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## Abstract

Cereal grain is a major component of food and feed in large parts of the world. The microbial flora on cereal grains may interfere with hygiene and storage stability, palatability and bioavailability of minerals and proteins may depend on the composition of the microbial population. Therefore, it is of primary interest to control the microbial species present on cereal grain. Inoculation of the biocontrol yeast *Pichia anomala* to cereal feed grain improved feed hygiene by reduction of moulds and *Enterobacteriaceae*, and enhanced the nutritional value by increasing the protein content and reducing the concentration of the antinutritional compound phytate. *P. anomala* strains showed a high phytase activity, for some strains also considerable extracellular phytase activity was observed. A certain maximum in biomass concentration was never exceeded indicating cell density induced growth inhibition of *P. anomala*.

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