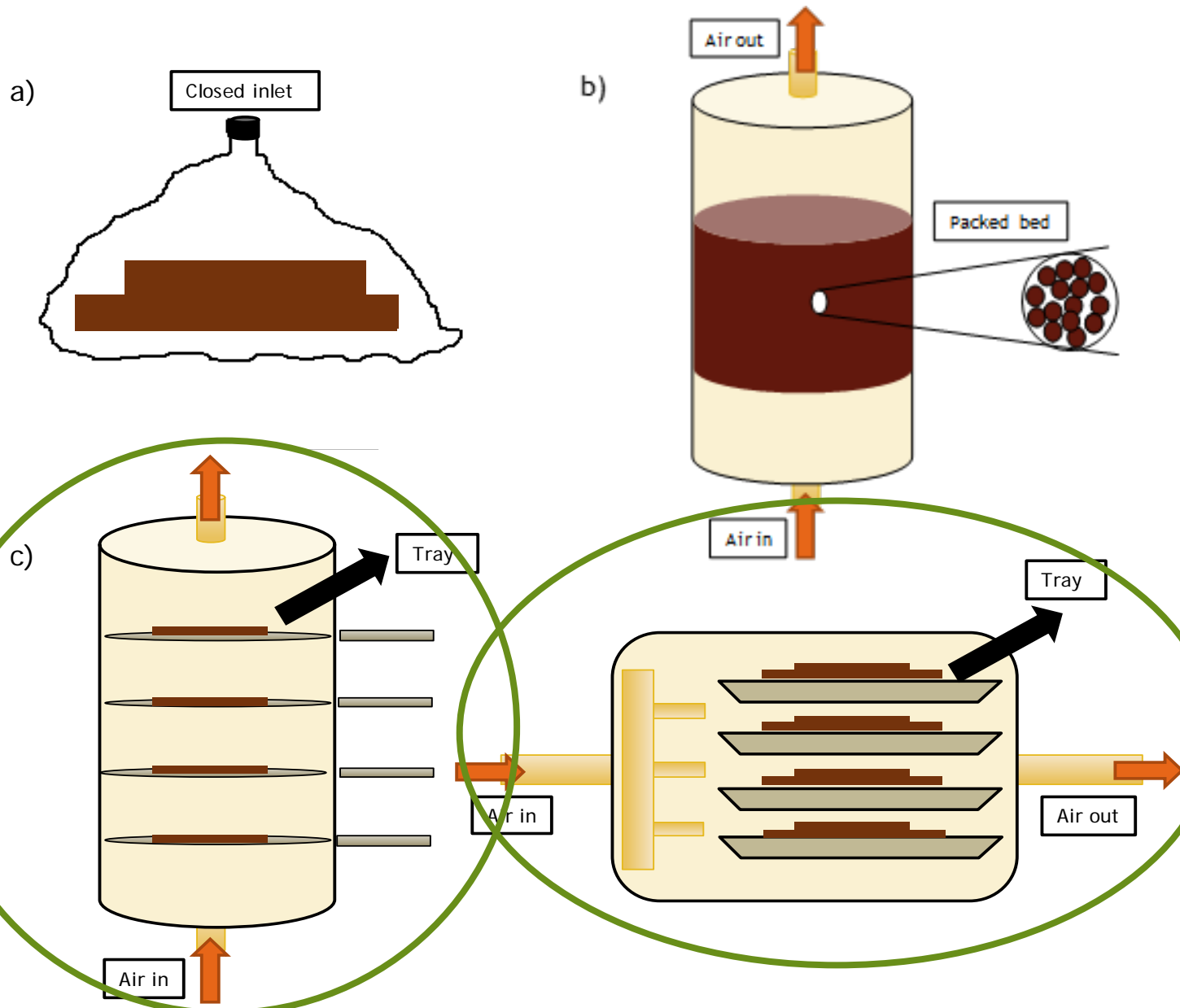
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SSF CONFIGURATIONS

COLUMN/PACKED-BED BIOREACTORS

TRAY BIOREACTORS

1.5L PBB

22L PBB

2 TRAY TB

3 TRAY TB



In both tray designs:  
TRAY 1 - closest to  
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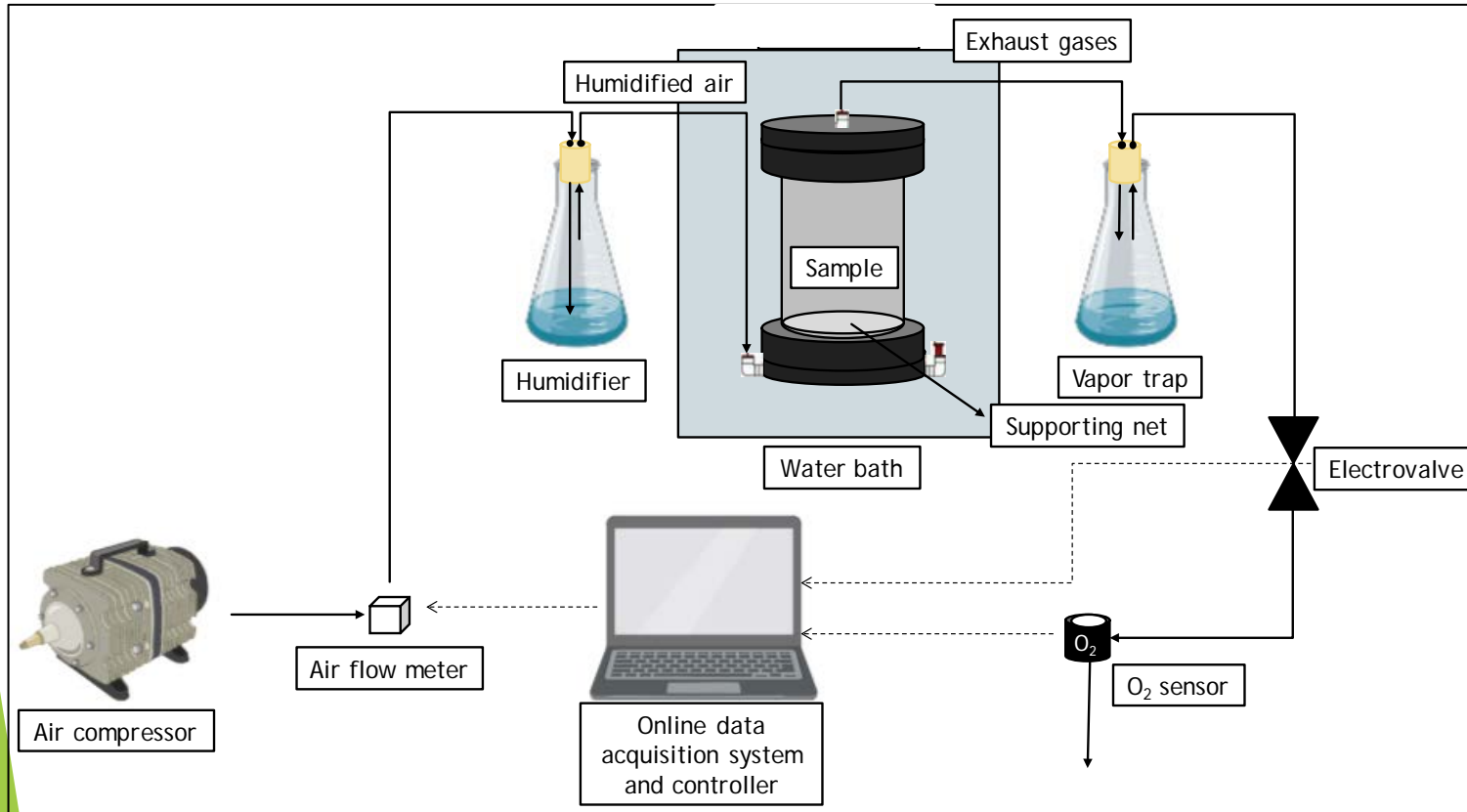
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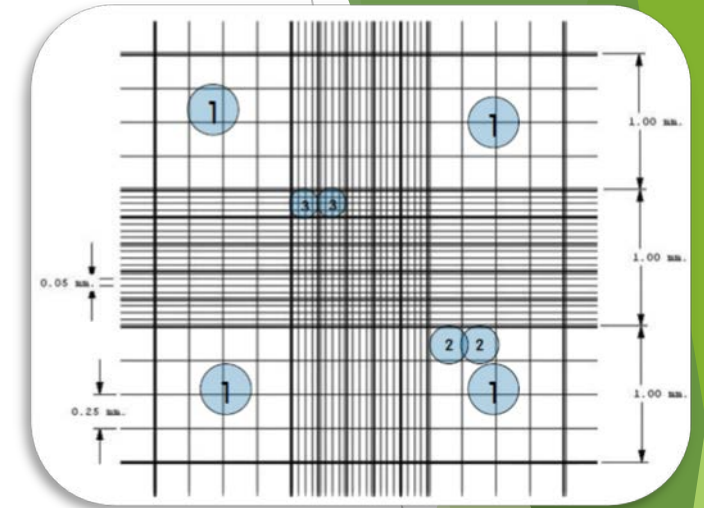
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OPERATIONAL PARAMETERS

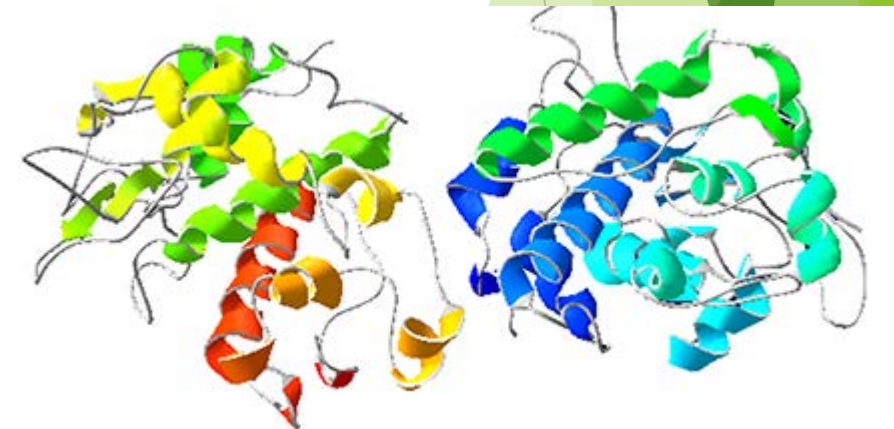
Specific oxygen consumption rate (sOUR)



Conidia concentration (conidia g<sup>-1</sup>dm)



Chitinase concentration (U g<sup>-1</sup>dm)

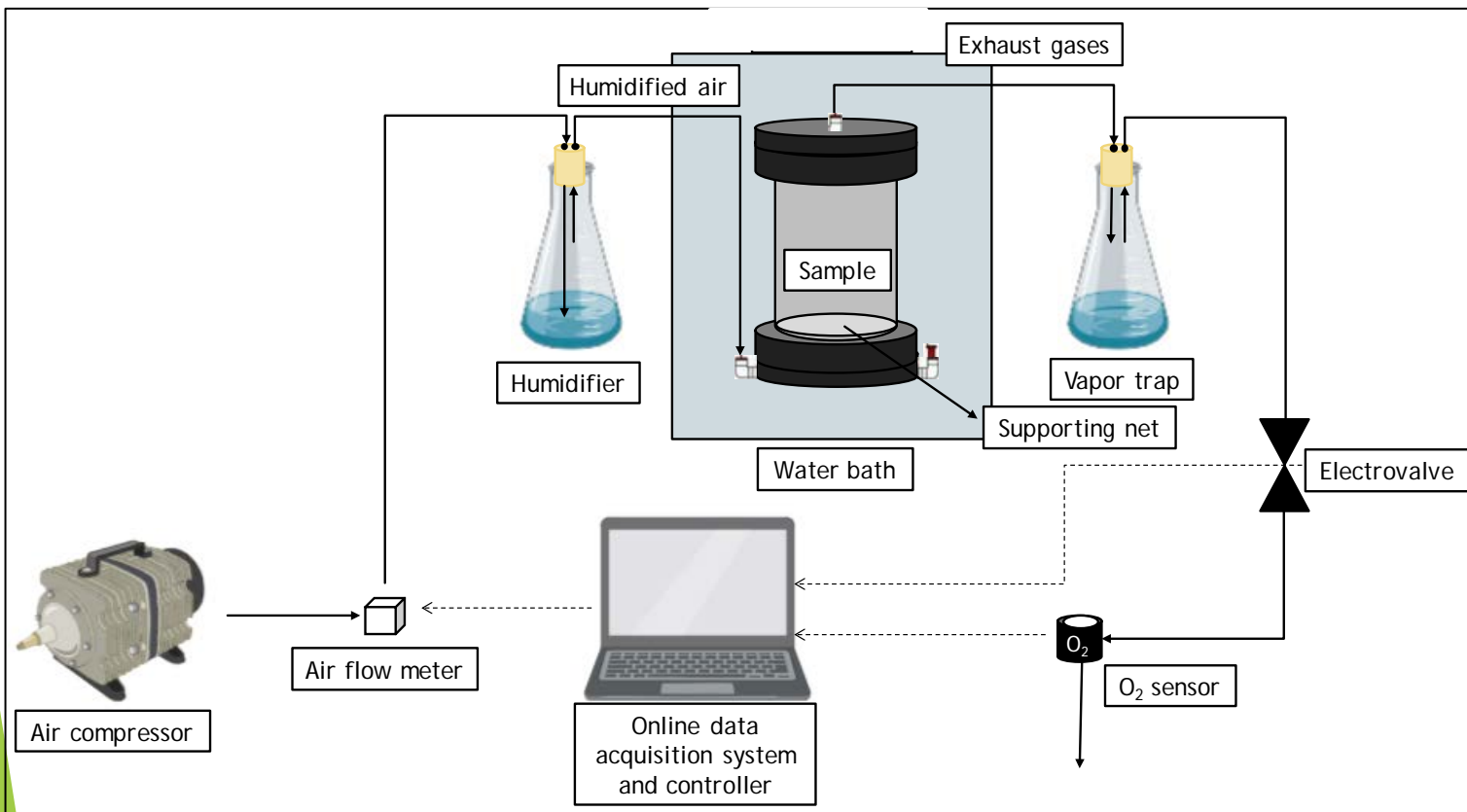


Temperature (T°)

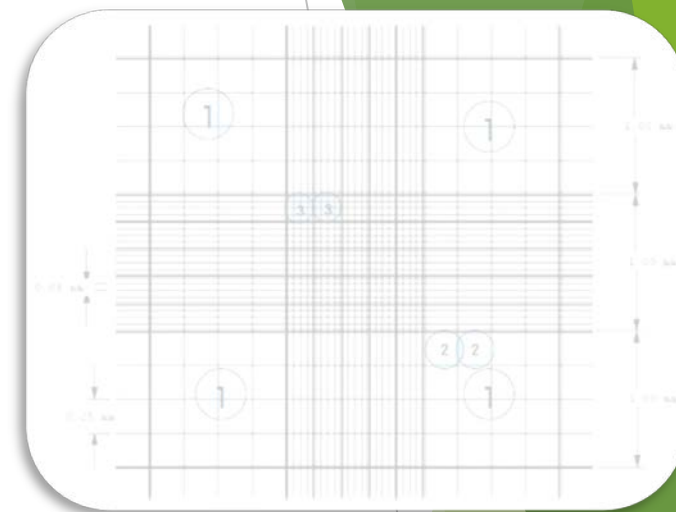


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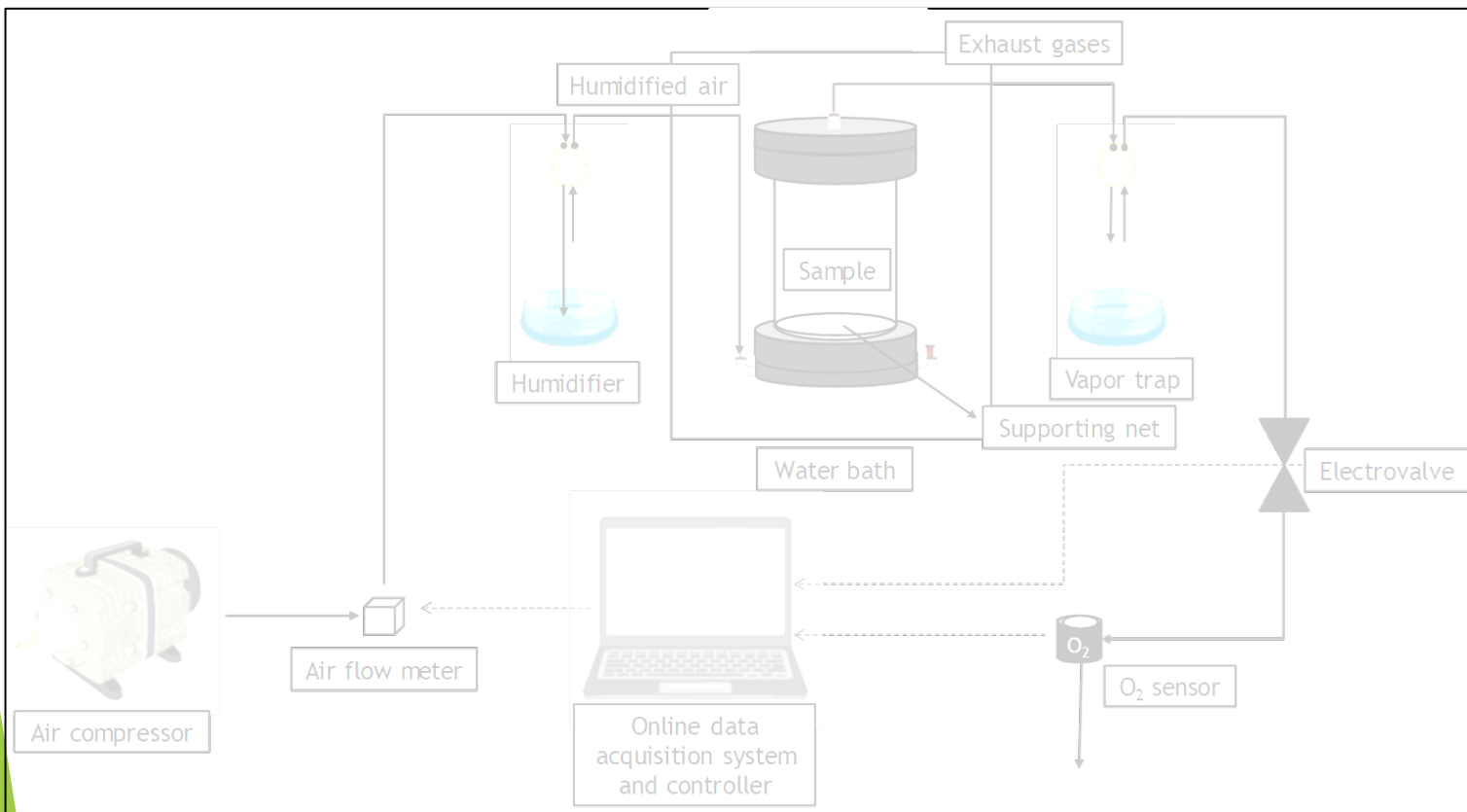


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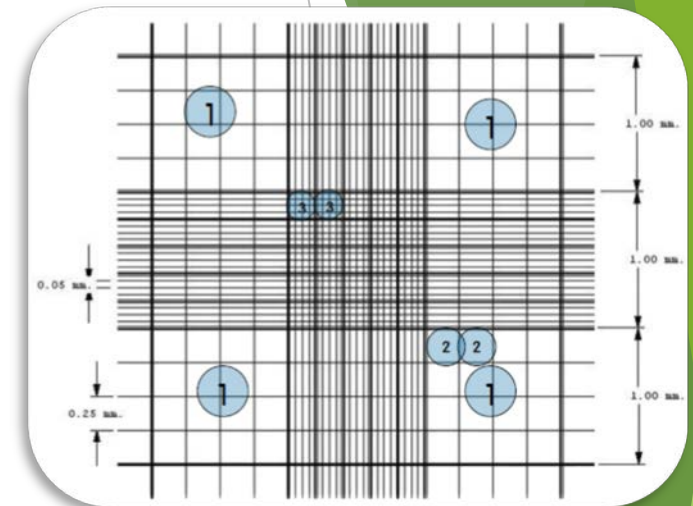


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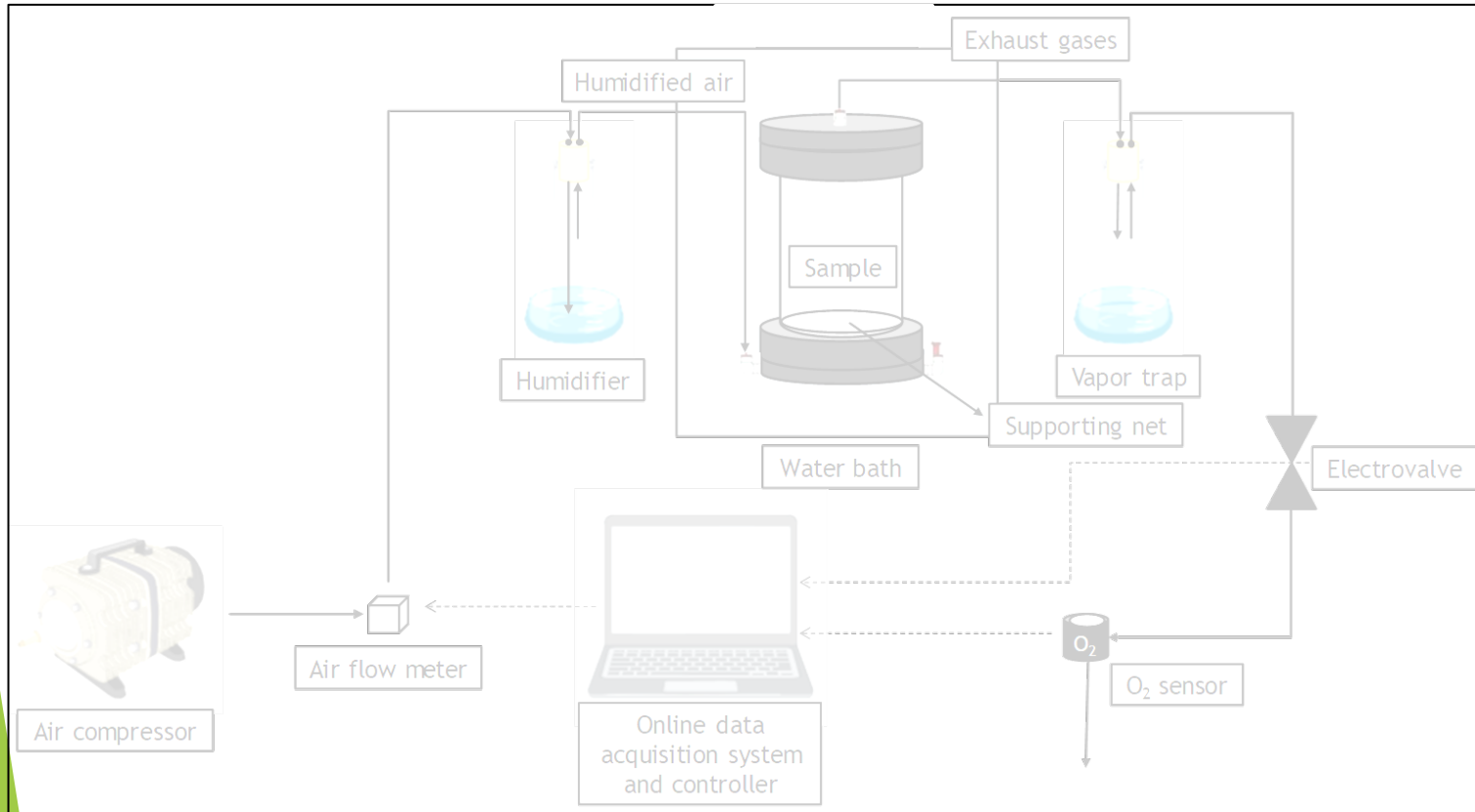
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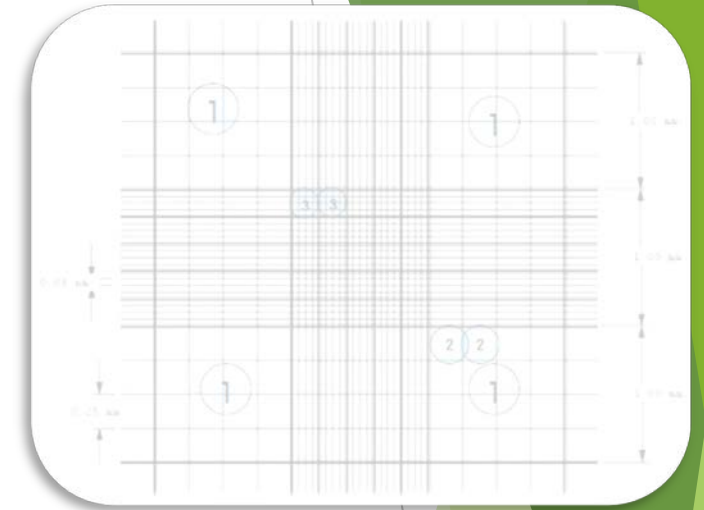


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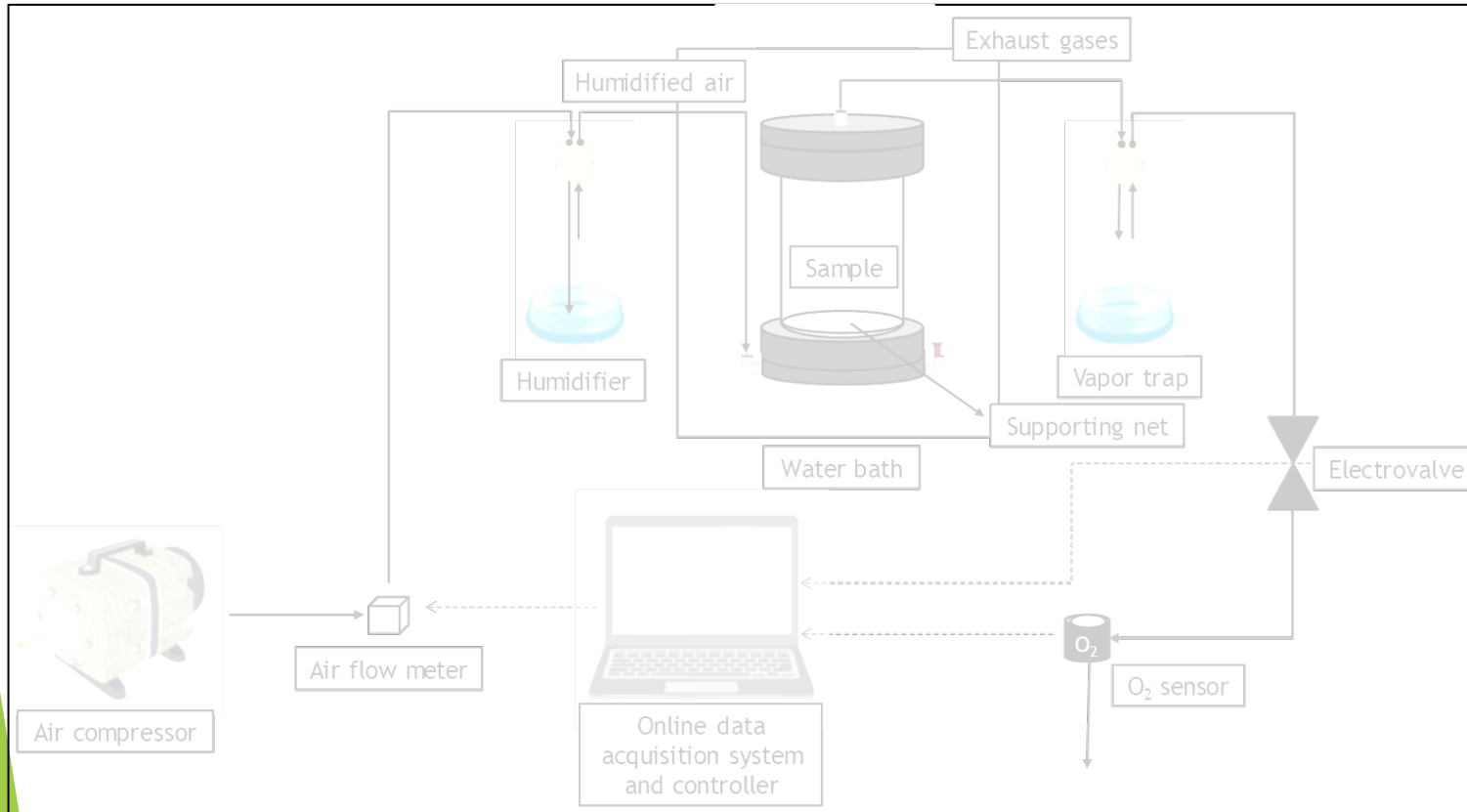


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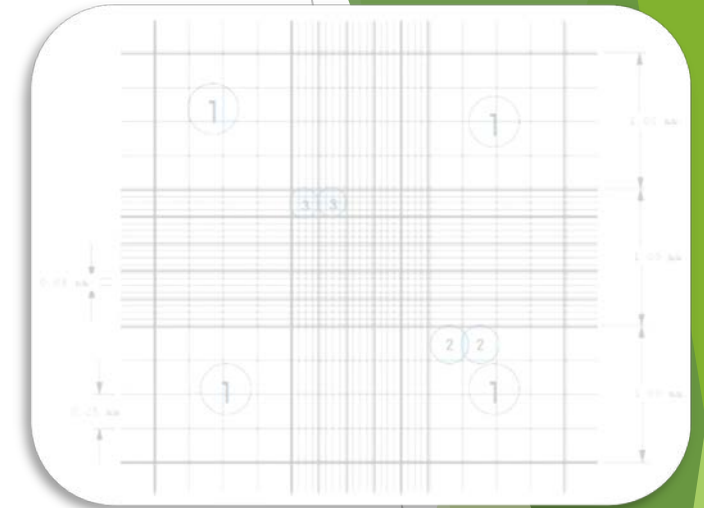


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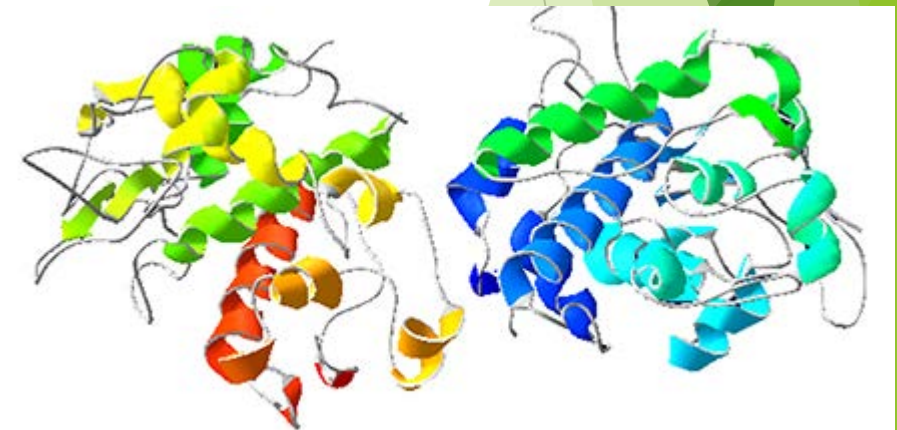
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## SUBSTRATES

RICE HUSK (RH)



BEER DRAFF (BD)

BEER DRAFF +  
WOOD CHIPS  
(w/w)70/30  
1.5L PBB  
TB40/60  
22L PBBsOUR (gO<sub>2</sub> kg<sup>-1</sup>dm)

0.6 - 1.2

4.0 - 5.0

2.6 - 3.5

Air filled porosity  
(AFP<sub>R</sub>) (%)

90 - 95

55 - 60

69 - 72 (70/30)  
79 - 82 (40/60)Total sugar content  
(mg g<sup>-1</sup>dm)

17.3 - 18.1

114.4 - 131.0

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RH



OR



BD (70/30)

BB

OR

TH



22L



RH



OR



BD (40/60)

BB

OR

TH



TESTS - PBB

1.5L



RH



OR

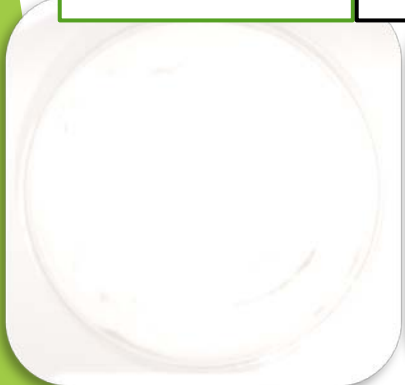


BD (70/30)

BB

OR

TH



22L



RH



OR

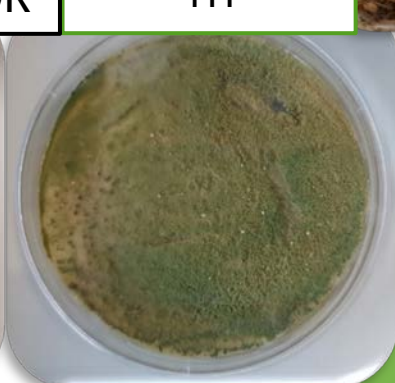


BD (40/60)

BB

OR

TH





TESTS - TB

2 TRAY



RH



TH



3 TRAY



BD (70/30)



BB

OR

TH

CHITINASE



TESTS - TB

2 TRAY



RH



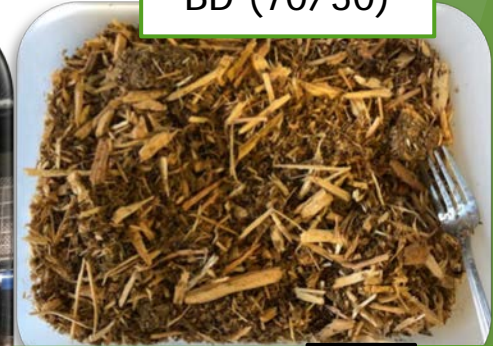
TH



3 TRAY



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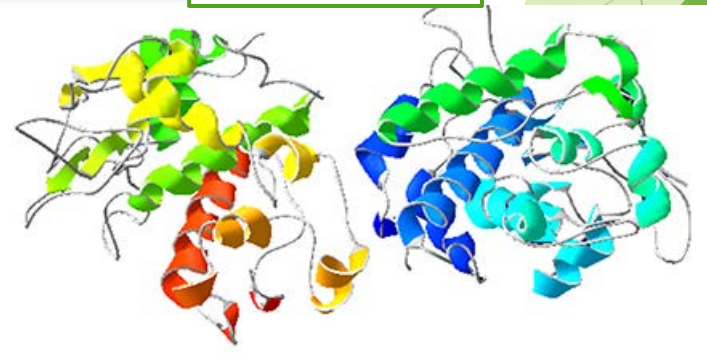


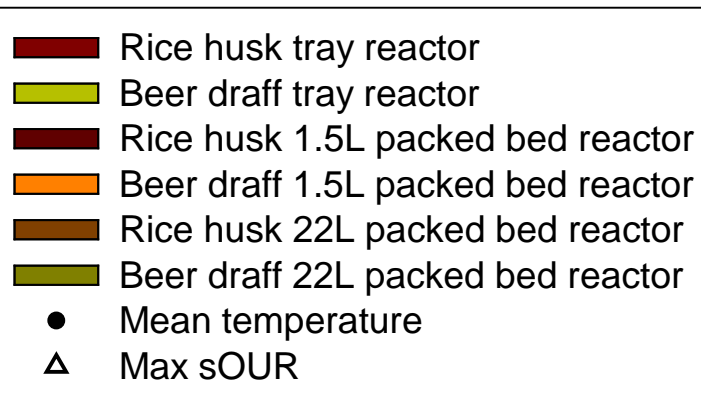
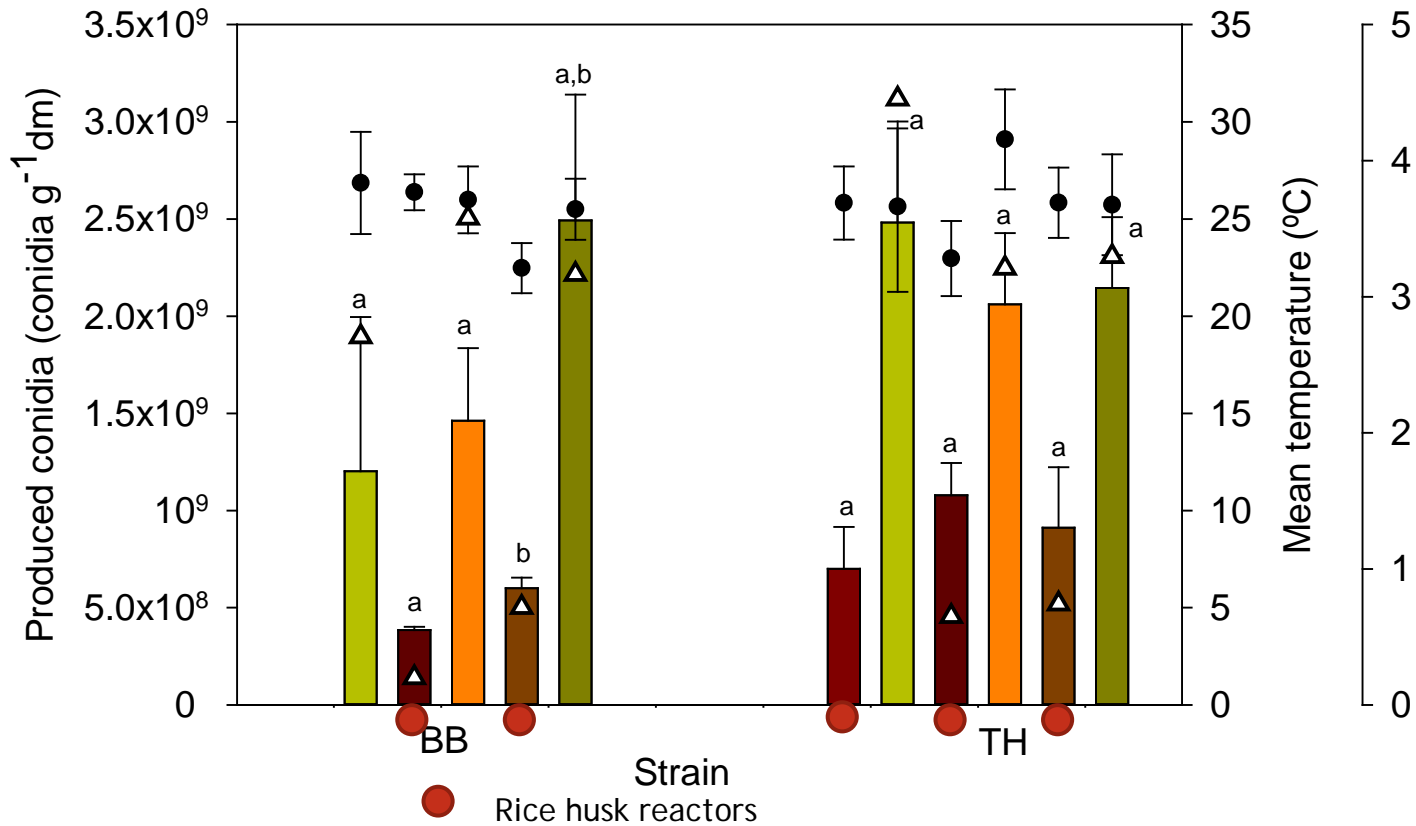
BB

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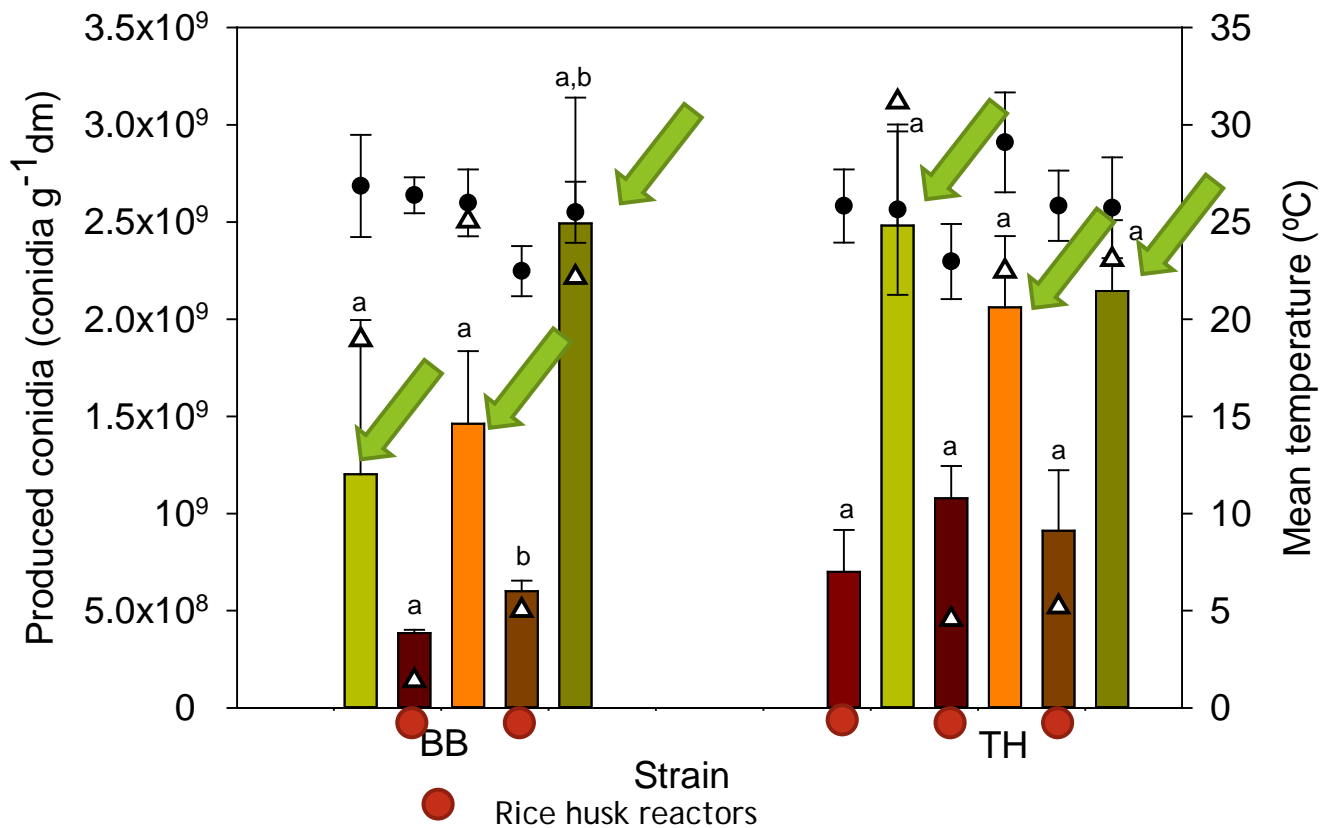
CHITINASE





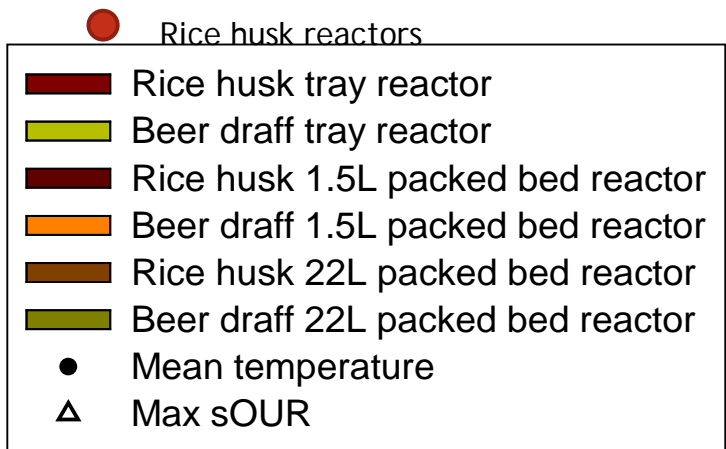
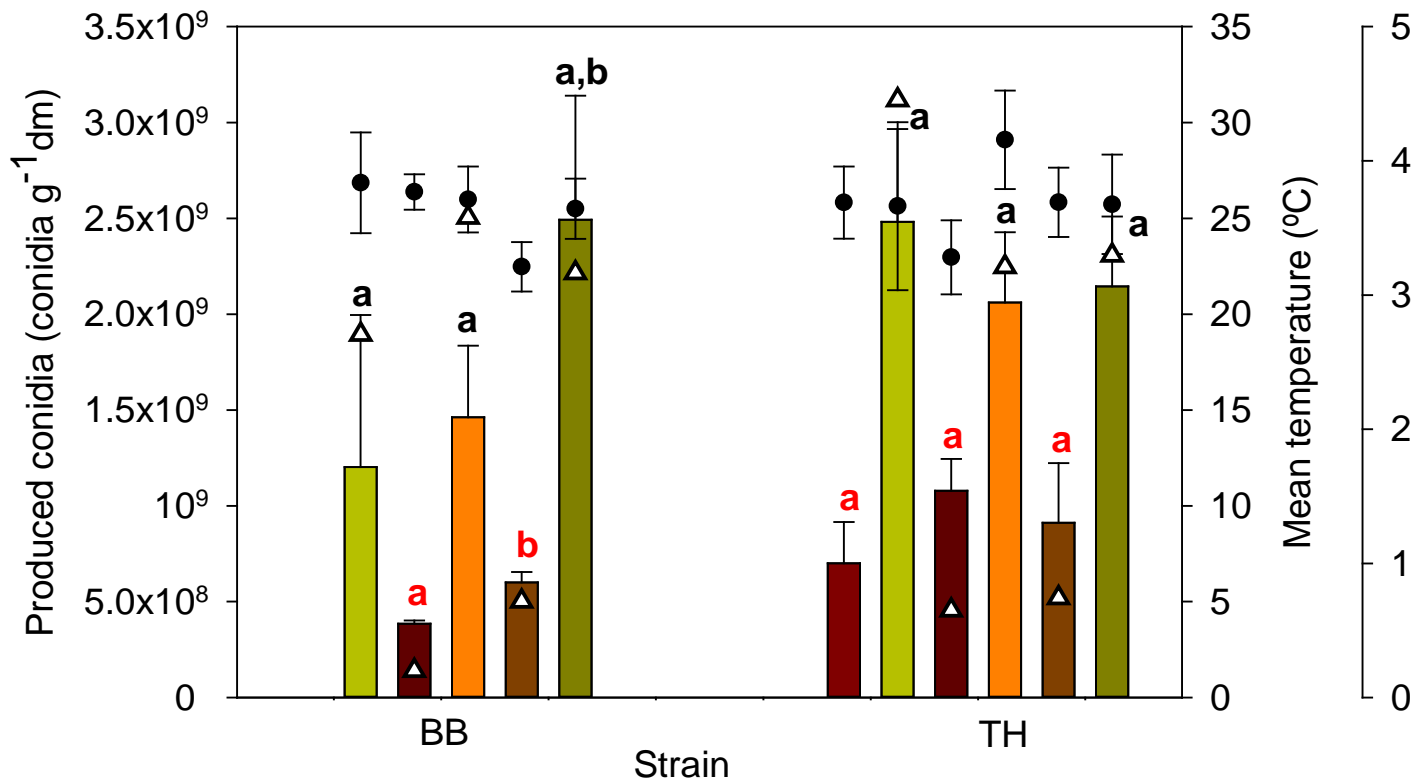
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- No significant differences in conidia production when comparing with same substrate and strain.
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- Best TH production was obtained using tray bioreactor.
- No significant differences in mean temperature were observed between substrates and reactors.

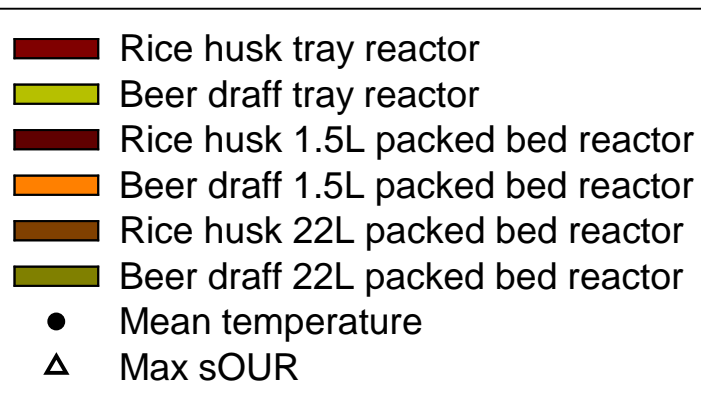
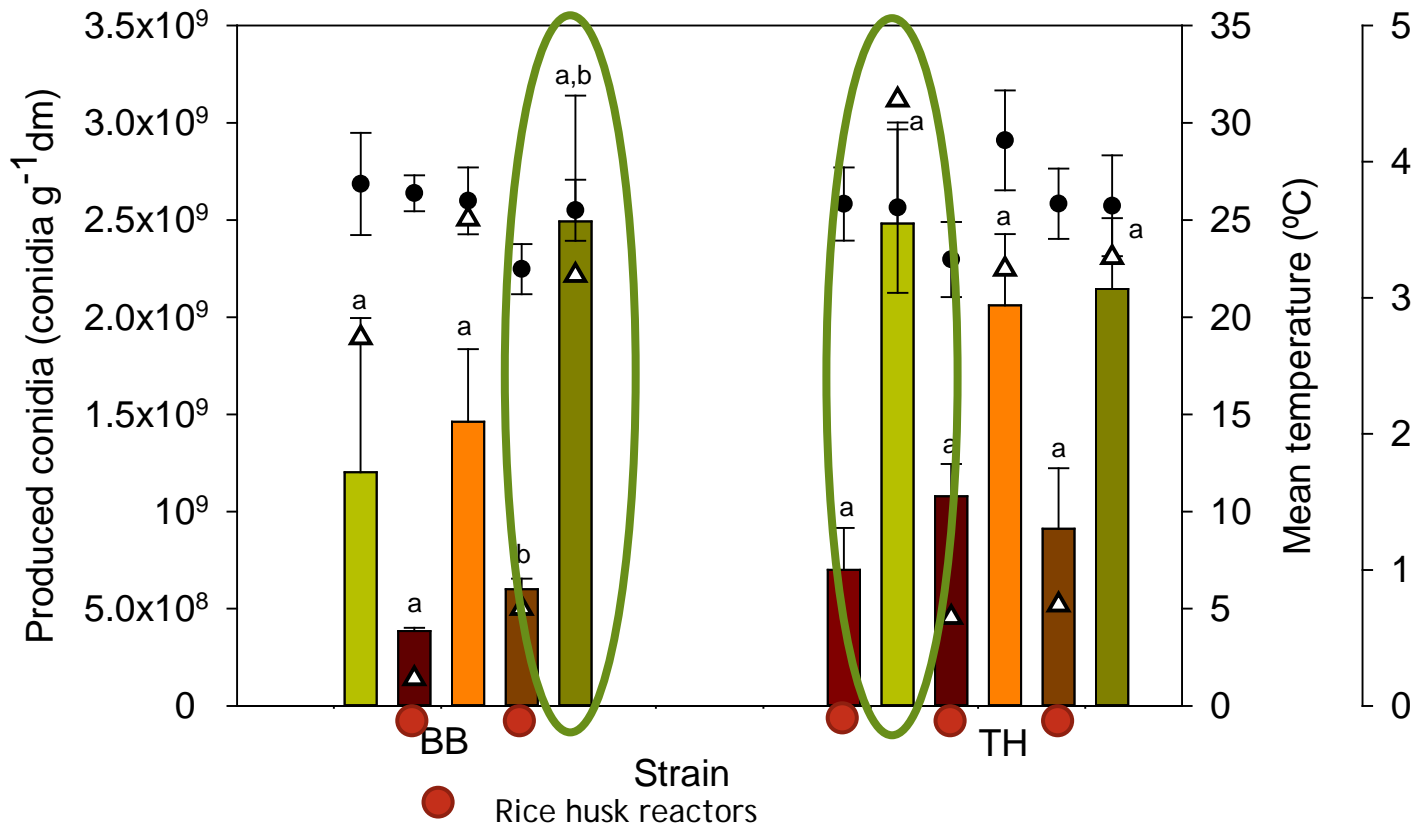


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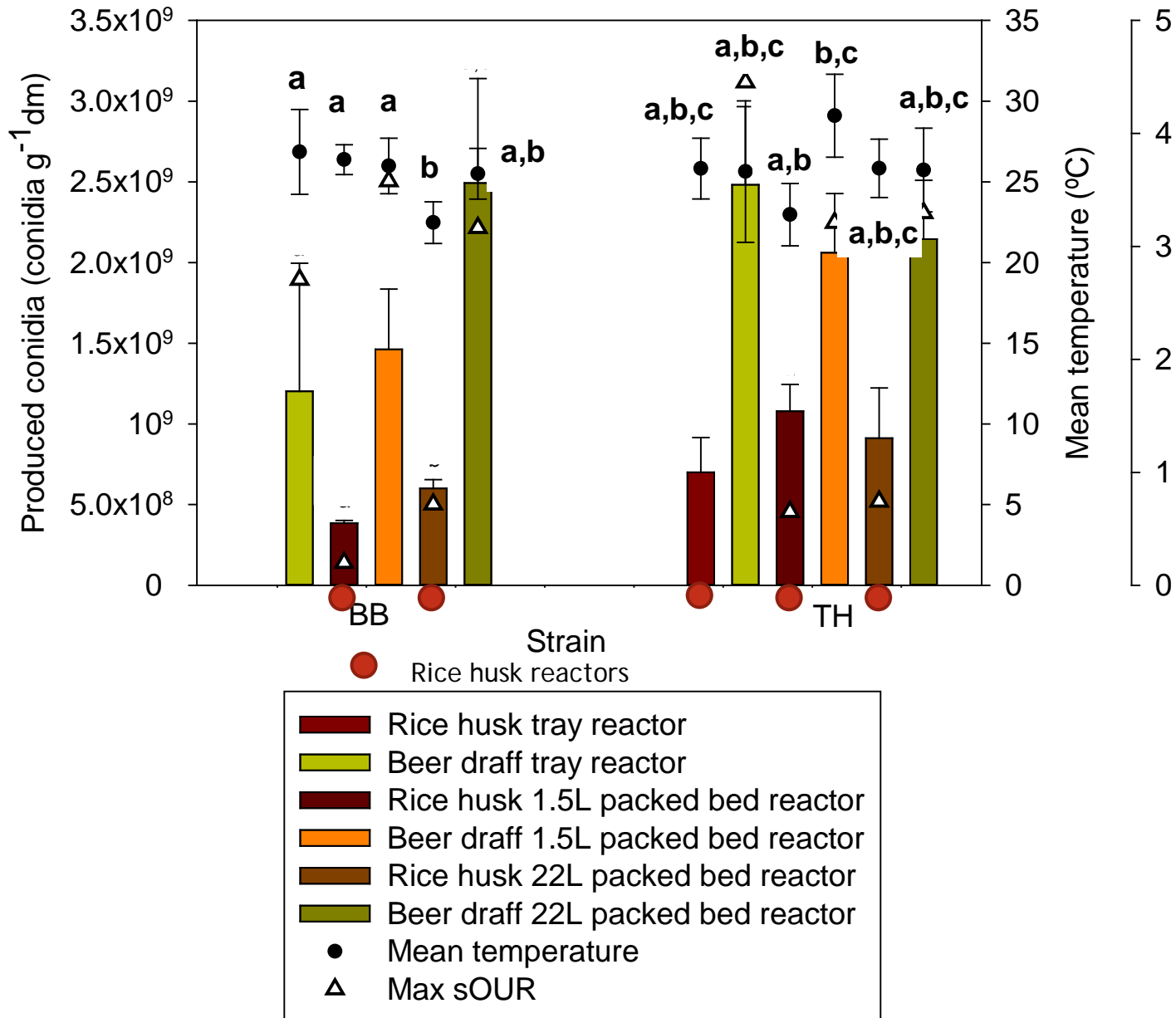


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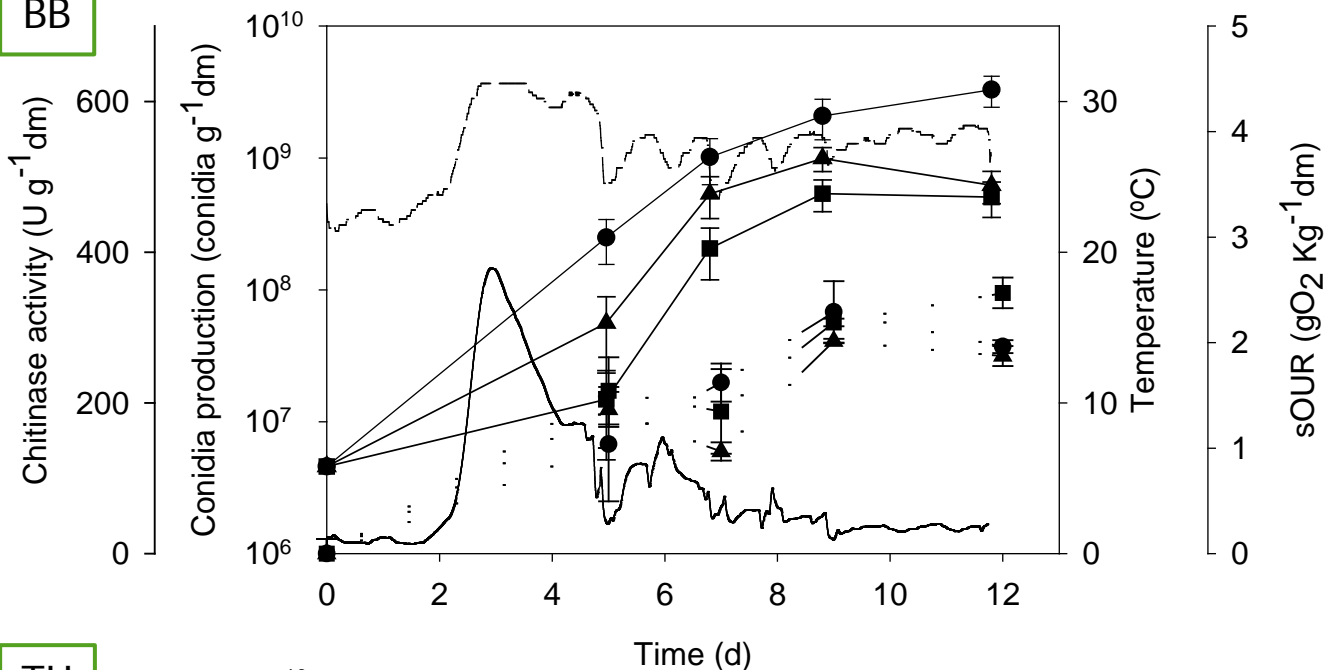
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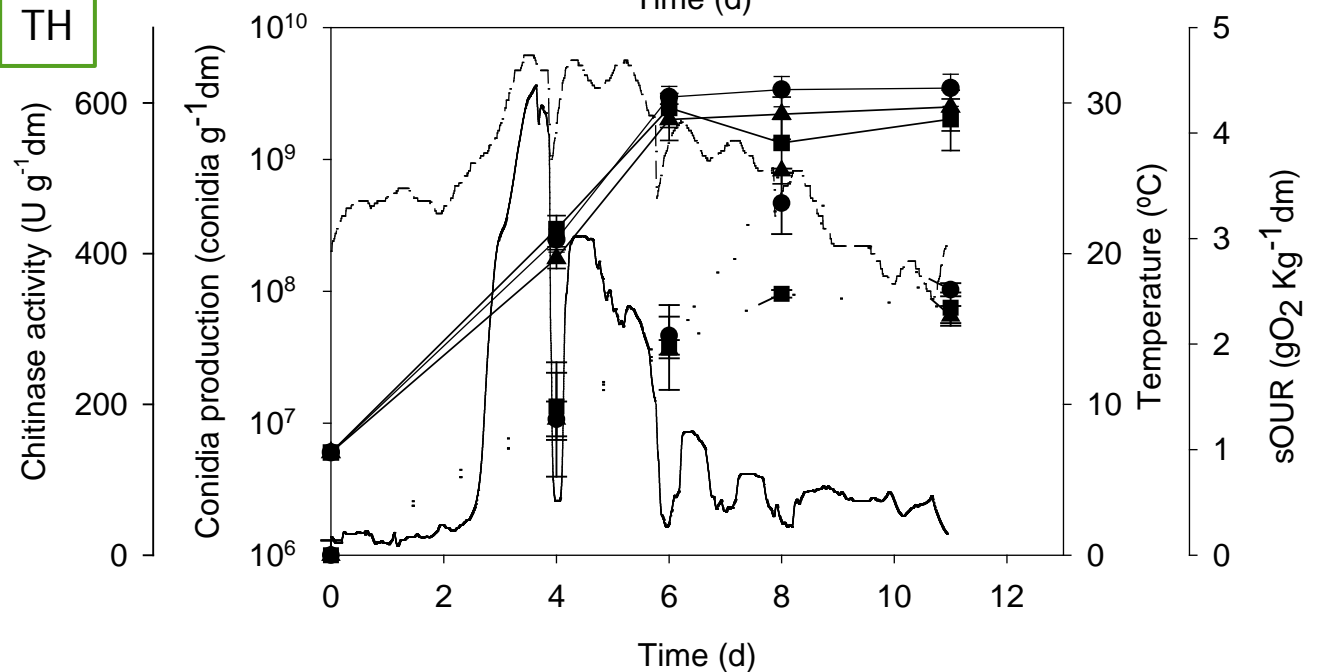


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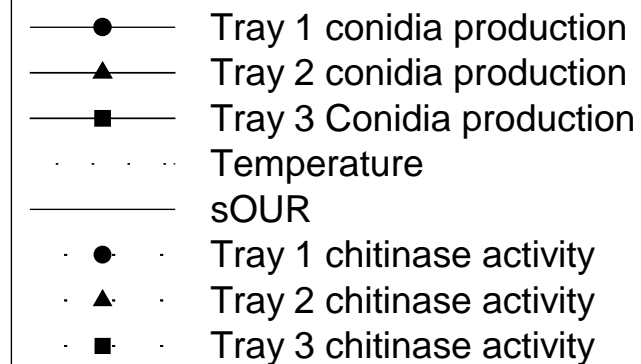
BB



TH

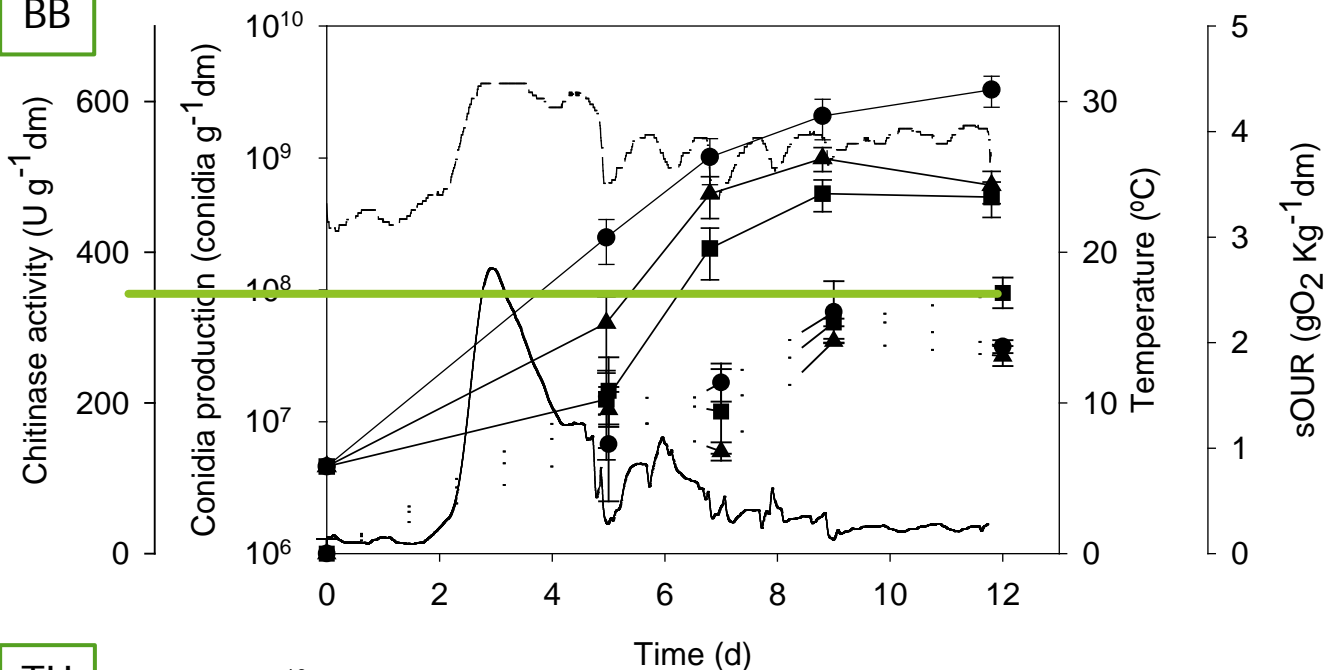


- Higher chitinase production obtained in TH batch.
- Maximum chitinase production achieved after maximum conidia productivity when using TH.
- Conidia production is dependant on distance from airflow when working with BB, but chitinase production is not dependant.
- Conidia production in independent on distance from airflow when working with TH, but chitinase production is dependant.

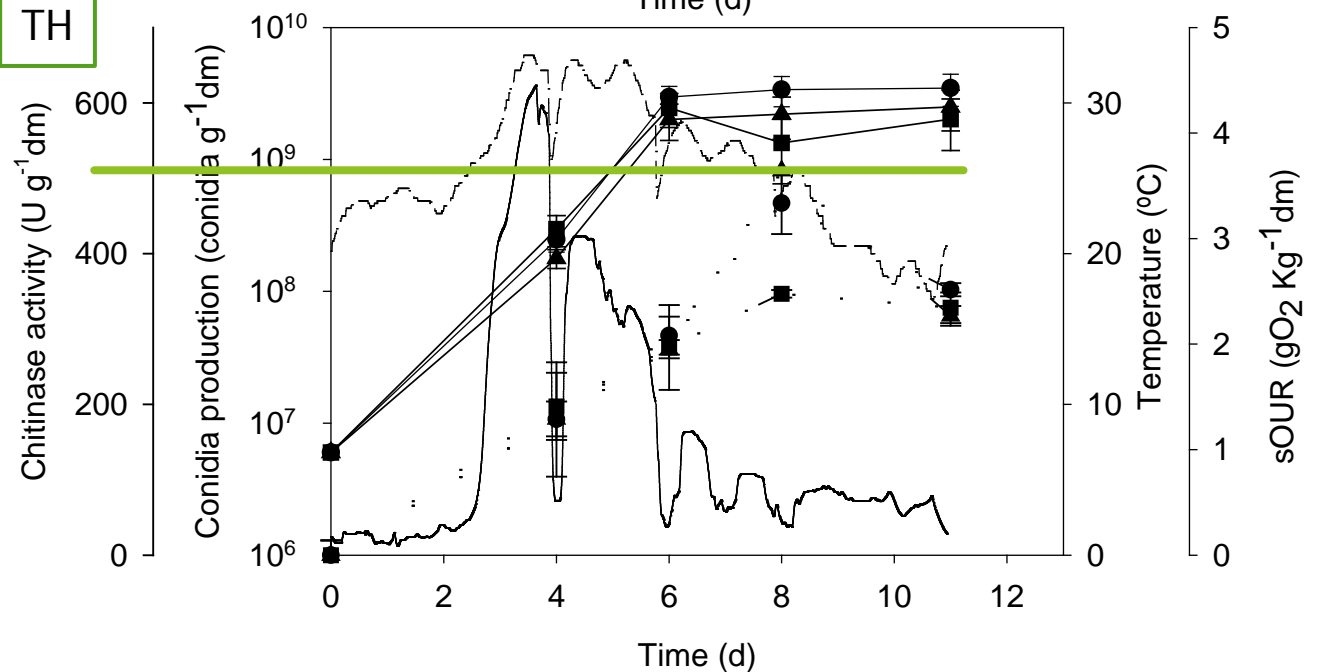




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TH

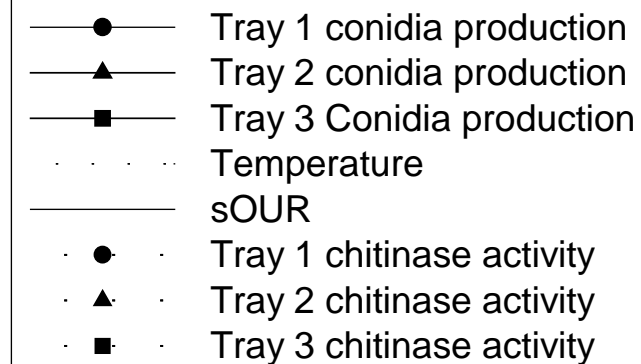


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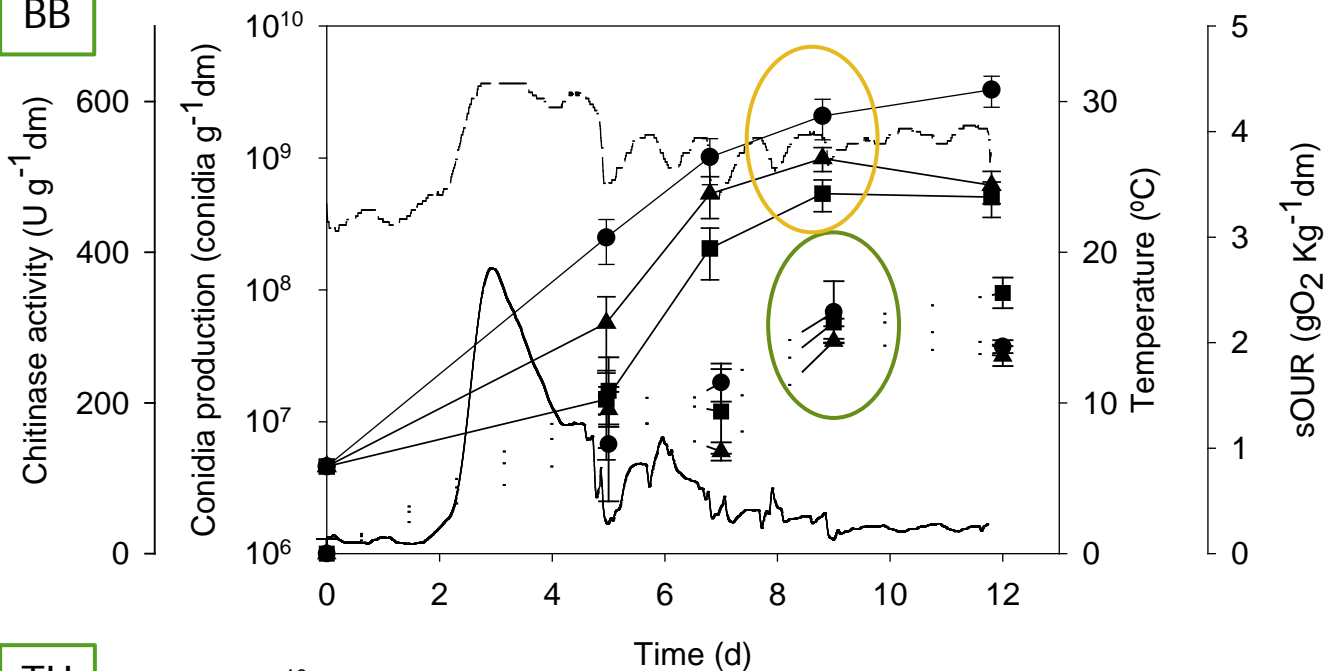
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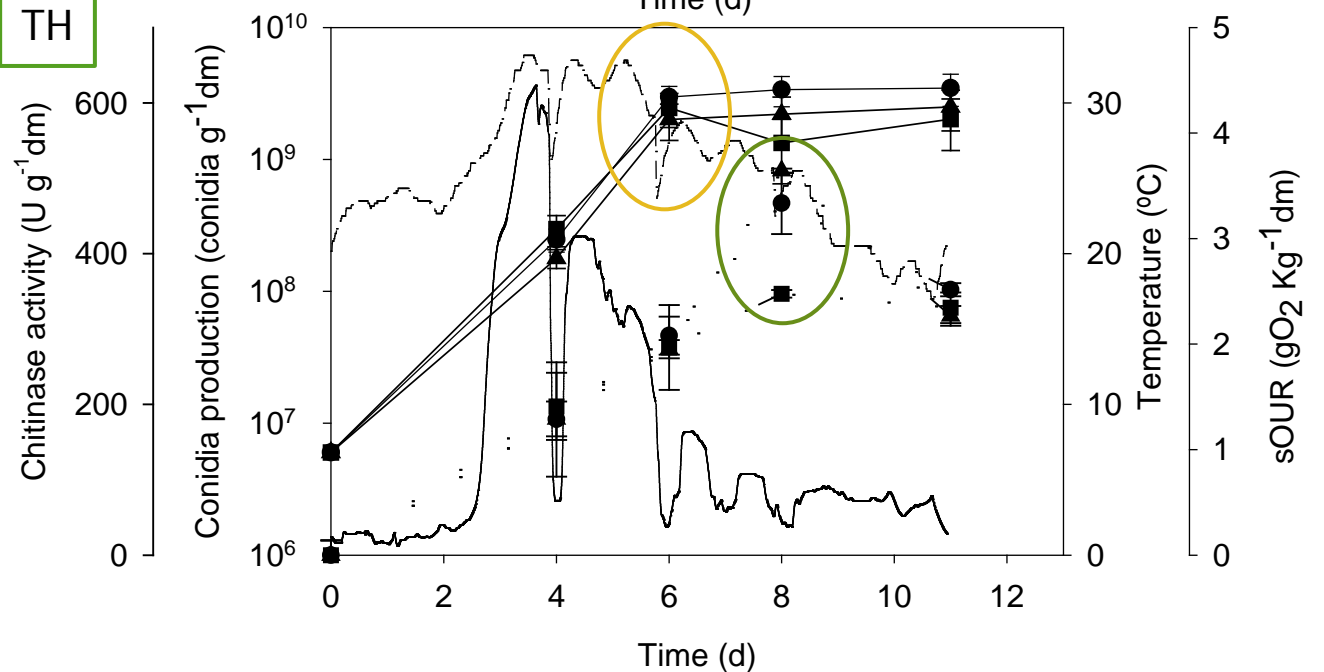
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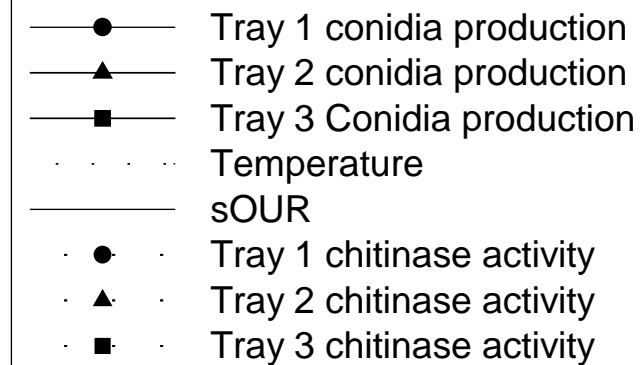
BB



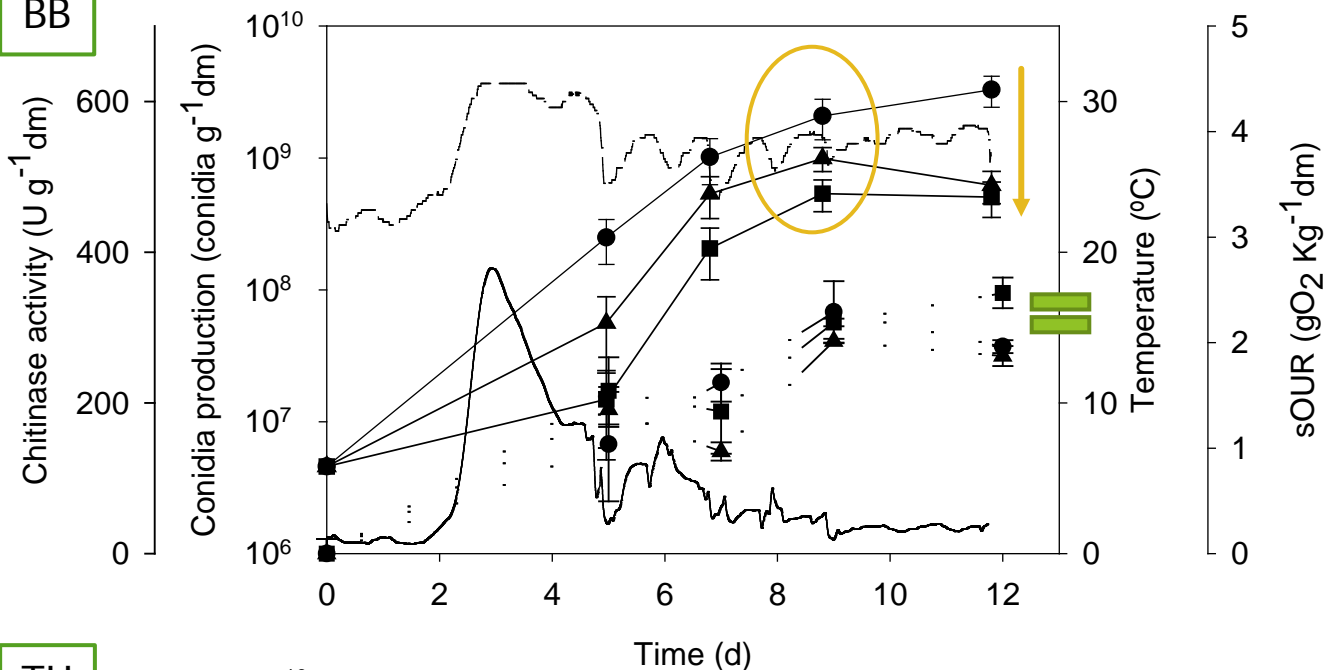
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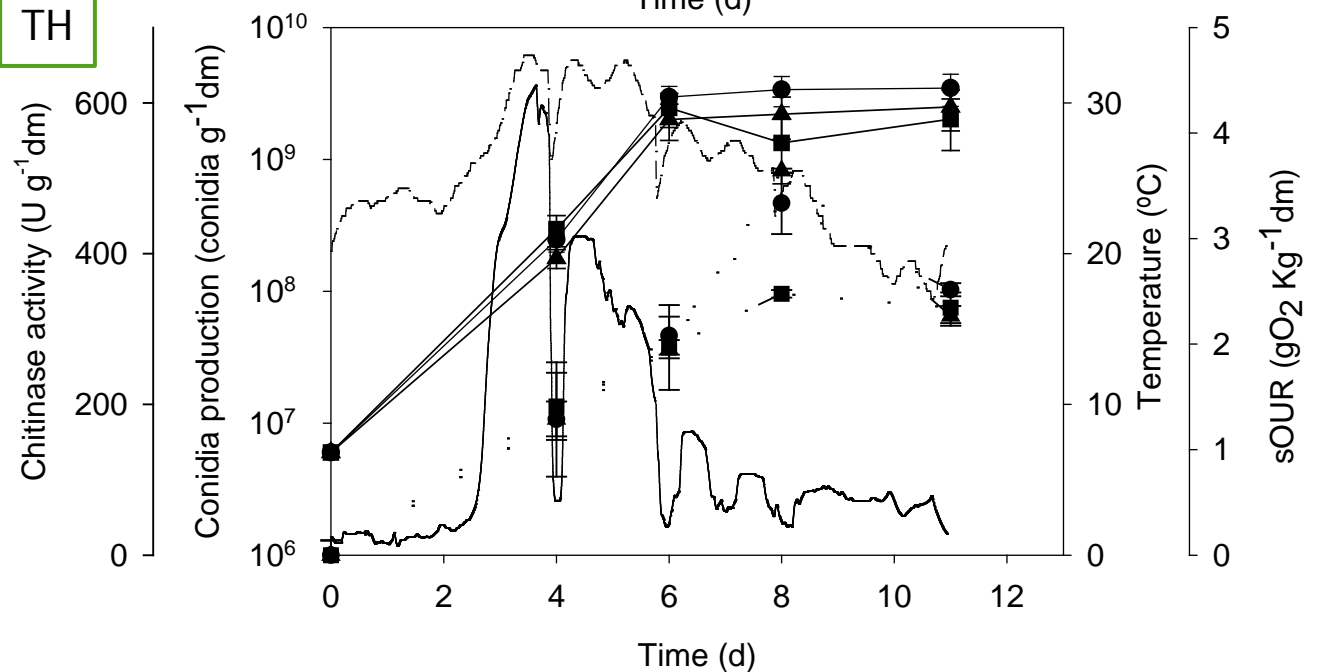
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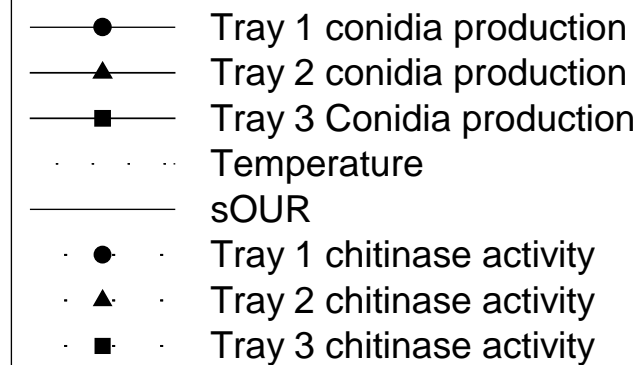
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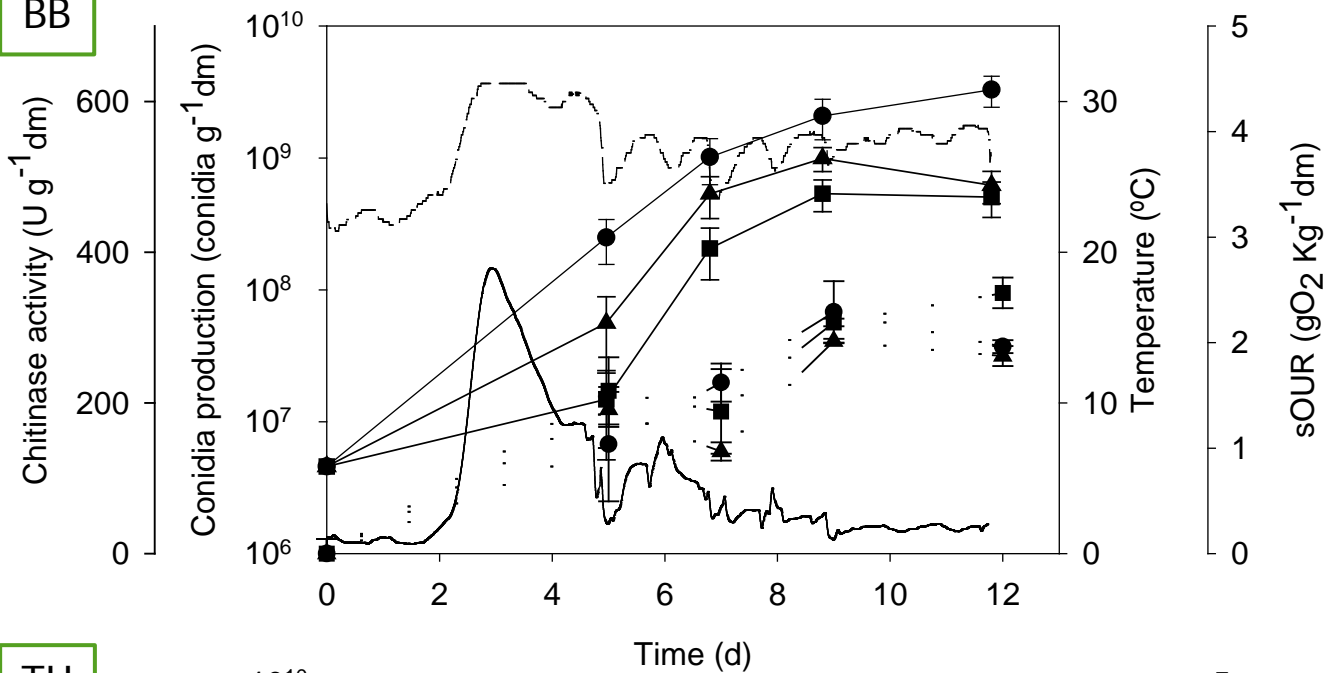
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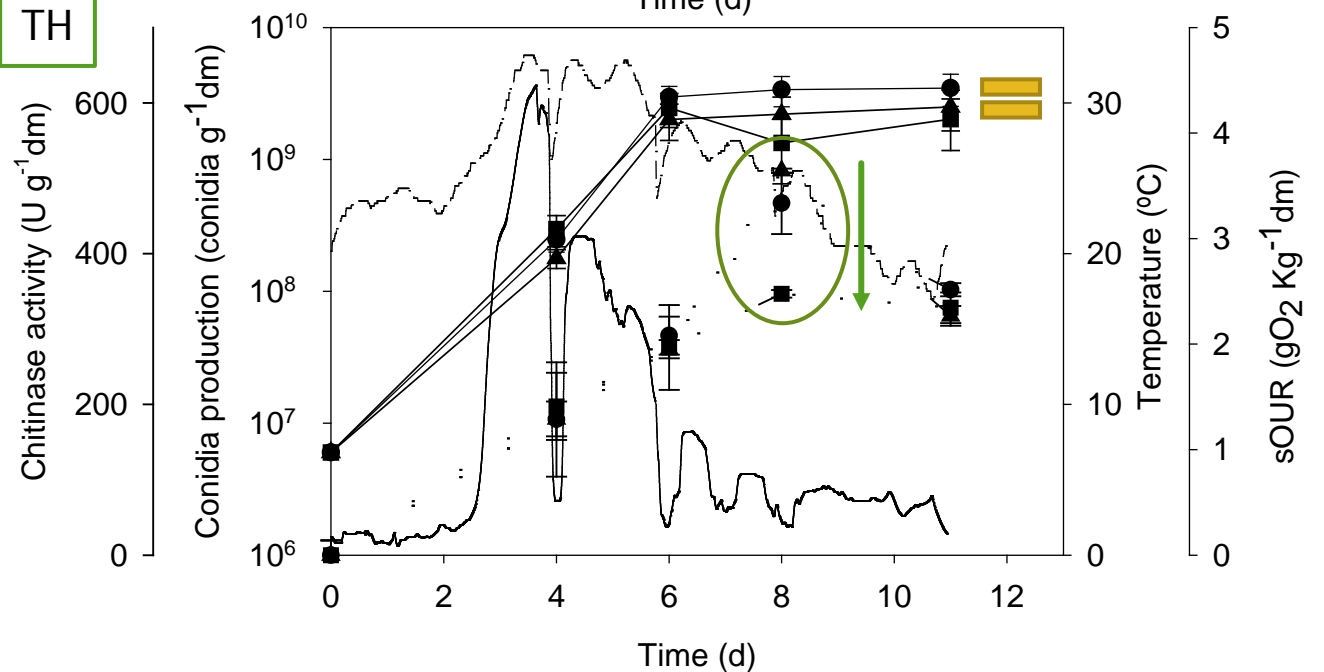
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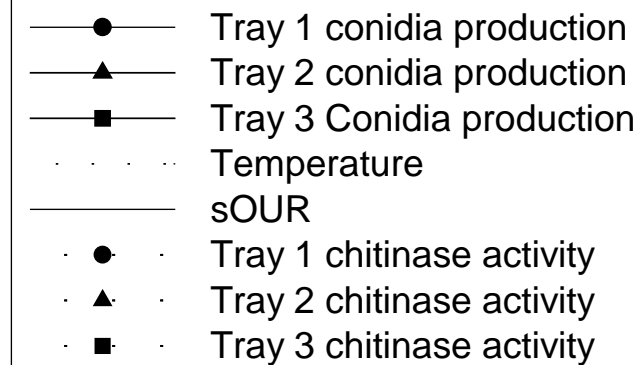
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## CONCLUSIONS:

- Fungal SSF conidia production has been achieved using agro-industrial wastes of different biodegradability.
- Wastes presenting biodegradability properties similar to beer draff are better as fungal producers than wastes similar to rice husk if their  $AFP_R$  is properly adjusted.
- Promising results shown by PBBs in terms of conidia production and temperature variation when comparing to TBs open scaling up possibilities for this configuration.
- Similar chitinase profiles were obtained in both TB strains' fermentations. Maximum values were achieved using TH.
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## FUTURE WORK:

- Improvement and scaling up of PBBs using beer draff as substrate, at least up to pilot scale.
- Obtain more data on chitinase performance in SSF, specially with PBBs but also with TBs.

## CONCLUSIONS:

- Fungal SSF conidia production has been achieved using agro-industrial wastes of different biodegradability.
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**THANKS FOR  
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**QUESTIONS?**