



Faculty of Science



# Impact of microbial biodiversity on the quality of Danish cheeses

Lene Jespersen, Professor

Department of Food Science, Food Microbiology

University of Copenhagen

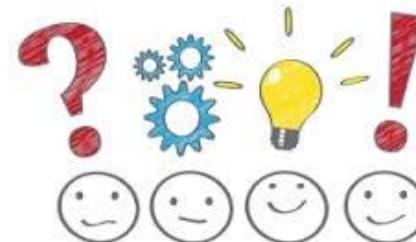
lj@food.ku.dk

Mejeriforskningens dag, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017, Billund

# Content



- Microbial diversity at the dairy level
- Origin of microorganisms
- Isolation and identification of the cheese microbiota (the hidden identities)
- Matrix interactions, small-talk and technological properties
- Conclusion
- Questions for the audients



# Why study microbial biodiversity at the dairy level?



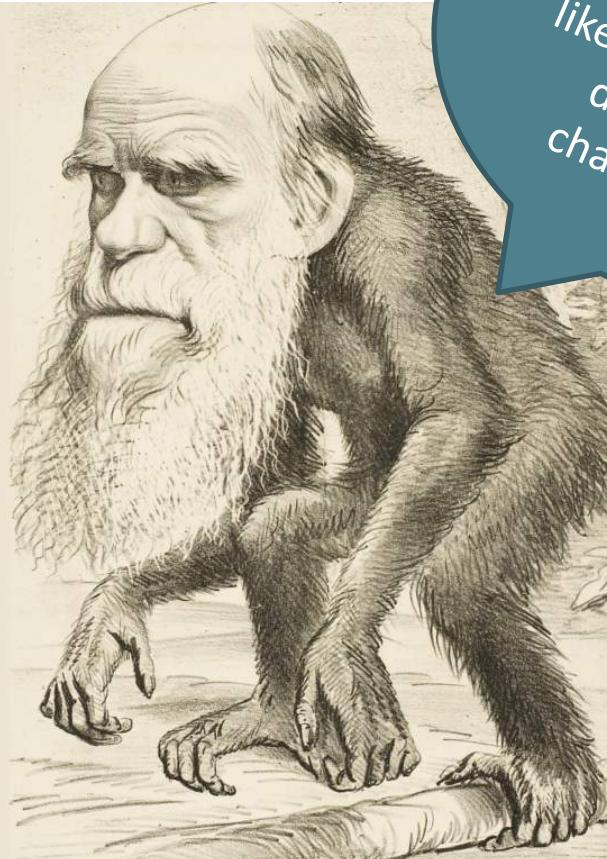
- Performance of the microbial cultures gives the quality of the cheeses
- Increased biodiversity can lead to increased diversity (new brands)
- Optimised microorganisms result in lean production, standardised quality and less waste
- The technological conditions at the dairy significantly influence the microorganisms (establishment and performance)
- Microorganisms influence each other through a number of interactions (competition for nutrients, production of inhibitory compounds, "small talk" etc.)
- "The bad guys will be outcompeted by the good ones" (enhanced food safety)



# Microbial diversity

It is not the strongest of the species that survive, but the one most responsive to change.

-CHARLES DARWIN



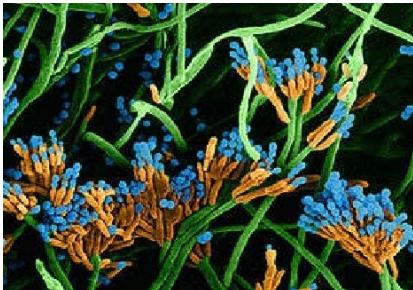
If the production change – most likely the microbial diversity will change as well



# Origin of microorganisms in dairy products



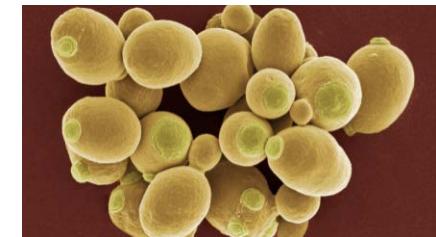
- Raw milk (raw-milk cheeses)
- Starter cultures (DL-starters and adjunct cultures)
- Brine/NaCl
- Equipment and processing environments, biofilms
- Back-slopping – reinoculation
- Ingredients, herbs etc.



*Penicillium roqueforti/Penicillium camemberti/Penicillium commune* a.o.



*Lactococcus lactis/Streptococcus thermophilus/Leuconostoc mesenteroides/Brevibacterium spp./Corynebacterium spp.* a.o.

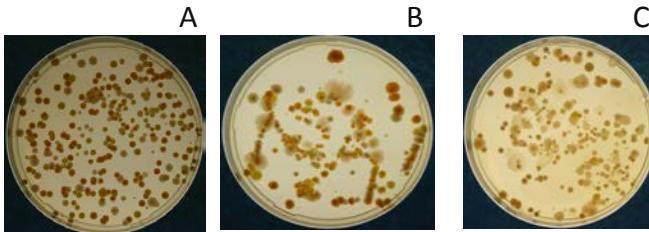


*Debaryomyces hansenii/Saccharomyces cerevisiae/Yarrowia lipolytica/Galactomyces geotrichum* a.o.

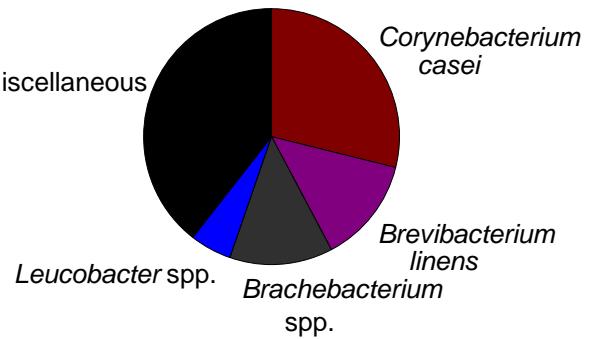
# Isolation of bacteria at cheese surfaces

Danish farm house cheeses

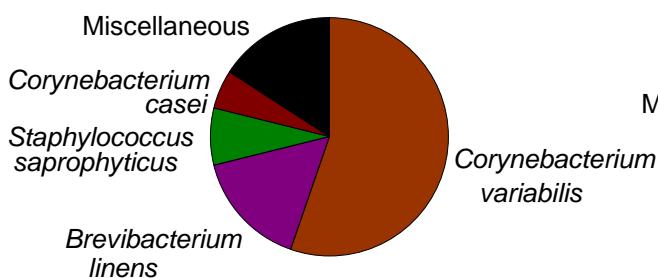
TSA (3.5% (w/v) NaCl)



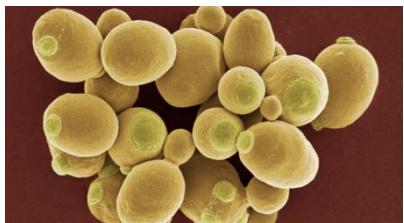
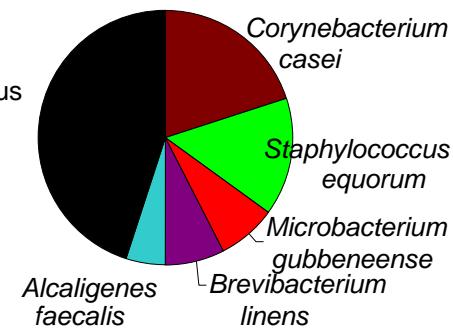
Cheese A



Cheese B



Cheese C



Don't forget the yeasts !



# Untangling the complex ecology of Danish cheeses

Microb Ecol (2013) 65:602–615

DOI 10.1007/s00248-012-0138-3

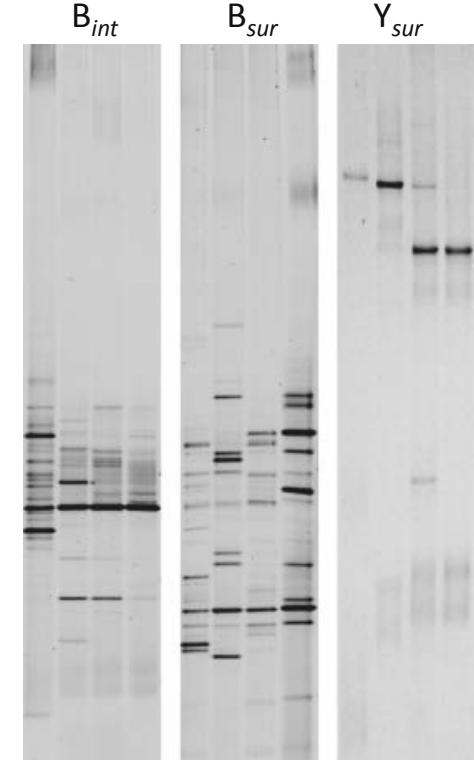
ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY

Isolation and Identification of the Microbiota of Danish Farmhouse and Industrially Produced Surface-Ripened Cheeses

Klaus Gori · Mia Ryssel · Nils Arneborg · Lene Jespersen

- Farm house cheeses had a more complex microbiota compared to more industrially produced cheeses
- Non-culturable halotolerant bacteria might account for up to 20 % of the surface microbiota as identified by culture-independent technologies
- Some species as e.g. *Marinilactibacillus psychrotolerans* are hardly detected by culture dependent technologies

Danish farm house cheeses

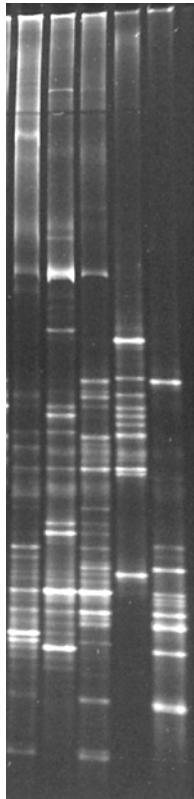


# DNA based identification of microorganisms in the dairy



1 2 3 4 5

## DGGE

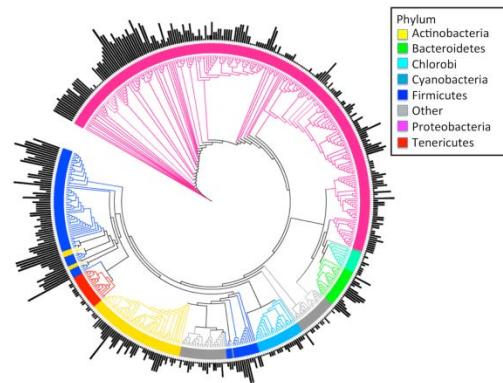


- 1.Cheese A
- 2.Cheese B
- 3.Cheese C
- 4.Standard 1 (lactic acid bacteria)
- 5.Standard 2 (smear bacteria)

← *Staphylococcus equorum* 15097

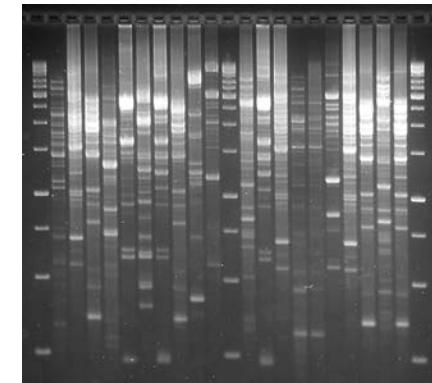
← *Corynebacterium casei* 15097  
*Brevibacterium linens* BL2

## 16S/26S/ITS sequencing



## Rep-PCR

(amplification of repetitive sequences)



illumina®



# Going in-depth with the indigenous microflora of surface-ripened cheeses



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

International Journal of Food Microbiology

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ijfoodmicro](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ijfoodmicro)



## Sequencing the surface microbiota of Danbo cheese

Microbial diversity and dynamics throughout manufacturing and ripening of surface ripened semi-hard Danish Danbo cheeses investigated by culture-independent techniques

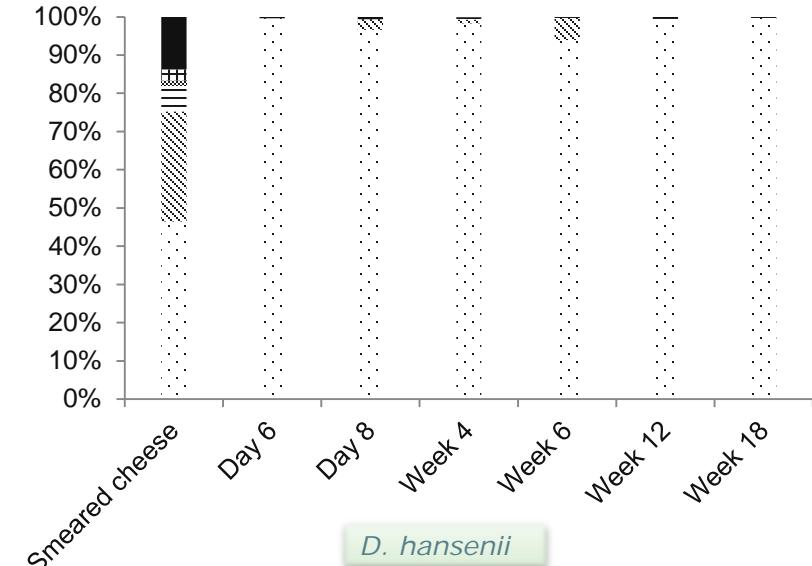


Mia Ryssel <sup>a,1</sup>, Pernille Johansen <sup>a,a,1</sup>, Waleed Abu Al-Soud <sup>b</sup>, Søren Sørensen <sup>b</sup>, Nils Arneborg <sup>a</sup>, Lene Jespersen <sup>a</sup>

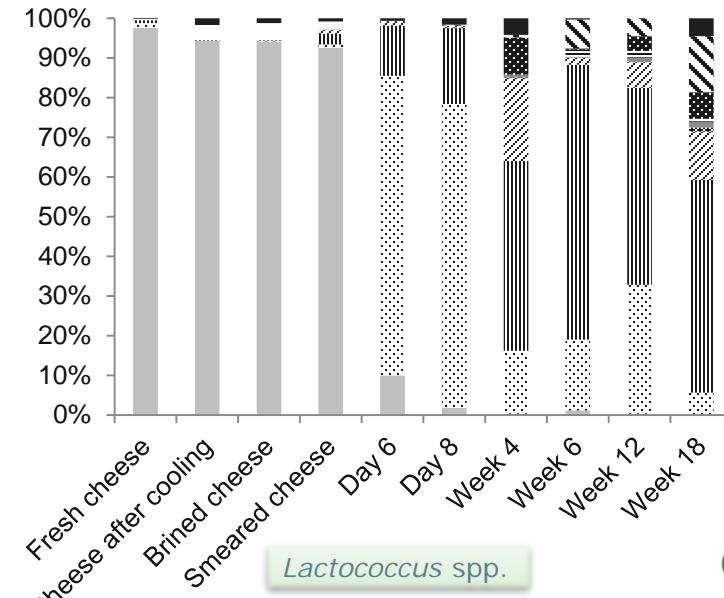
<sup>a</sup> Department of Food Science, University of Copenhagen, Rolighedsvej 26, DK-1958 Frederiksberg C, Denmark

<sup>b</sup> Department of Biology, University of Copenhagen, Universitetsparken 15, DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark

Surface yeasts



Surface bacteria

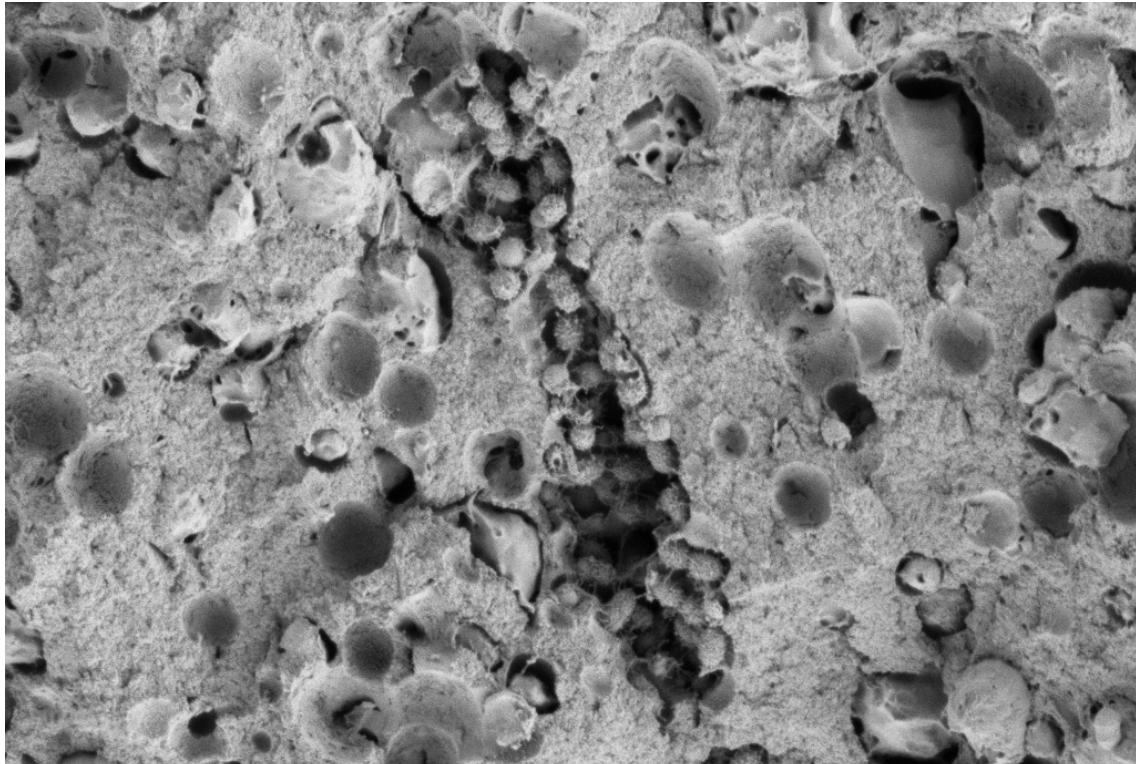


Yeast: *Debaromyces* spp., *Trichosporon* spp., *Candida* spp., *Torulaspora* spp., *Pichia* spp.

Bacteria: *Lactococcus* spp., *Lactobacillales*, *Staphylococcus* spp., *Corynebacterium* spp., *Brevibacterium* spp., *Pseudoclavibacter* spp., *Alkalibacterium* spp., *Marinilactibacillus* spp., *Clostridiisalibacter* spp., *Acinetobacter* sp.



# Understanding the basic mechanisms behind cheese ripening



2 μm

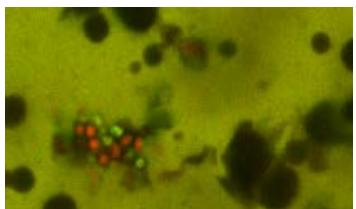
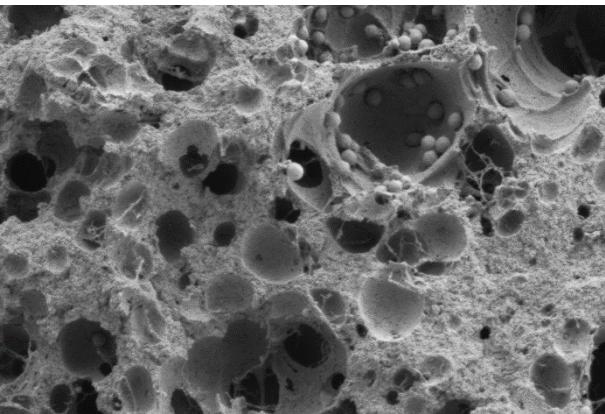
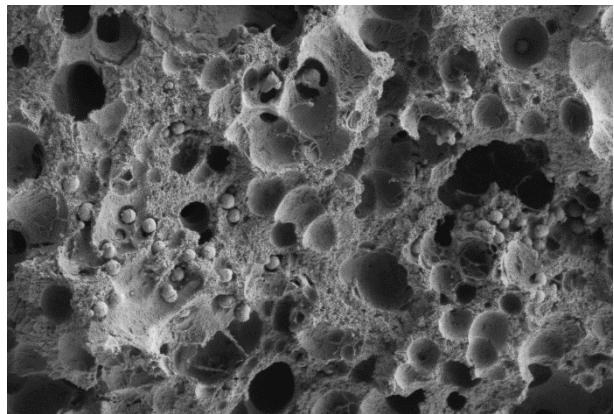
EHT = 3.00 kV  
WD = 6.0 mm

Signal A = SE2  
Date :6 Dec 2012

File Name = 12-039 B Os frac08.tif  
Mag = 10.00 K X



# NaCl content influences growth, death and autolysis of *Lactococcus lactis*



Impact of NaCl reduction in Danish semi-hard Samsoe cheeses on proliferation and autolysis of DL-starter cultures

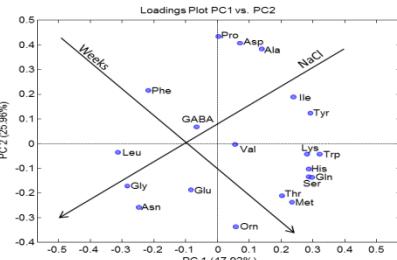
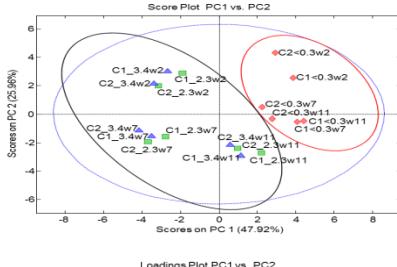
Lise Søndergaard <sup>a,\*</sup>, Mia Ryssel <sup>a</sup>, Carina Svendsen <sup>a</sup>, Erik Høier <sup>b</sup>, Ulf Andersen <sup>c</sup>, Marianne Hammershøj <sup>d</sup>,  
Jean R. Müller <sup>d,1</sup>, Nils Arneborg <sup>a</sup>, Lene Jespersen <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Food Science, Faculty of Science, University of Copenhagen, 1959 Frederiksberg C, Denmark

<sup>b</sup> Chr. Hansen A/S, 2970 Hørsholm, Denmark

<sup>c</sup> Abovian's Innovation Center, Rørdrumsvej 2, 4200 Roskilde, Denmark

<sup>d</sup> Department of Food Science, Aarhus University, Blåkærvej 30, Postbox 50, 8000 Århus C, Denmark



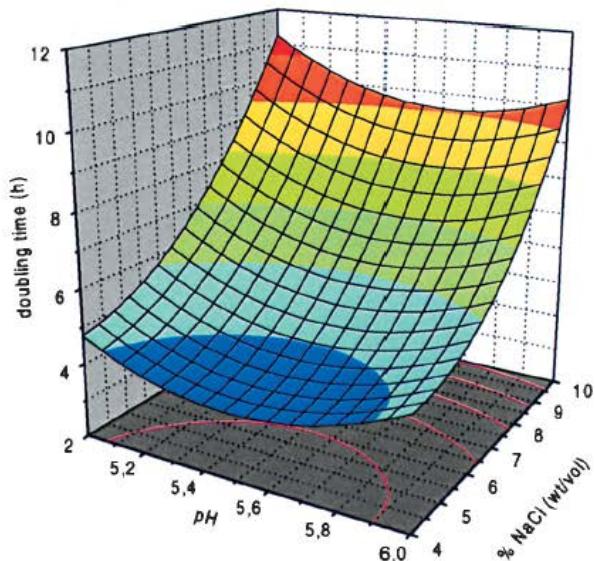
- The cheese NaCl content had a significant culture-dependent influence on proliferation, viability and autolysis of the DL starter cultures
- During ripening, loss of viability and autolysis were most pronounced for bacteria in groups of  $\geq 4$  bacteria (is autolysis under QS control?)

# Strain variation in NaCl tolerance

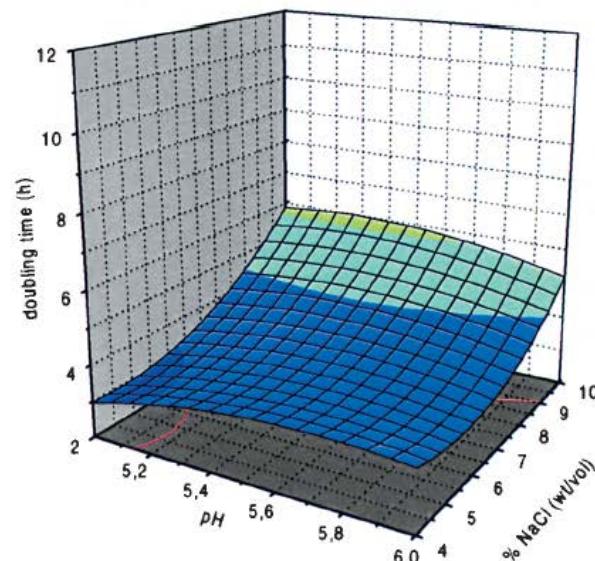
*D. hansenii* strains from surface ripened cheeses



A



B



**Figure 4.** Response surfaces of the doubling time as a function of pH and NaCl concentration analyzed by the use of multiple linear regression. A: Isolate with mtDNA RFLP profile G (starter culture). B: Isolate with mtDNA RFLP profile H (dominant isolate).





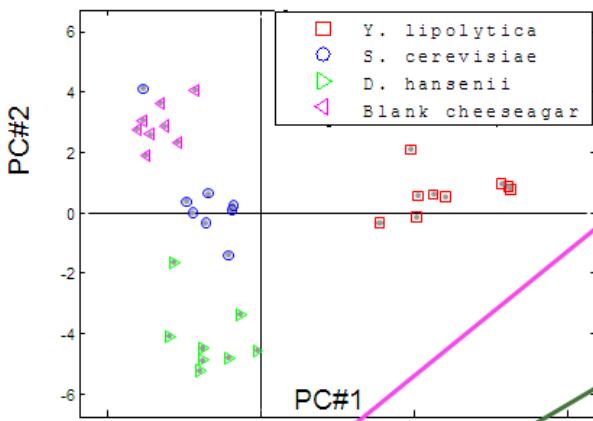
## *Debaryomyces hansenii* strains differ in their production of flavor compounds in a cheese-surface model

Klaus Gørl<sup>1</sup>, Louise Marin Sørensen<sup>1</sup>, Mikael Agerlin Petersen<sup>2</sup>, Lars Jespersen<sup>1</sup> & Niels Arnæborg<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Food Science, Food Microbiology, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Røgsborgvej 30, DK-1956, Frederiksberg C, Denmark

# Cheese flavour might be influenced by yeast species on the cheese surface

Score plot



### Compounds associated with blank cheese agar:

Hexanal, heptanal, octanal, nonanal, benzaldehyde, 1-pentanol, hexanol, 1-octanol, 3-hydroxy-2-butanone

### *S. cerevisiae* ass. compounds:

Esters (ethylacetat, isoamylacetat, ethylpropionat, ethylbutanoat), decanal.

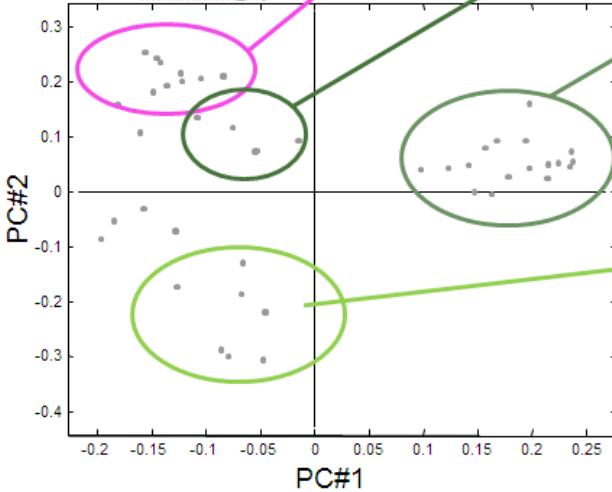
### *Y. lipolytica* ass. compounds:

Sulfides (disulfide, dimethyl, trisulfidedimethyl), furanes (2-pentylfurane, hexylfurane), short-chain ketones (2-propanone, 2-butanone, 2-pentanone, 3-methyl-2-pentanone), alkanes, benzenes and limonene.

### *D. hansenii* ass. compounds:

Branched chain aldehydes (2-methylpropanal, 2-methylbutanal, 3-methylbutanal), branch-chain alcohols (2-methyl-1-propanol, 2-methylbutanol, 3-methylbutan-1-ol, 3-methyl-3-buten-1-ol)

Loading plot



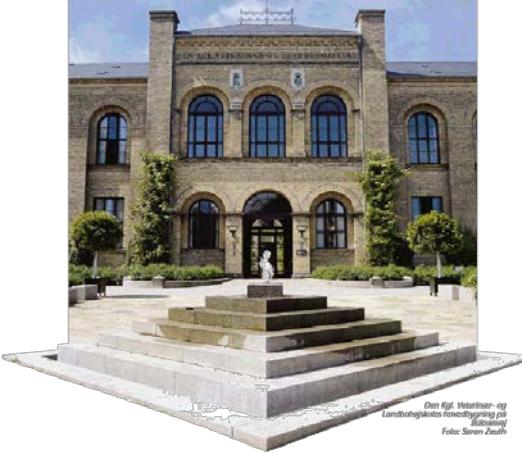
# Conclusion



- ✓ The microbial biodiversity at the dairies is huge – larger than you imagine!
- ✓ Understanding microbial ecology is of outmost importance for production of delicious and safe dairy products of consistent quality
- ✓ Microbial biodiversity gives the magic touch – identification to species and strain level is important
- ✓ Performance can vary significantly – usually the fittest wins the battle!
- ✓ Understanding microbial establishment and communication at the single cell level can improve quality and be a sustainable way to conquer spoilage and pathogenic microorganisms



# Thank you for your attention ....



Rolighedsvej 26, 4. sal – lj@food.ku.dk



# Diskussionsoplæg



- Er der behov for øget viden om mejeriprodukters mikrobiologi? Hvis ja – hvad mangler vi viden om?
- Kan produktionsforholdene på mejeriet styres, så man i øget grad sikrer fremvækst af ønskede mikroorganismer/kulturer?
- Hvordan kan forholdene på mejeriet optimeres, så den mikrobielle diversitet bliver optimal?
- Har mikroorganismer i f.eks. saltlagen betydning for produktkvalitet?

