

Extraction, Characterization, and Utilization of Shrimp Waste Chitin Derived Chitosan in Antimicrobial Activity, Seed Germination, Preservative, and Microparticle Formulation

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Abstract: In this study, chitosan was obtained from the chitin of shrimp waste. It was further purified, and the degree of acetylation was measured by FTIR and NMR analysis. Further, it was subjected to antimicrobial activity against wound infection-causing bacteria and phytopathogenic fungi. It was showing good activity against both. It was used as a preservative for grape juice, where it was decreasing the turbidity. The chitosan had seed germination activity on paddy seed. Chitosan was subjected for the formation of chitosan film and subjected for antifungal activity against phytopathogenic fungi, thus used as a preservative on wrapping tomato. It was increasing the shelf life of the tomato. Chitosan was also used for microparticle formulation, where it was able to form microparticles of size about 100 μ m and it possessed antifungal activity.

Keywords: chitosan; degree of deacetylation; antimicrobial activity; chitosan film; preservative.

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1. Introduction

Chitosan is made of β 1,4-linked glucosamine, and it is in deacetylated form of chitin obtained from fungi, shrimps, crab, etc. [1-3]. Chitosan has been used as a biomaterial, pharmaceutical, drug delivery [4], medical [5], textile [6], agricultural [7], preservative [8], wastewater purification [9,10], plant pesticide [11], and dressing material for wounds [5]. Chitosan is known to have antibacterial activity, thus used in making loaves, wound bandages, textiles, etc. [12].

The presence of an amino group helps in forming various structures on reacting with TPP (trisodium polyphosphate) or BaCl₂ (barium chloride). Thus manipulation is possible and leading to have different solubility, physical, mechanical properties, and enhance biocompatibility [1,13]. Polymers seen on chitosan are made of N-acetyl glucosamine and glucosamine, which has been known to have better biocompatibility and biodegradability, adding more it has the flexibility to form gels when proper polyanions are used [14,15]. There are reports of using this chitosan as a source of protecting seeds on coating by having fungicidal

activity [16]. The present study, chitosan, was obtained from shrimp and used was to evaluate the enhancement effect of antimicrobial properties of chitosan, preservative property, and also utilized for microparticle synthesis.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Materials.

Crude chitin obtained from shrimp [17], Tripolyphosphate ($\text{Na}_5\text{P}_3\text{O}_{10}$), Dithiothreitol were obtained from Sigma chemicals, India. Acetic acid was of analytical grade. Mueller Hinton Agar (M173) was from HiMedia, Bombay, paddy seed bought from TNAU, Vallanadu, Tirunelveli.

2.2. Deacetylation of chitin.

The prepared dried crude chitin [18] was used for the chitosan preparation as described [19]. 1 g chitin / 50 mL of 50 % NaOH for deacetylation and mixed at 100 °C under constant manual stirring. This was done for 3 – 5 h. It was subjected to filtration using a muslin cloth, and solid mass obtained was washed with distilled water till it becomes neutral. It was collected and at 80 °C overnight.

2.3. Purification of chitosan.

Prepared chitosan was dissolved with 1 % acetic acid (0.01:1 – chitosan : acetic acid) and stirred in a magnetic stirrer until a homogenous solution was obtained. The solution was filtered with Whatman filter paper No.1 to remove the insoluble contaminants. The obtained solution was again added with 1 N NaOH until it reached a pH of 8.5 to precipitate chitosan, following the washing with distilled water (subjecting for centrifugation at 10,000 rpm). Reducing agent DTT (Dithiothreitol) was used since it was used for biomedical applications. 1 mL 10 % sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) to precipitate, which was stirred for 15 - 30 min to dissolve proteins and kept undisturbed in room temperature for 12 h, now 5 % EDTA was added to remove heavy metals. Thus it was kept for 2 h. Now the undissolved chitosan was centrifuged at 6000 rpm for 15 – 30 min, followed with washing with distilled water for thrice. The obtained residue was dried at 60 °C, followed with desiccation, and then stored in 4 °C [20].

2.4. Characterization of chitosan.

2.4.1. FT-IR.

The chitosan was subject to Fourier transform spectrophotometer analysis (IFS 66 Bruker) in the infrared spectral region between 400 and 4000 cm^{-1} . Degree of deacetylation was determined according to the equation described by Domszy and Roberts [21] as per the given formula

$$DD = \frac{100 - (A_{1660} \text{ cm}^{-1} / A_{3450} \text{ cm}^{-1})}{1.33} \times 100$$

2.4.2. ^1H NMR spectroscopy.

0.05 g prepared chitosan was mixed with deuterated aqueous acid $\text{DCl}/\text{D}_2\text{O}$, at about pH 4, where the conditions were followed as specified. A spectrum of the shrimp shell derived

chitosan result was compared with that of standard chitosan [22]. The degree of deacetylation was determined.

2.4.3. Other characterization.

Percentage moisture content[23]. Ash value [24], % Water Binding Capacity (WBC), and % Fat Binding Capacity (FBC) of chitosan [25] was also performed.

2.5. Applications of chitosan.

2.5.1. Antibacterial activity against wound pathogens.

Chitosan dissolved in 1 % of acetic acid and used for further studies [26]. Wound isolates (Gram-negative isolates - *Escherichia coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, *P. aeruginosa*, and Gram-positive isolate - *Staphylococcus aureus*) were used in this study. The agar well diffusion method was adopted for the antibacterial assay [27]. Minimal inhibitory concentration and Minimum Bacterial Count (MBC) values of chitosan against the test pathogens were performed [28].

2.5.2. Antifungal activity.

Antifungal activity was studied against plant pathogenic fungi like *Mucor sp.*, *Fusarium sp.*, and *Aspergillus sp.* using mycelial growth inhibition assay as described by Wang *et al.* [29]. Inhibition reaction was obtained by using the following formula:

$$\text{Inhibition ratio (\%)} = \frac{C - E}{C} \times 100$$

Where, C = Growth of pathogen in the control plate (mm) and E = Growth of pathogen in experimental plates (mm)

2.5.3. Preservative activity against grape juice.

Grapefruits were bought from a local market, washed with tap water, and made into juice using a blender, filtered using a sieve, and then stored at 4 °C for the study. Clarification of grape juice was done adding chitosan (1 %, 1.5 %, and 2 % / L of prepared juice). Grape juice samples were flocculated at 35 °C for 30 min, 60 min, and 90 min, then subjected for centrifugation at 6000 rpm for 20 min. Juice obtained was read at 540 nm [30]. Quality was assessed at regular intervals by analyzing its pH, Microbiological examination [31] for a total count of bacteria and mold count at regular intervals.

2.5.4. Algicidal activity.

The algicidal activities of the chitosan were investigated by inoculating 99 ml of representative exponentially growing *Chlorella sp.* culture with 1 ml of the chitosan solution (1 %, 1.5 %, and 2 % w/v in 1 % acetic acid). In control, 1 ml of 1 % acetic acid was used [32].

2.5.5. Seed treatment experiment of chitosan.

A 2 %, 1.5 % and 1 % chitosan solution was prepared in 1 % acetic acid, after absolute mixing, the pH was made to 7 using 12 % NaOH. Two groups were used (each with 150 paddy seeds). Control (received no treatment – but dipped in 1 % acetic acid for 12 h) and tests were coated with different concentrations of chitosan (2 %, 1.5 %, and 1 %) by soaking the seed in

a respective solution for 12 h. They were dried at room temperature for 24 h, which enhances the coating of chitosan [33]. Germination was determined as detailed in ISTA [34]. 50 seed/dish was introduced and incubated under controlled conditions with a photoperiod of 12 h and 85 % relative humidity). Germination percentage (GP) was explored after 7th day [35].

2.5.6. Preparation of chitosan films.

50 mL of 1 % and 2 % (w/v) chitosan was mixed with 50 mL of 10 % polyvinyl alcohol solution respectively and heated at 100 °C with constant stirring to get a homogenous mixture. To this mixture, 10.55 ml of glutaraldehyde reagent was added, stirred slowly for 14 h, care was given to stop the formation of air bubbles while casting, it was allowed for drying at room temperature for 84 h [36].

2.5.7. Antimicrobial activity of chitosan films.

Agar diffusion method was followed to study antibacterial activity against *Salmonella sp.*, *Escherichia coli* on Mueller Hinton agar [37] and the chitosan films (1 cm) of 1 % and 2 % were placed on the surface of the plates, and plain films that lack chitosan were prepared and used as control. The plates were incubated for 37 °C for 24 h. After incubation, the zone of inhibition was measured on the basis of the average diameter of the clear area. Likewise, the antifungal property of chitosan films was determined by swabbing spore of fungi - *Aspergillus sp.* on Rose Bengal agar plates.

2.5.8. Chitosan films as wrappers for extending the shelf life of food.

Six fresh tomatoes were taken, washed in running tap water, and dried room temperature to make sure no moisture on the skin. One set (3 tomatoes) and another 3 tomatoes (experimental set) were covered by chitosan film (2%) and kept at room temperature for one week [38].

2.5.9. Production of chitosan microparticle.

Chitosan microparticles were prepared [1] with slight modifications where 2% (w/v) chitosan in 1 % (v/v) acetic acid solution was used and no carboxymethyl cellulose was used, and 25 mL of 1 % Tripolyphosphate (TPP) solution was added dropwise to 25 mL of 2 % chitosan solution. It was subjected to sonication and then centrifuged, the pellet was washed thrice with distilled water and lyophilized. Lyophilized chitosan microparticles were observed under a scanning electron microscope (XL 30 series, Jeol Tokyo, Japan) [39].

2.5.10. Antifungal activity of chitosan microparticle.

Agar plug of 5 mm plant pathogen *Fusarium sp.*, *Aspergillus sp.*, and *Mucor sp.* were placed on one end of the Rose Bengal agar plates. Agar well of 5 mm was punched with the help of a sterile gel puncher. Then 20 µl of 2 % chitosan nanoparticles were loaded into the well and incubated for 72 - 84 h.

3. Results and Discussion

In the present work, a creamy white form of chitosan was obtained from the deacetylation of shrimp shell derived chitin. Source of commercial chitosan are shrimp, crab,

lobster, and fungi chitin in different countries [40, 41, 1]. Chitosan yield from chitin was 45.2%, moisture content 1.5 %, ash content was 1.21 %. Water binding capacity (WBC) and fat binding capacity (FBC) were 601.11 % and 441.07%, respectively (Table 1). The yield and moisture content were similar to an earlier report earlier [42, 43]. The moisture content of chitosan powder was well below the prescribed limit of 10 % by KFDA (1995)[44]. In the present work, the ash content of chitosan was 1.21%. This was substantiated by 1.18% for commercial chitosan [29]. Chitosan samples had low ash content (1.20%), evidence of effective demineralization [45].

Table 1. Physio-chemical and functional properties of chitosan.

Chitosan Yield (%)	Moisture (%)	Ash Content (%)	Solubility in 1% Acetic Acid	FBC (%)	WBC (%)
45.2	1.5	1.21	Soluble	441.07	601.11

83.23%. of the degree of deacetylation (DD) of chitosan was achieved. DD depends on chemicals of choice for preparation and normally ranges between 30% and 95% [46]. Puvvada *et al.*[41] reported 85 % of the degree of deacetylation in chitosan extracted from exoskeleton of *Triopslongi caudatus* and *Triopscan criformis* specimens. In the present study, the FT-IR spectrum for standard chitosan was compared [42]. Increased degree of deacetylation was seen as the band 1655 cm^{-1} ($>\text{C}=\text{O}$) showed a change, where there was a shift between 1500 and 1750 cm^{-1} , and a notable shape difference was observed between 3000 and 3500 cm^{-1} bands too. 1026 cm^{-1} of pure chitosan represents $-\text{NH}_2$ of glucosamine's C2 position. For $-\text{NH}_2$, a peak was seen at 1018.41 cm^{-1} (Figure 1). 1377 cm^{-1} was representing $-\text{C}-\text{O}$ stretching of a primary alcoholic group ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{OH}$). Absorbance bands observed at 3363.56 , 2883.58 , 1562.34 , 1377.38 , 1018.41 , indicated the $\text{N}-\text{H}$ stretching, CH stretching, amide II stretching, asymmetric CH_2 stretching and $\text{C}=\text{O}$ stretching respectively for the extracted chitosan (Figure 1) [42]. A larger peak at 1552 cm^{-1} was suggesting the deacetylation because deacetylation tends to decrease band at 1652 cm^{-1} [47].

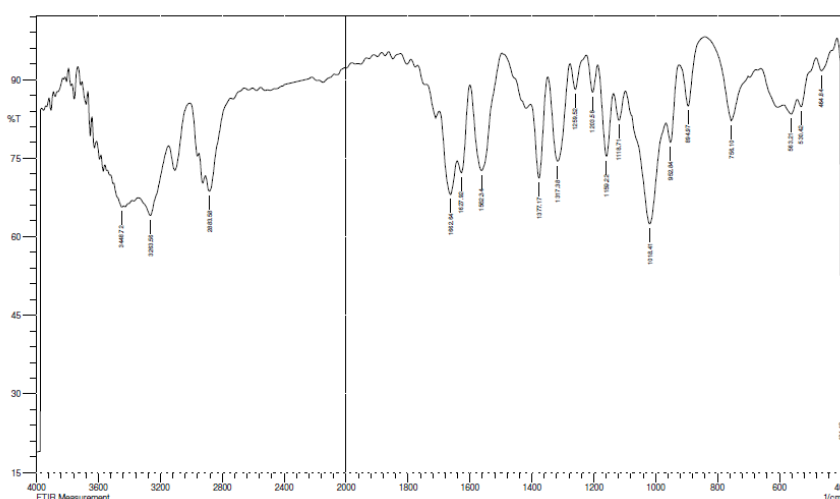


Figure 1. The FT-IR report of the chitosan extracted from the shrimp shell.

NMR spectroscopy was done to determine the degree of deacetylation [48]. Degrees of deacetylation was found to be seen as the DD signal from the methyl group, and hydrogen H-1 GlcNAc decreases because of the molar content of N-acetylglucosamine in chitosan molecule goes down. The obtained spectra were used to confirm the successful modification of Cys on the main chain of chitosan. ^1H -NMR spectra of extracted chitosan showed acetyl protons at δ 1.6 ppm. The spectra of chitosan tend to exhibit acetyl protons at δ 2.1 ppm where they resonate

at δ 3.2 ppm is because of H-2 internal deacetylation [48]. H3-6 (ring) and H-2 (acetylated units) showed at δ 3.5 and 4.1 ppm, respectively (Figure 2), which is on par with standard chitosan [48]. H-1 of deacetylated units and OH resonate similarly to an earlier report (Figure 2) [48]. NMR analysis also confirmed the 83.23 % deacetylation (Figure 2).

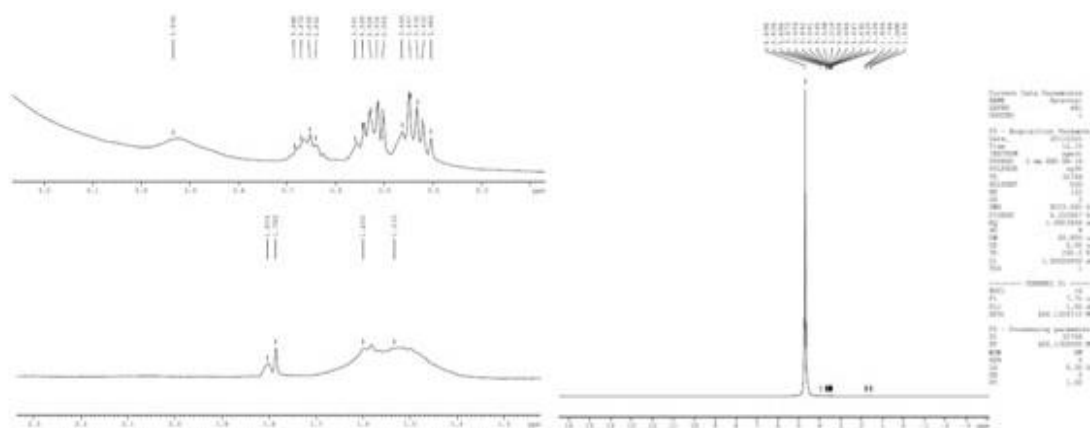


Figure 2. ¹H NMR spectra of chitosan extracted from shrimp shell chitin.

This study revealed that chitosan preparations of different concentrations have excellent enhancement of antibacterial activity against four strains (*E. coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, and *Staphylococcus aureus*) (Figure 3). Similarly, microorganisms' growth is inhibited by 1 % chitosan and 0.0075%, respectively [49,50]. In the current work, chitosan of 70 μ g and 80 μ g concentrations were shown to be a potent antibacterial agent against selected bacterial pathogens. This might be the polycationic nature of chitosan, which can easily bind to a negatively charged bacterial cell wall and creates impact.

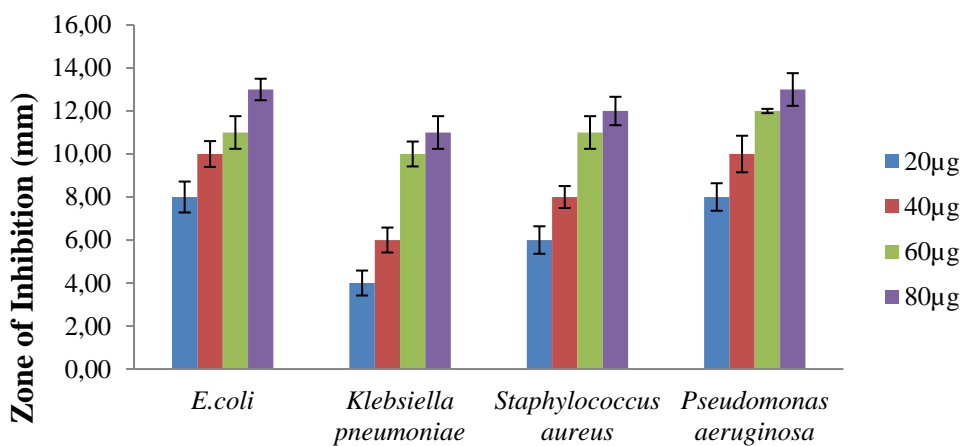


Figure 3. Antibacterial activity of chitosan against wound pathogens - Agar Well Diffusion Method.

Table 2. Minimal inhibitory concentration of chitosan.

S. No.	Concentration of chitosan (μ g)	Wound pathogens (OD Values)			
		<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>
1	Control	0.5 \pm 0.10	0.8 \pm 0.06	0.6 \pm 0.05	0.6 \pm 0.10
2	30	0.37 \pm 0.06	0.60 \pm 0.10	0.43 \pm 0.06	0.40 \pm 0.10
3	40	0.28 \pm 0.03	0.47 \pm 0.06	0.36 \pm 0.05	0.33 \pm 0.06
4	50	0.23 \pm 0.06	0.40 \pm 0.10	0.26 \pm 0.05	0.33 \pm 0.15
5	60	0.17 \pm 0.06	0.26 \pm 0.05	0.13 \pm 0.06	0.16 \pm 0.05
6	70	0.08 \pm 0.02	0.17 \pm 0.12	0.07 \pm 0.05	0.08 \pm 0.01
7	80	0.01 \pm 0.01	0.02 \pm 0.12	0.04 \pm 0.02	0.01 \pm 0.01

The minimal inhibitory concentration of chitosan was determined by the colorimetric method. After incubation, the optical density was measured. The 70 µg of chitosan showed decreased OD value in all selected pathogens that indicated the reduction of bacterial growth. Among the 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, and 80 µg concentration of chitosan, the minimal inhibitory concentration of chitosan was 70 µg because of maximal bacterial growth reduction (compared with blank broth) (Table 2).

The minimum bacterial count was the lowest concentration that will inhibit the viable growth of microorganisms. 75 µg of chitosan reduced all bacterial pathogens growth (tested) in the Nutrient agar plate (Table 3).

Table 3. Minimum Bacterial Count (MBC) using counting of surviving cells on the agar plate.

Microorganisms	Concentration of chitosan (µg/ml)					
	60	65	70	75	80	85
<i>E. coli</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Klebsiella pneumonia</i>	+++	+	-	-	-	-
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	+++	++	+	-	-	-
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	++	+	-	-	-	-

+ Indicate the presence of bacterial growth; - Indicate the absence of bacterial growth.

2 % chitosan was shown to be a fungicide against the fungal pathogen - *Fusarium* sp., *Aspergillus* sp., and *Mucor* sp., (Table 4). Antimicrobial properties of chitosan can be applied to protect plants from plant pathogens [51]. Chitosan has the tendency to permeabilize the plasma membrane of fungi and leaks out protein, which was studied more pathogenic fungi [52].

Table 4. Antifungal activity of chitosan.

Concentration of chitosan (%)	Fungal pathogens	Inhibition ratio (%)
0.5	<i>Fusarium sp.</i>	46.1
	<i>Mucor sp.</i>	12.5
	<i>Aspergillus sp.</i>	41.5
1	<i>Fusarium sp.</i>	52.3
	<i>Mucor sp.</i>	35
	<i>Aspergillus sp.</i>	50.8
1.5	<i>Fusarium sp.</i>	72.3
	<i>Mucor sp.</i>	40
	<i>Aspergillus sp.</i>	69.2
2	<i>Fusarium sp.</i>	92.3
	<i>Mucor sp.</i>	75
	<i>Aspergillus sp.</i>	76.9

Table 5. Effect of clarifying agents on the turbidity of grape juice.

Time (Minutes)	Control	Chitosan concentration Optical Density (540 nm)		
		1%	1.5%	2%
30	1.45	1.20	0.89	0.91
60	1.45	1.04	0.61	0.62
90	1.45	0.91	0.49	0.50

The effect on grape juice is illustrated in Table 5. A fall in the turbidity of the grape juices was noted after the addition of chitosan added juice (Figure 4b). After 30 minutes of the addition of a 1% chitosan solution, grape juice showed a turbidity value of 1.2, followed by 1.04 after 60 minutes and 0.91 after 90 minutes. Similarly, after 30 minutes of addition of 1.5% chitosan solution to grape juice, a turbidity value of 0.89 was noticed, followed by 0.61 after 60 minutes and 0.49 after 90 minutes. After 30 minutes of the addition of 2% chitosan solution to grape juice, a turbidity value of 0.91 was noticed, followed by 0.62 after 60 min and 0.50 after 90 min. The OD values (0.91, 0.62, 0.50) after 30, 60, 90 min for a 2 % concentration of

chitosan showed increased luminosity with increasing time duration. The results indicated the effective clarification effect on grape juices by chitosan in the concentrations of 2 %.

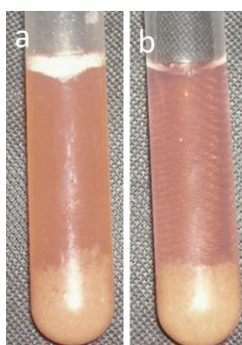


Figure 4. Effect of chitosan on grape juice a) control b) chitosan treated.

The effect on the pH of grape juice is seen in Figure 5. The pH was greatly altered by the addition of chitosan during the storage time. The pH was increasing towards acidity significantly concentration increases where the initial value was 3.28. After 14 days, 2 % chitosan concentration showed a pH value of up to 4.5. After 21 days, 2 % chitosan resulted in a relatively high pH value of 4.8. In 1.5 % chitosan concentration, pH values of 3.9, 4.3, 4.5 were observed after 7, 14, 21 days. In 1 % chitosan concentration, pH values of 3.3, 3.9, 4.1 were recorded after 7, 14, 21 days, respectively. The pH increase is reported as the concentration of chitosan increases where the pH reaches to 3.71 in apple juice [53]. Chitosan has been reported to be a good clarifier of various juices [54].

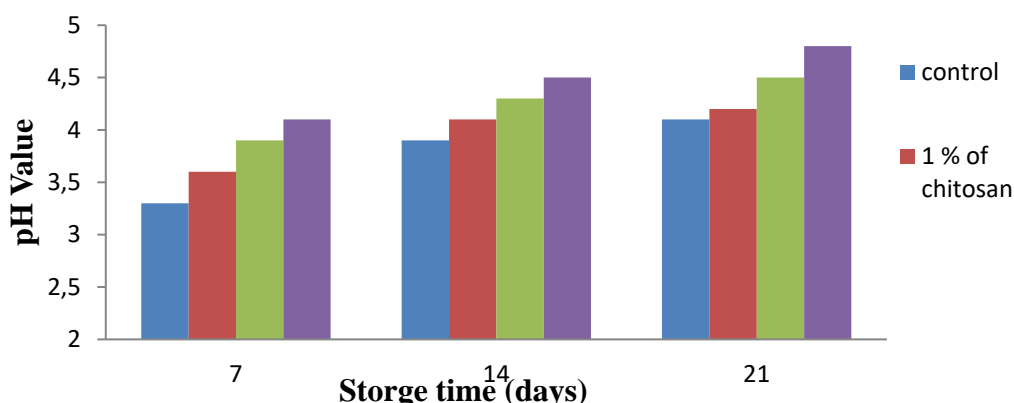


Figure 5. Effect of chitosan on pH of grape juice at different times.

Total count of microbes, i.e., both the bacteria and yeast, were reduced during storage of juice at 4 °C for 21 days (Table 6). Much inhibition exhibited by 2 % chitosan. Antimicrobial activity and clarification effect of 2% chitosan could be used as an excellent fruit juice preservative. Chitosan showed a good preservative effect in juices [53], where it may absorb nutrients of bacteria and make it unavailable [55].

Table 6. Change of microbial count of grape juice with added chitosan during storage at 4 °C for 21 days.

Microorganisms	Storage days	Control (CFU/ml)	Chitosan concentration (CFU/ml)		
			1%	1.5%	2%
Total bacteria	0	4×10^2	2.5×10^2	1×10^2	5.6×10^1
	5	31×10^3	50×10^2	14×10^2	3×10^2
	10	42×10^5	40×10^3	30×10^2	2×10^2
	15	52×10^6	42×10^5	24×10^4	9×10^2
	20	59×10^8	38×10^7	22×10^5	1.4×10^3
Yeast	0	30×10^1	0.4×10^2	0.3×10^2	0.1×10^1

Microorganisms	Storage days	Control (CFU/ml)	Chitosan concentration (CFU/ml)		
			1%	1.5%	2%
	5	2.9×10 ⁴	5.6×10 ²	3.3×10 ²	1.0×10 ²
	10	42×10 ⁶	38×10 ³	24×10 ²	4.0×10 ²
	15	35×10 ⁷	40×10 ⁴	29×10 ³	1.5×10 ³
	20	38×10 ⁸	44×10 ⁵	15×10 ⁴	10×10 ³

The 1 %, 1.5 %, and 2 % of chitosan treated algal cells were counted microscopically after 12h, 24h, 48h, and 72h of incubation (Table 7). After 72 h, 96.5 % algal cell lysis was observed in the 2 % chitosan treated sample (Figure 6 b). In a 1.5 % chitosan treated sample, 94 % algicidal activity was noted. In a 1% chitosan treated sample, 84 % algicidal activity was observed. These results showed that the 2% chitosan solution to have an inhibitory action on algal growth. Chitosan at 2 % concentration was shown to have high algicidal activity. The result was supported by Cuero and Lillehoj [56], who have shown that chitosan could prevent algae by increased aggregation.

After incubation, 2 % chitosan treated seeds showed 90 % germination, and that of 1.5 %, 1 % chitosan inoculated seeds showed 83.3 % and 63.3 % germination after 7 days of sowing, and in control, only 56.6 % germination was observed. The germination capacity of 2 % chitosan treated seeds was found to be 62.8 % higher than the control seeds. 2% chitosan promoted higher germination percentage than other chitosan concentrations (1% and 1.5%) (Table 8). Peanut with chitosan showed an increase in germination percentage [57] and also improved wheat seedlings [58].

Table 7. Algicidal activity of chitosan.

Concentration of chitosan (%)	Time (hrs)	Algicidal activity (%)
1	12	31.4
	24	42.85
	48	63.4
	72	94
1.5	12	38.2
	24	52
	48	68.6
	72	84.7
2	12	50.9
	24	63.4
	48	81.4
	72	96.5

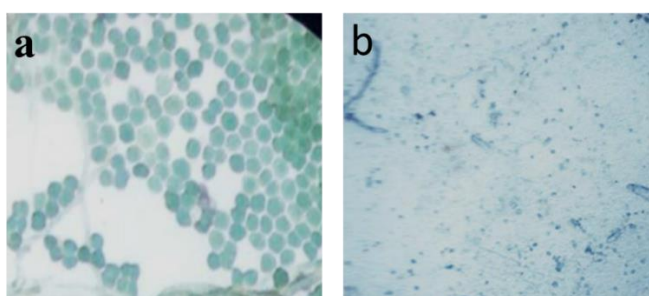


Figure 6. Microscopic observation of the algicidal activity of chitosan against *Chlorella* sp (magnification at 45x) a) untreated and b) treated with 2% chitosan

Table 8. Effect of concentration of chitosan on seed germination

S.No	Concentration of chitosan (%)	Germination (%)	Control (%)
1	2	90	56.6
2	1.5	83.3	56.6
3	1	63.3	56.6

Figure 7 shows a prepared chitosan film. These films had inhibitory activity against *Salmonella* sp and *Escherichia coli* after 24 h of incubation. Both the 1 % and 2 % chitosan film showed maximal inhibition against *Salmonella* sp. organism, followed by *Escherichia coli* (Table 9).

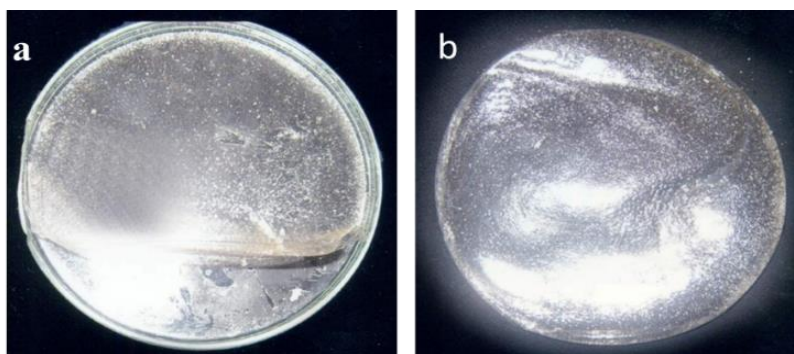


Figure 7. Chitosan film a) made using 1 % b) chitosan film 2 %

In order to check the antifungal activity of chitosan film, fungal pathogen *Aspergillus* sp. was used in the present study. Antifungal activity of chitosan film showed 10 mm inhibition in 1% concentration of chitosan film against *Aspergillus* sp. 2% of chitosan film showed a 30 mm zone of inhibition against *Aspergillus* sp. There was no inhibition observed in the control film without chitosan (Table 9). The results showed that 2% of chitosan film has effectively inhibited the growth of the fungal pathogen. So, it could be used as an excellent wrapping material for food products or vegetables and fruits.

Table 9. Antimicrobial activity of chitosan film

Chitosan film	Microorganisms	Zone of inhibition (mm)
1%	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	5
	<i>Salmonella</i> sp.	6
	<i>Aspergillus</i> sp.	10
2%	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	7
	<i>Salmonella</i> sp.	9
	<i>Aspergillus</i> sp.	30

Chitosan film extended the shelf life of tomato. After 7 days of incubation, the chitosan wrapped tomatoes showed no signs of spoilage symptoms (Figure 8 a- d). But, the control fruit showed fungal infection symptoms and shrinkage, indicating fruit spoilage. The experimental set, which was wrapped in chitosan film, was unaffected and looked fresh without any sign of spoilage even after seven days (Table 10). The application of chitosan was experimentally proven through the maintenance of vegetable quality and extended shelf life of tomato.

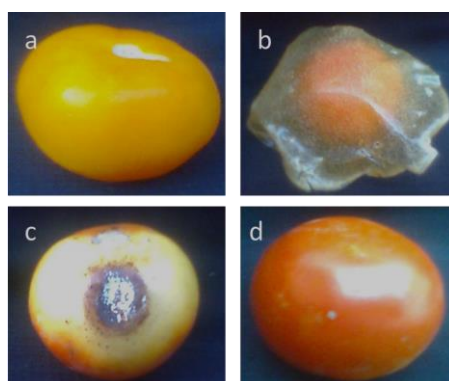


Figure 8. Chitosan films as wrappers a) unwrapped tomato (day 0) b) wrapped tomato (day 0) c) unwrapped tomato (day 7) d) wrapped tomato (day 7).

Table 10. Tomato preservation with chitosan film.

S. No.	Sample	Days of storage		
		2	4	7
1	Control	Started to ripe	Ripe and skin shrinkage	Symptoms of rotting
2	Chitosan film wrapped	Unchanged	Unchanged	Unchanged

Chitosan microparticles of size around 100 μm with a smooth surface (Figure 9) were made using Tripolyphosphate (TPP). A similar result was obtained [1, 45] and reported non-smooth surfaced chitosan nanoparticles. There are reports where BaCl_2 induced chitosan to form nanoparticle, and it was used for drug delivery, SPIONs coating for heavy metal removal, and drug carrier [59 – 63]. Antifungal activity was observed against three fungal pathogens used in this study. The antifungal activity in 20 μl of 2 % chitosan nanoparticles against *Fusarium* sp. was 81.3 %, *Aspergillus* sp. was 89.2 % and that against *Mucor* sp. was 78.6 % (Figure 10). Chitosan-based nanofibers loaded with herbal extract have been developed as wound dressing materials, which would be an effective one [64]. Cinnamaldehyde loaded chitosan nanoparticles are also produced, and it was exhibiting good antimicrobial activity [65]. Even more, these chitosan have applications in dye removal too [66].

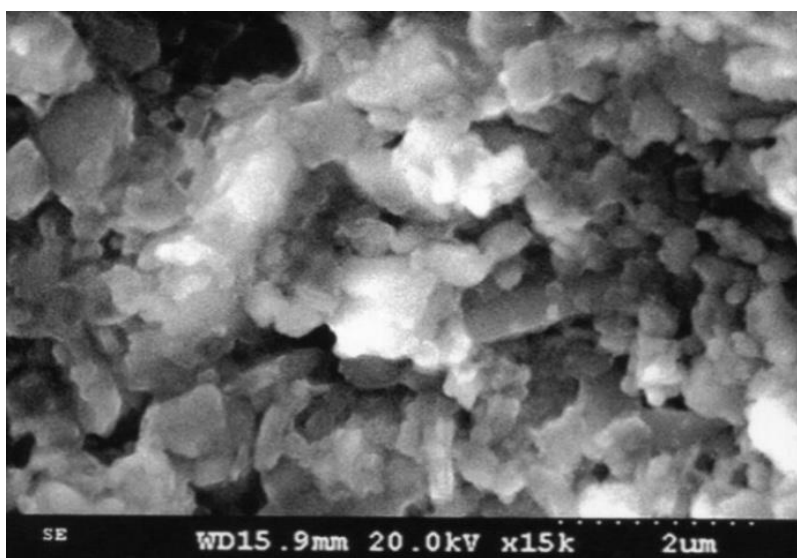


Figure 9. Scanning electron microscopy analysis chitosan microparticle.

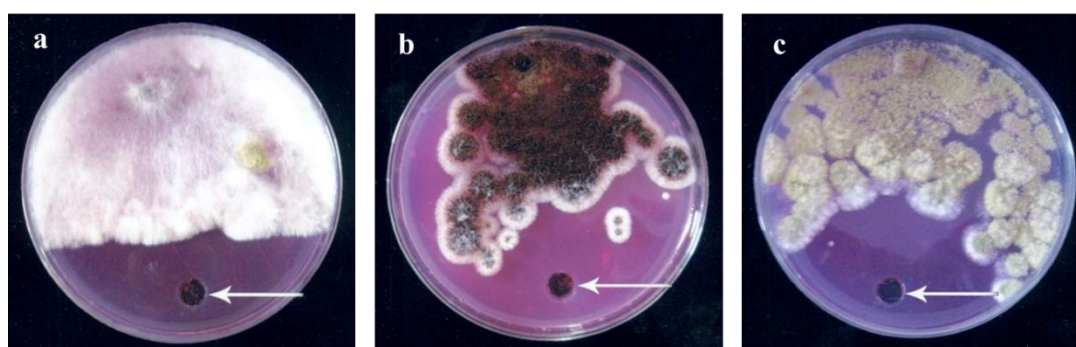


Figure 10. Antifungal activity of chitosan microparticle (white arrow denotes the well added with nanoparticle)
a) *Fusarium* sp b) *Mucor* sp c) *Aspergillus* sp.

4. Conclusion

In this study, chitosan was obtained from the chitin of shrimp waste, and the yield of chitosan was 45.2%. The degree of deacetylation (DD) was 83.23%. The obtained chitosan was found to be effective against wound pathogens and also phytopathogenic fungi. It was showing

a good preservative activity in grape juice. The chitosan film showed inhibitory activity against *Salmonella* and *Escherichia coli*. 2% of chitosan film has effectively inhibited the growth of the fungal pathogen. Chitosan film was having a good moisture effect and helped in seed germination. It was also extended the shelf life of tomato at room temperature. Chitosan was able to form microparticles around 100 µm, and it had antifungal activity.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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