

# Production and characterization of exopolysaccharide from marine *Bacillus* sp. MSHN2016 with studying its effect on isoniazid/rifampicin-induced hepatic and renal toxicities in rats

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## ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received on: 24/04/2018

Accepted on: 05/07/2018

Available online: 31/08/2018

## Key words:

Exopolysaccharide, *Bacillus* sp., isoniazid/rifampicin, hepatic and renal toxicity.

## ABSTRACT

Exopolysaccharides (EPSs) are bioactive natural products used in different applications. A preliminary chemical analysis of EPSMSHN indicated that the monosaccharides were arabinose, xylose, glucose and glucuronic acid with a relative ratio of 1: 1: 2: 1, respectively, with a weight average molecular weight ( $M_w$ ) of  $5.50 \times 10^5$  g/mol and a number average molecular weight ( $M_n$ ) of  $3.45 \times 10^5$  g/mol. INH/RIF deteriorated hepatic and renal functions through decreased hepatic and renal GSH and increasing MDA contents that associated with hepatocellular apoptosis as well as degeneration and fibrosis in many tubules. The treatment with EPSMSHN at different doses (50 and 100 mg/kg) corrected all previously mentioned INH/RFP-induced changes. In conclusion, EPSMSHN at both doses protected from the hepatic and renal toxicity induced by INH/RFP through its antioxidant and antifibrotic influence.

## INTRODUCTION

One of the reasons of 50% of the cases of acute liver failure is drug-induced hepatic toxicity which mimics all forms of liver disease (Kaplowitz, 2001). Distinctive sorts of pills, for example, acetaminophen, chloroquine also isoniazid are inducers for that hepatotoxicity over the globe. Isoniazid moreover rifampicin, the initial drugs utilized for tuberculosis help, are connected with hepatotoxicity (Kaplowitz, 2004). Those rate of hepatotoxicity needs to be been appeared to being substantially higher for creating nations such as India (8–30%) contrasted with that for propelled nations (Sharma, 2004). Toxic liver injury happens in greatest amount comparing with the other organs, because the liver is a presentable organ for absorbed substances

and their metabolism and disposal (Kaplowitz, 2001). A major mechanism evolved in INH and RFP-induced hepatic toxicity is endogenous lipids peroxidation. This mechanism is may be because of the creation of the exceedingly reactive oxygen species (ROS) provokes the destruction of the cell membrane (Sharma, 2004). Many different mechanisms cause hepatorenal toxicity, including cellular membrane disruption and cell death and creation of new adducts from binding between cell proteins and the drug resulting in an immunologic reaction (Robin *et al.*, 1997). Other reasons included as drug metabolism interruption (Yun *et al.*, 1993), actin filaments disruption leading to abnormal bile flow and cholestasis and jaundice (Trauner *et al.*, 1998), induction of pathways of Fas and tumor necrosis factor (TNF) (Reed, 2001), also ROS accumulation due to inhibition of mitochondrial dysfunction (Pessayre *et al.*, 2001). INH and RFP caused instinctive sorts of hepatic metabolic aberrations because the liver is the major site for detoxifying these anti-tubercular drugs (Sharma, 2004). Expanding confirmation recommends that harmful metabolites potentiate oxidative stress reaction in the rats' liver (Saad *et*

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*al.*, 2010; Chen *et al.*, 2012). It was recorded that INH oxidized by itself to a reactive metabolite that binds to hepatic proteins mediating immune liver injury (Yamamoto *et al.*, 2005). EPSs are high molecular weight polymers composed of homo- or hetero-carbohydrates. They are produced by a different microorganism such as bacteria, fungi and yeasts, where they are secreted by these microorganisms to the external environment (Selim *et al.*, 2018). It was known that EPSs are bioactive natural products used in different applications such as medical, the biochemical also pharmacological application as a result of their specific biological activities (Ye *et al.*, 2012; Selim *et al.*, 2018).

In the present study, a heterogeneous exopolysaccharide will be obtained and identified from bacterial isolate. The chemical characteristics of EPS will be determined while the hepatic and renal toxicity will be induced by INH/RFP and this model will be used to reveal the protective effect of bacterial EPS.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Animals

Male Sprague-Dawley rats weighing 150-200 g were housed in the animal house, pharmacology department, National Research Centre Experimental protocol was approved (Number: 16-438) and met the Guidelines for Animal Experimentation of the Ethical Committee of the National Research Centre which gave its consent in accordance with the National Regulations on Animal Welfare and Institutional Animal Ethical Committee (IAEC).

### Chemicals, Drugs and Diagnostic Kits

All chemicals used in casein hydrolysate glucose broth medium, chemical analysis of EPS and DPPH (2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) were obtained from Sigma, USA. Other chemicals and their sources were: paracetamol was obtained from (EIPICO, Egypt), silymarin (SEDICO, Egypt) and isoniazid/rifampicin (Sandoz Pharmaceutical Co., Germany). Diagnostic kits for ALT (alanine aminotransferase) and AST (aspartate aminotransferase) were obtained from Biodiagnostic Co., Egypt.

### Methods

#### Isolation of bacteria

The serial dilution method was applied for isolation of bacteria, the sample (sediment of the shore of Ageeba beach (the Mediterranean Sea, Marsa Matrooh governorate) was diluted to  $10^{-6}$  and plated on marine nutrient agar medium (Hayakawa and Nonomura, 1987) then incubated at 37°C for 48 h. Smooth, ropy and mucous colonies from each plate were selected.

#### Production and isolation of exopolysaccharide (EPS) from liquid culture

Pure colonies were screened for EPS production by inoculation ( $10^7$ /mL) of cells into 250 mL Erlenmeyer flasks containing 50 mL of casein hydrolysate glucose broth (Al-Nahas *et al.*, 2011) consisting of (g/L): Casein hydrolysate 2.5;  $K_2HPO_4$  4.0;  $MgSO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$  0.7;  $MnSO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$  0.05; and glucose 30.0, dissolved in 75% seawater, pH 7.0. The fermentation cultures were incubated at 37°C under shaking at 120 rpm for 3 days. The culture medium was centrifuged at 5000 rpm for 10 min

(Sigma-Laborzentrifugen, 2K15) to remove bacterial cells. Trichloroacetic acid (5%) was added and left overnight at 4°C and centrifuged at 5000 rpm again. The pH of the clear solution was adjusted to 7.0 with NaOH (0.1M) solution and dialyzed three times against distilled water using dialysis tubing (MWCO 2000). The supernatant was completed in four volumes with ethanol 95% and left overnight at 4°C. The precipitated EPS were separated by centrifugation at 5000 rpm, for 15 min, redissolved in distilled water, dialyzed with distilled water and fractionation by precipitation using 1, 2, 3 and 4 volumes of chilled absolute ethanol collected, washed by acetone, diethyl ether and dried at 60°C until constant weight (Shene *et al.*, 2008), the main fraction was designated as EPSMSHN.

### Identification of bacteria

Strain number 5, which produces elevated EPS levels, was identified on the basis of morphological, physiological, and biochemical characteristics (Cappuccino and Sherman, 2004) combined with 16S rRNA sequence analysis. The universal primers delineated by Weisburg *et al.* (1991) particularly ITS1 (5'-TCCGTAGGTGAACCTTTGCG G-3') and ITS4 (5'-TCCTCCGCTTATTGATATGC-3'), were used to amplify the 16S rRNA gene sequence. A single, discrete, polymerase chain reaction amplicon was resolved on agarose. Sequencing products were resolved on an Applied Biosystems (Foster City, CA, USA) model 3730 XL, automated DNA sequencing system. Data were submitted to GenBank and the sequence compared with the GenBank database (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>) using BLAST (Tamura *et al.*, 2007).

### Chemical analysis

Sulfate was determined using the turbidly method (Dodgson and Price, 1962). Uronic acids were determined at 525 nm by the m-hydroxybiphenyl colorimetric method (Filisetti-Cozzi and Corpita, 1991). The monosaccharide composition was determined by HPLC on shim pack SCR-101N column (Shimadzu) with water deionized as the mobile phase at 0.5 mL/min (Sudhamani *et al.*, 2004; El-Sayed, *et al.*, 2005).

### Fourier-transform infra-red (FT-IR)

The FT-IR of the EPS was measured on a Bucker scientific 500-IR Spectrophotometer (Billerica, MA, USA). The sample was mixed with KBr powder, ground and pressed into a 1 mm pellets for FTIR measurements in the range of 400-4000  $cm^{-1}$  (Ray, 2006).

### Determination of the molecular weight of EPS

The molecular weight of EPS was determined to an Agilent 1100 HPLC with a refractive index detector (RID), Water Company Ireland according to Jun *et al.* (2006). The polydispersity index (*PI*) calculated from the *Mw/Mn* magnitude relation (You *et al.*, 2013).

### In-vitro antioxidant activity using DPPH

Free radical scavenging activity was measured against 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radicals using the method of Asker and Shawky (2010). DPPH ethanol solution (5 mL, freshly prepared) was added to 1 mL of EPS solution with deferent

concentrations (30-200 µg/mL) in water. Solutions were mixed vigorously and incubated at room temperature in the dark for 60 min. Supernatant absorbance was measured at 517 nm. A lower absorbance indicates higher free radical scavenging activity, as determined by graphing inhibition percentage plotted against compound concentration. All experiments were carried out in triplicate and averaged.

The scavenging activity was calculated as follows:

$$\text{Scavenging ability (\%)} = \left( \frac{A_{517} \text{ of control} - A_{517} \text{ of sample}}{A_{517} \text{ of control}} \right) \times 100.$$

The EC<sub>50</sub> value is the effective concentration of EPSMSHN at which the DPPH radicals were scavenged by 50%.

### Acute toxicity study

EPS was dissolved in distilled water then given orally to rats of both sex in graded doses up 4 g/kg. The control group received the same volumes of distilled water. The percentage mortality was recorded 24 hours later. Observation of rats for 14 days, for any changes in the skin and fur, respiratory, circulatory, autonomic, central nervous systems, somatomotor activity and behavior pattern (Desoukey *et al.*, 2016).

### Studying the hepatoprotective effects of EPS

#### Experimental design

The animals were randomly allocated into 5 groups (6 rats in each), and treated as follow: Group I, the negative control, received 10 ml/kg of normal saline/day; group II, the positive control, received i.p. daily injection of isoniazid/rifampicin (INH/RIF) formulation at a dose of 50/100 mg/kg (Shih *et al.*, 2013), respectively; group III, received oral doses of silymarin, the standard hepatoprotective drug (50 mg/kg/day), with the daily doses of INH/RIF as in group II; group IV and V treated with the investigated polysaccharide, administered orally by gavages tube at doses of 50 and 100 mg/kg, with the daily doses of INH/RIF as in group II. All treatments lasted for 28 days. After 24 h last drug administration, the animals were sacrificed and blood samples were obtained from the retro-orbital plexus in a plain tube. Samples were left to clot and centrifuged for 5 minutes at 5000 x g using a cooling centrifuge (Sigma and Laborzentrifugen, 2k15, Germany) to obtain the serum.

#### Biochemical analysis

##### Liver and kidney related parameters

Aspartate transaminase (AST), alanine transaminase (ALT), total, direct bilirubin serum creatinine and blood urea nitrogen (BUN) were measured in serum.

##### Oxidative stress biomarkers

Tissue samples of liver and kidney were quickly homogenized for determination of lipid peroxides (Ohkawa *et al.*, 1979) and reduced glutathione (GSH) (Ellman, 1959) contents.

#### Histopathological study

The kidneys and livers were harvested from the sacrificed rats after dissection, fixed in 10% buffered formalin (pH 7.4). The fixed specimens were sliced, processed, and embedded into

paraffin blocks. The blocks were cut into 4 µm paraffin sections by a rotator microtome. The section was stained with Hematoxylin and Eosin (H&E) and with Van Gieson stains (Bancroft and Gamble, 2008).

#### Morphometric measurements

##### Detection of fibrotic area

The morphometric analysis was carried out on Van Gieson stained slides. This area was determined as an area per field in micrometer square. The results appeared automatically on the monitor in the form of a table with the total, mean, standard deviation, standard error, the minimum area and the maximum area was measured. The area of fibrosis measured in 10 fields in each slide.

#### Counting of the inflammatory cells

The morphometric analysis was carried out on H and E stained slides. First, detection and counting of the target cells (inflammatory cells) were performed. The average of counted inflammatory cells was determined by counting in 10 fields in each slide. The morphometric analysis was performed at the Pathology Department, National Research Center using the Leica Qwin 500 Image Analyzer (LEICA Imaging Systems Ltd, Cambridge, England,) which consists of Leica DM-LB microscope with JVC color video camera attached to a computer system Leica Q 500IW.

#### Statistical analysis

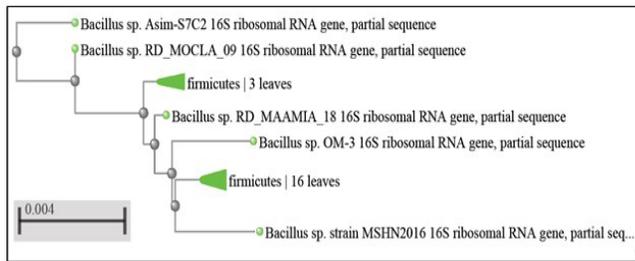
All the results were expressed as mean ± SEM (standard error of the mean). Analyses were processed using Graph Pad Prism software for Windows (version 6.0, Graph Pad Software, Inc., San Diego, CA). The significance of difference among the studied groups was determined using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Tukey post-hoc test. Values with P < 0.05 were considered significant. Statistical analysis for histopathological studies was performed using SPSS statistical software, version 15.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) for Windows.

## RESULTS

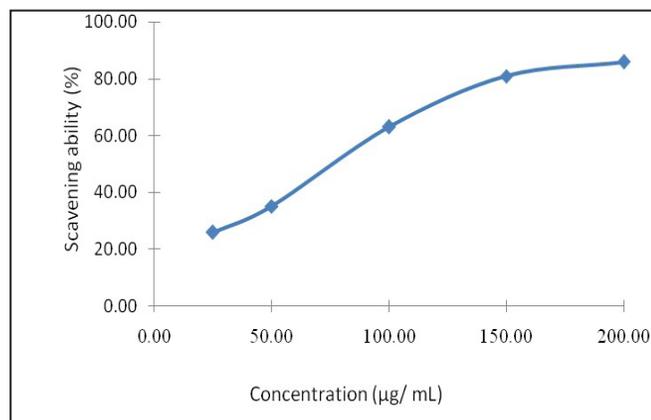
### Isolation, screening, and identification of the EPS-producing bacteria

Eighteen isolates have been isolated from the sediment of the shore of Ageeba beach (MarsaMatrooh governorate), nine isolates only produced EPS. Strain number five was selected for further studied due to its highest production of EPS (8.25 g/L). The strain showed mucous appearance on solid medium, aerobic, Gram-positive, motile, spore-forming, halophilic, catalase and oxidase positive. The partial 16S rDNA sequence was resolved and contrasted with the GenBank databases in the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>) using the BLASTN 2.2.6 program. It was found that the promising isolate was associated with genus *Bacillus* sp. with 97% similarity as represented in the phylogenetic tree analysis. So it was identified as *Bacillus* sp. MSHN2016. The sequences were submitted to GenBank in NCBI with the accession number KY427877, where the Phylogenetic tree of the partial sequence of 16S rDNA of the local isolate (*Bacillus* sp. MSHN2016)

with respect to closely related sequences available in GenBank databases was seen in (Fig. 1) So the produced EPS was named EPSMSHN.



**Fig. 1:** Phylogenetic tree of the partial sequence of 16S rDNA of the local isolate (*Bacillus* sp. MSHN2016) with respect to closely related sequences available in GenBank databases.



**Fig. 2:** Scavenging effects of EPSMSHN during DPPH test and measured by changes in absorbance at 517 nm.

### Isolation and chemical structure of EPSMSHN

The maximum yield of EPSMSHN from *Bacillus* sp. MSHN2016 was 8.25 g/L after 96 h. It showed up as a smooth powder, with a negative reaction to the Bradford test. The way that no retention was recognized by the UV spectra at both 260 and 280 nm showed the nonattendance of protein and additionally nucleic acids. EPSMSHN also contained 14.35% uronic acid and 18.99% sulfate. Examination by HPLC demonstrated that EPSMSHN was made out of arabinose, xylose, glucose and glucuronic acid with a relative ratio 1: 1: 2: 1, respectively. The (*M<sub>w</sub>*) and (*M<sub>n</sub>*) of EPSMSHN was determined to be  $5.50 \times 10^5$  and of  $3.45 \times 10^5$  g/mol, respectively and (*P<sub>I</sub>*) was 1.59. The FT-IR has been accounted for to be a tool for observing the structural components of polysaccharides. The general appearance of the FT-IR range of EPSMSHN was common of those from polysaccharides. The EPSMSHN contained a significant number of OH groups, which exhibited an intensive broad stretching peak at around  $3437 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Absorption in  $1639 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  revealed the existence of  $\text{COO}^-$  group which may be associated with the glucuronic acid and internal hydrogen bonds. The absorption band at  $1420 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicated the presence of sulfate ester. The spectrum of the fraction indicates the presence of sulfate group at  $1237 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The absorption at  $874 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicated the  $\alpha$ -glycosidic linkages of the fraction.

### Antioxidant properties of EPSMSHN

Natural antioxidants assume principle defensive parts against various infections and maturing forms because of their capacity of scavenging free radicals and binding transition metal ion catalysts and also their reductive action and ability to avert chain start. EPSMSHN exhibited the scavenging activity toward DPPH radicals in a concentration-dependent manner, with an  $\text{EC}_{50}$  value of  $77 \mu\text{g/mL}$  (Fig. 2) These outcomes showed that the EPSMSHN noticeably affected scavenging free radical, particularly at high concentration. It is notable that reactive oxygen species (ROS), for example, hydroxyl radicals, superoxide anion, and hydrogen peroxide, are identified with the pathogenesis of different ailments.

### Acute toxicity study

The results exhibited no mortality after 24 h of oral administration of EPSMSHN in rats of both sex at graded doses up to 4 g/kg. 1/80 and 1/40 (50 & 100 mg/kg) of the maximum dose (4 g/kg) were chosen to be used for the pharmacological investigation throughout the study.

### Effect on liver-related parameters

Intraperitoneal injection of INH/RIF (50/100 mg/kg) over a period of 4 weeks significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) increased all biochemical parameters of liver function as activities of ALT and AST as well as total and direct bilirubin levels compared to the normal control. Treatment with both doses of EPS significantly decreased serum ALT and AST activities as well as total and direct bilirubin levels compared to INH/RIF control. It is worthy to mention that, the effect of EPSMSHN on the hepatotoxicity parameters was nearly similar to that of silymarin (Table 1).

### Effect on blood urea nitrogen (BUN) and serum creatinine

INH/RIF injection induced a significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) increase in BUN level and creatinine level as compared to the normal group indicating kidney injury. Treatment with EPSMSHN could normalize BUN level and reduced serum creatinine level as compared to INH/RIF control. The levels of both BUN and serum creatinine in the EPSMSHN treated groups were lower compared to that of silymarin (Table 2).

**Table 1:** Effect of polysaccharide on liver parameters.

Parameters Groups	ALT (U/L)	ALT (U/L)
Normal	155.79 ± 0.82 <sup>a</sup>	181.09 ± 0.53 <sup>a</sup>
INH/RIF	173.95 ± 1.37 <sup>a</sup>	222.04 ± 0.42 <sup>a</sup>
Silymarin (25 mg/kg)	152.55 ± 1.75 <sup>a</sup>	206.44 ± 1.82 <sup>a</sup>
EPSMSHN (50 mg/kg)	152.15 ± 2.77 <sup>a</sup>	211.60 ± 1.45 <sup>a</sup>
EPSMSHN (100 mg/kg)	150.59 ± 2.81 <sup>a</sup>	202.79 ± 0.76 <sup>a</sup>

Liver damage was induced by daily injection of INH/RIF (50/100 mg/kg; I.P.) for 4 weeks. Tested agents were orally administered daily for 28 days in concomitant with an injection of INH/RIF. Data were expressed as mean ± SE (n = 6). Data were analyzed by one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey comparison test. <sup>a</sup>vs normal control. <sup>b</sup>vs INH/RIF control at  $p < 0.05$ . EPSMSHN: exopolysaccharide; INH/RIF: isoniazide + rifampicin; ALT: alanine aminotransferase; AST: aspartate aminotransferase; BUN: blood urea nitrogen.

**Table 2:** Effect of polysaccharide on liver and kidney parameters.

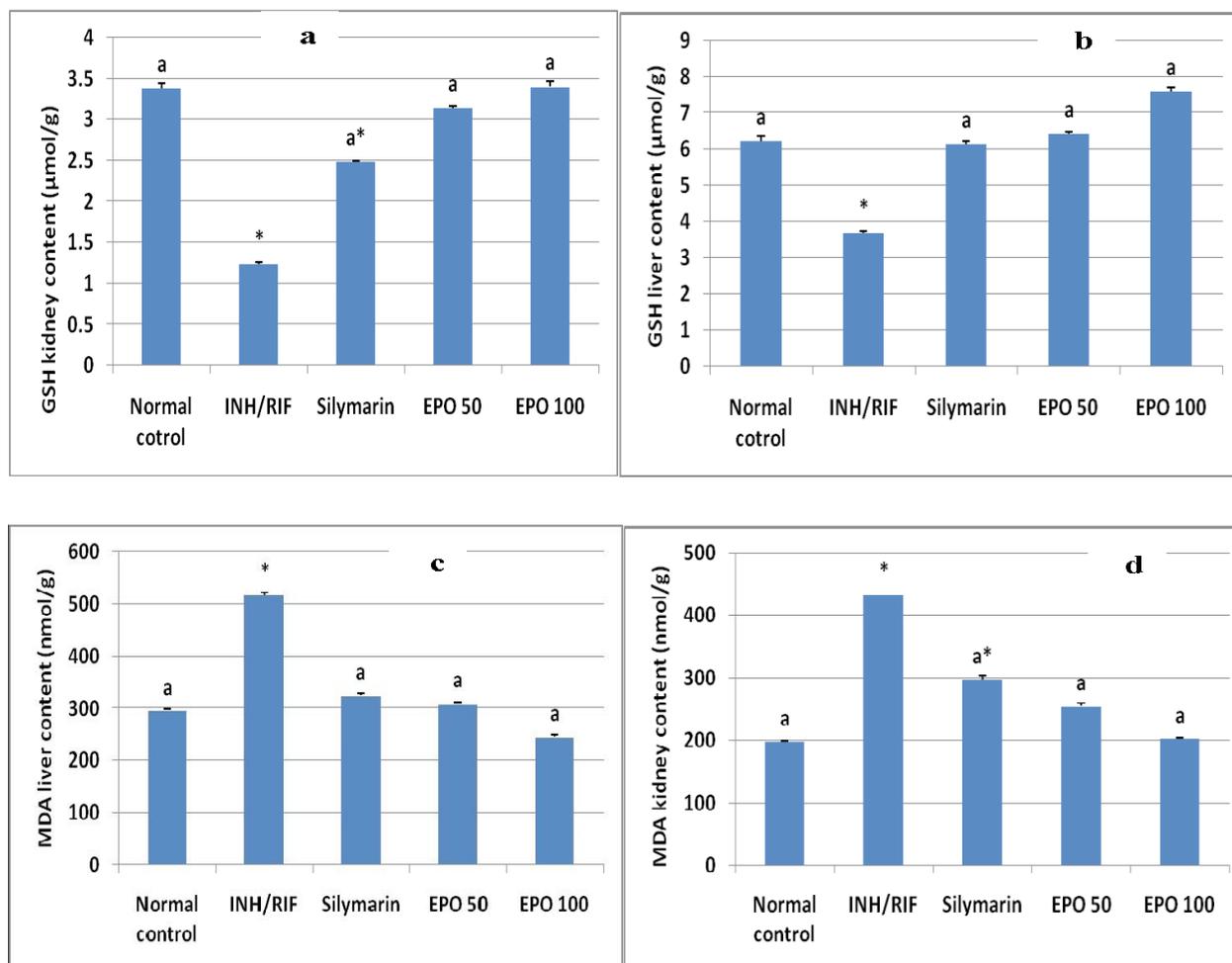
Parameters Groups	Total Bilirubin (mg/dl)	Direct Bilirubin (mg/dl)	BUN (mg/dl)	Creatinine (mg/dl)
Normal	0.51 ± 0.02 <sup>a</sup>	0.37 ± 0.02 <sup>a</sup>	33.68 ± 0.61 <sup>a</sup>	1.23 ± 0.01 <sup>a</sup>
INH/RIF	1.60 ± 0.09 <sup>*</sup>	1.17 ± 0.07 <sup>*</sup>	38.65 ± 0.52 <sup>*</sup>	1.71 ± 0.06 <sup>*</sup>
Silymarin (25 mg/kg)	0.78 ± 0.04 <sup>a*</sup>	0.57 ± 0.02 <sup>a*</sup>	36.44 ± 0.37 <sup>a*</sup>	1.51 ± 0.05 <sup>*</sup>
EPSMSHN (50 mg/kg)	0.97 ± 0.03 <sup>a*</sup>	0.71 ± 0.02 <sup>a*</sup>	33.82 ± 0.51 <sup>a*</sup>	1.45 ± 0.07 <sup>a</sup>
EPSMSHN (100 mg/kg)	0.83 ± 0.03 <sup>a*</sup>	0.61 ± 0.02 <sup>a*</sup>	34.76 ± 0.31 <sup>a*</sup>	1.48 ± 0.07 <sup>*</sup>

Kidney damage was induced by daily injection of INH/RIF (50/100 mg/kg; I.P.) for 4 weeks. Tested agents were orally administered daily for 28 days in concomitant with an injection of INH/RIF. Data were expressed as mean ± SE (n = 6). Data were analyzed by one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey comparison test. <sup>\*</sup>vs normal control. <sup>a</sup>vs INH/RIF control at p < 0.05.

### Effect on oxidative stress biomarkers

Hepatic and renal Glutathione (GSH) contents were significantly decreased in rats treated with INH/RIF by about 1.6 and 2.7 folds; respectively. Conversely, the levels of (MDA), which is an index of lipid peroxidation, significantly (p < 0.05) increased in the livers and kidneys of rats treated with INH/RIF to about 1.7 and 2.7 folds as compared to the normal group. The study

groups treated with EPSMSHN at both doses showed a significant (p < 0.05) increase in INH/RIF-induced hepatic and renal GSH depletion. Furthermore, EPSMSHN prevented INH/RIF-induced lipid peroxidation in liver and kidney tissues. The effect of 100 mg/kg EPSMSHN on hepatic and renal MDA contents was better than that of silymarin, the standard hepatoprotective and antioxidant drug (Fig. 3).

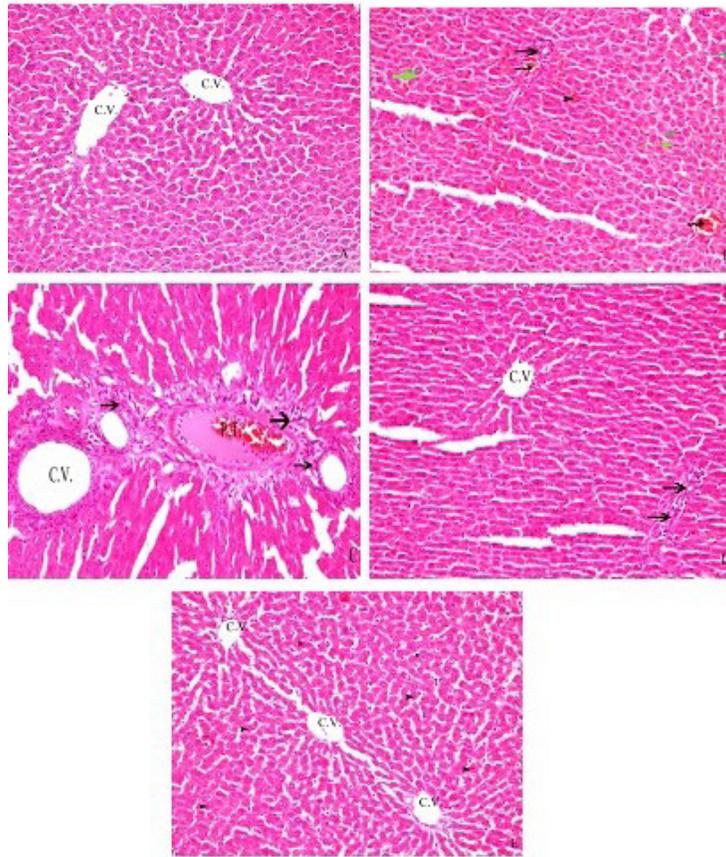


**Fig. 3:** Effect of EPS on oxidative stress biomarkers (a) hepatic GSH, (b) hepatic MDA (TBARs), (c) renal GSH and (d) renal MDA. Liver and kidney damage was induced by daily injection of INH/RIF (50/100 mg/kg; I.P.) for 4 weeks. Tested agents were orally administered daily for 28 days in concomitant with an injection of INH/RIF. Data were expressed as mean ± SE (n = 6). Data were analyzed by one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey comparison test. <sup>\*</sup>vs normal control. <sup>a</sup>vs INH/RIF control at p < 0.05. EPO: exopolysaccharide; INH/RIF: isoniazide + rifampicin.

### Histopathology of liver tissue and kidney

Examination of H&E stained sections from the control group (Normal control) showed the liver to have a normal histological structure of the hepatic tissue showing the normal hepatic architecture inform of hepatic lobules with the average normal thickness of hepatic cords which radiating from centrally located central vein to portal tract peripherally (Fig. 4A), the group which received INH/RIF their hepatic cells has been injured in different forms as ballooning degeneration or apoptosis and some cells appear with pyknotic nuclei most of them losing

their cellular wall, Also there is portal tridaitis; inflammatory cells around portal tract with dilated congested hepatic sinusoids (Fig. 4B), On the other hand, the third group which received (silymarin 25 mg/kg) has improved in their architecture also the hepatic cells retune their normal features with moderate infiltration of inflammatory cells mainly around the portal tract (Fig. 4C), In the fourth group and fifth group which received EPSMSHN 50 mg/kg & EPSMSHN 100 mg/kg respectively looking to be improved much better than the third group as the hepatic cells mostly retune their cellular lining with minimal inflammatory cells infiltration (Fig. 4D & E).



**Fig. 4:** A photomicrography for five studied groups of the hepatic tissue: (C.V.); Central vein, (P.T.); Portal tract, (Straight Arrow); Inflammatory cells infiltration, (Arrow Head); Dilated congested sinusoids, (Curved Arrow); Thrombosed vessels, (Green Arrow) Ballooning degeneration with others showing pyknotic nuclei (H&E 200). (A): Normal group, (B): INF/RIF, (C): silymarin (25 mg/kg), (D): EPS (50 mg/kg), (E): EPS (100 mg/kg) (Stained Van Gieson X 200).

Examination of H&E stained sections from the control group (normal control) showed the renal tissue with normally appeared glomeruli and average wall thickness of the tubules lined by well-formed epithelial lining (Fig. 5A), On the other hand, examination of second group INH/RIF showed congested glomerular capillaries with shrunken glomerular tufts some of them have almost lost all their capillaries, the tubules showing edema and shedding of their epithelial lining with signs of degeneration in the form of pyknosis, vacuolation, many of tubules with intratubular debris within congested interstitial tissue and foci of fibrosis (Fig. 5B). The renal tissue of the third group silymarin 25 mg/kg showing that their glomeruli have evidence of improvement with congestion in the capillary tufts, also the

tubules are improved with residual signs of degeneration in the form of intratubular debris within congested interstitial tissue and foci of fibrosis (Fig. 5C), According to the fourth group & fifth group which treated by EPSMSHN 50 mg/kg & EPSMSHN 100 mg/kg respectively the renal tissue have the evidence of normal appearance of the glomeruli also the tubules are well improved (Fig. 5D & E).

### Morphometric analysis of liver and kidney tissue

The fibrosis area percentage and inflammatory cells of liver tissue are significantly increased in all other groups of rats in comparison with control group which were  $3.766 \pm 0.20$  and  $14.5 \pm 1.027$  respectively, on another hand its noticed that the second

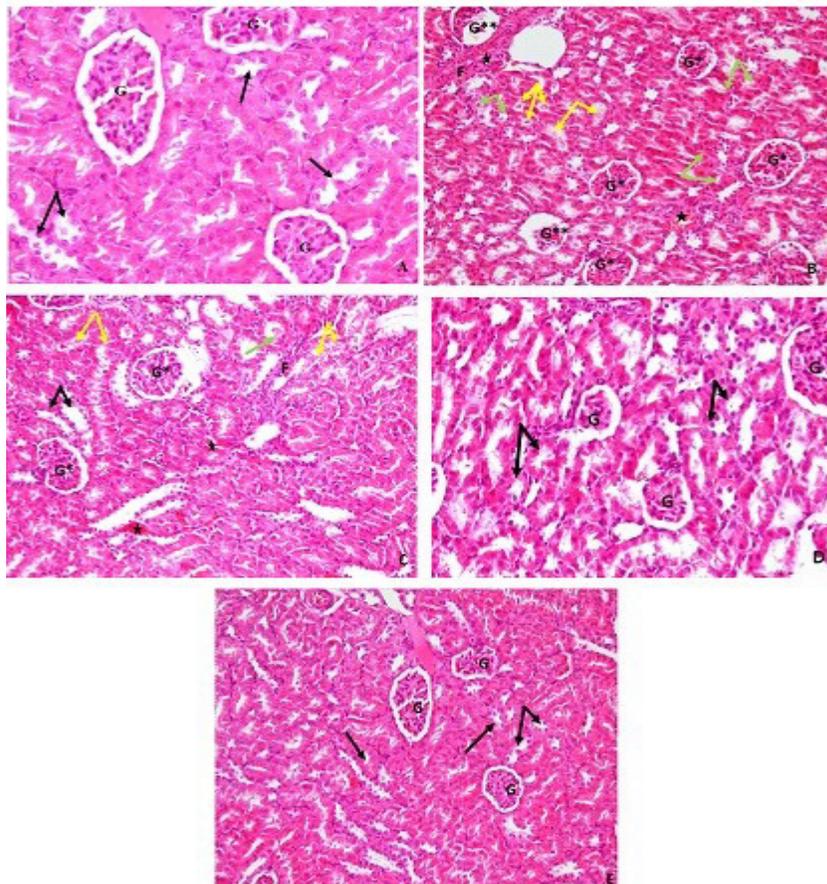
group who taken INF/RIF gives the highest readings;  $24.72 \pm 0.15$  for the fibrotic area % and  $67 \pm 1.107$  for the inflammatory cell count denoting the degree of destruction. The third group which treated by silymarin has significantly decreased from the second group in relation to the inflammatory cell count  $30.3 \pm 2.80$ , while there was non-significant difference in the percentage of the fibrotic area from INF/RIF group; the positive control group  $23.303 \pm 1.41$ , According to the treated groups by EPSMSHN group 4 and 5; both has highly significant decline in fibrotic area

percentages and the counting of inflammatory cells, which were  $29.7 \pm 0.42$  for EPS50 mg/kg group and  $25.4 \pm 0.54$  for EPSMSHN 100 mg/kg group in comparison with the positive control INF/RIF group also with our reference treatment silymarin group (Fig. 6 & 7). To be noticed that the fifth group EPSMSHN 100 mg/kg has better improvement, especially in fibrotic area% which was  $9.063 \pm 0.15$ , significant improvement than fourth group EPSMSHN 50 mg/kg  $14.02 \pm 0.26$  (Table 3).

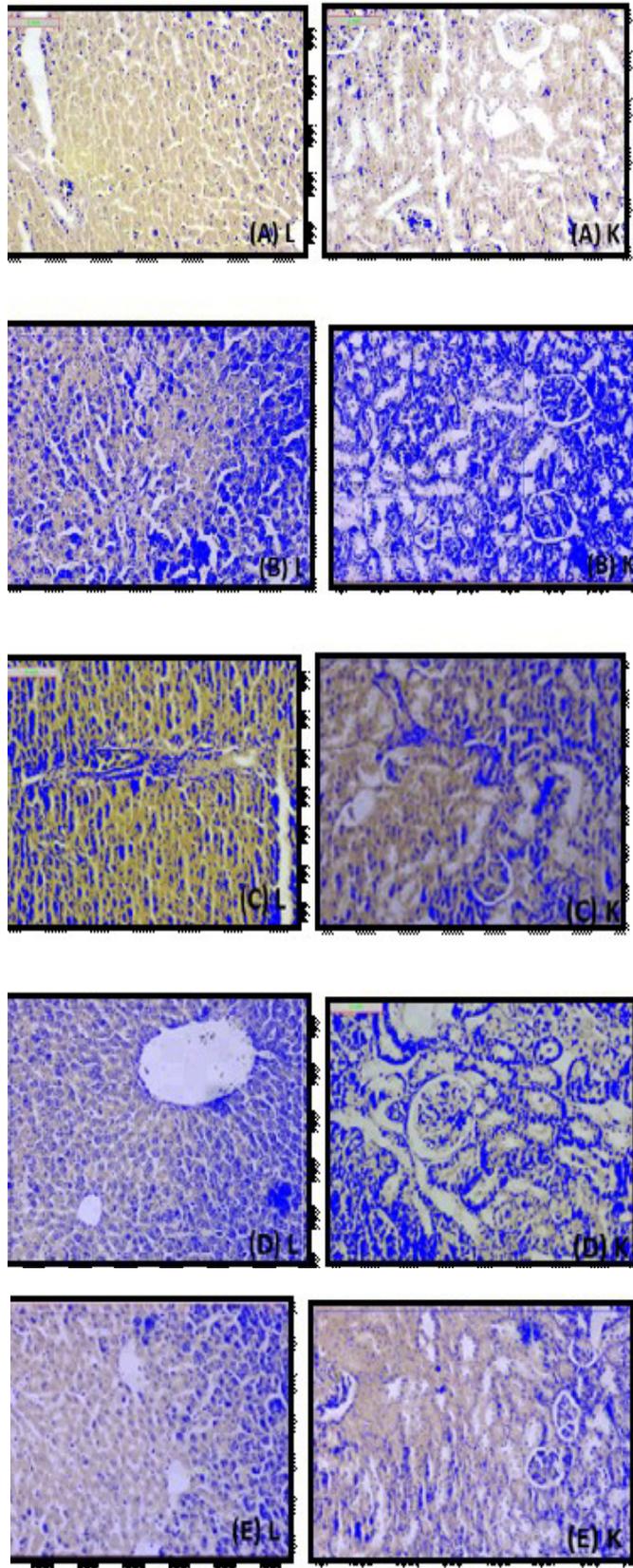
**Table 3:** Morphometric parameters of all studied groups of liver & kidney tissue.

Parameters Groups	Liver tissue		Kidney tissue	
	Fibrosis area%	Inf. cells count	Fibrosis area%	Inf. Cells count
Normal	$3.77 \pm 0.20$	$14.5 \pm 1.027$	$3.69 \pm 0.62$	$4.20 \pm 1.03$
INF/RIF	$24.72 \pm 0.15^*$	$67.0 \pm 1.107^*$	$39.23 \pm 1.15^*$	$59.27 \pm 1.14^*$
Silymarin (25 mg/kg)	$23.30 \pm 1.41^*$	$30.3 \pm 2.80^a$	$32.58 \pm 0.93^*$	$20.2 \pm 0.44^a$
EPSMSHN (50 mg/kg)	$14.02 \pm 0.26^a$	$29.7 \pm 0.42^a$	$17.40 \pm 0.01^a$	$15.7 \pm 1.88^a$
EPSMSHN (100 mg/kg)	$9.06 \pm 0.15^a$	$25.4 \pm 0.54^a$	$12.45 \pm 0.86^a$	$6.3 \pm 2.62^a$

Data were expressed as mean  $\pm$  SE (n = 6). Data were analyzed by one-way ANOVA. <sup>\*</sup>vs Normal Control. <sup>a</sup>vs INH/RIF Control at p < 0.05. EPSMSHN: exopolysaccharide; INH/RIF: isoniazide + rifampicin.



**Fig. 5:** A photomicrography for five studied groups of the renal tissue: (G); Normal appeared glomeruli, (G\*); Congested glomeruli capillaries, (G\*\*); Glomeruli capillaries mostly are lost, (Black Arrow); Normal appearance of tubules, (Yellow Arrow); Tubules with edematous shedded epithelial lining, (Green Arrow); Intratubular debris, (F); fibrosis, (Black Star); Congestion in interstitial tissue (H& E200). (A): Normal group, (B): INF/RIF, (C): Silymarin (25 mg/kg), (D): EPS (50 mg/kg), (E): EPS (100 mg/kg) (Stained Van Gieson X 200).



**Fig. 6:** The print screens of the morphometric measurement of fibrotic area in all studied groups of both liver and kidney tissue. **L:** Liver tissue, **K:** Kidney tissue, **(A):** Normal group, **(B):** INF/RIF, **(C):** silymarin (25 mg/kg), **(D):** EPS (50 mg/kg), **(E):** EPS (100 mg/kg) (Stained Van Gieson X 200).

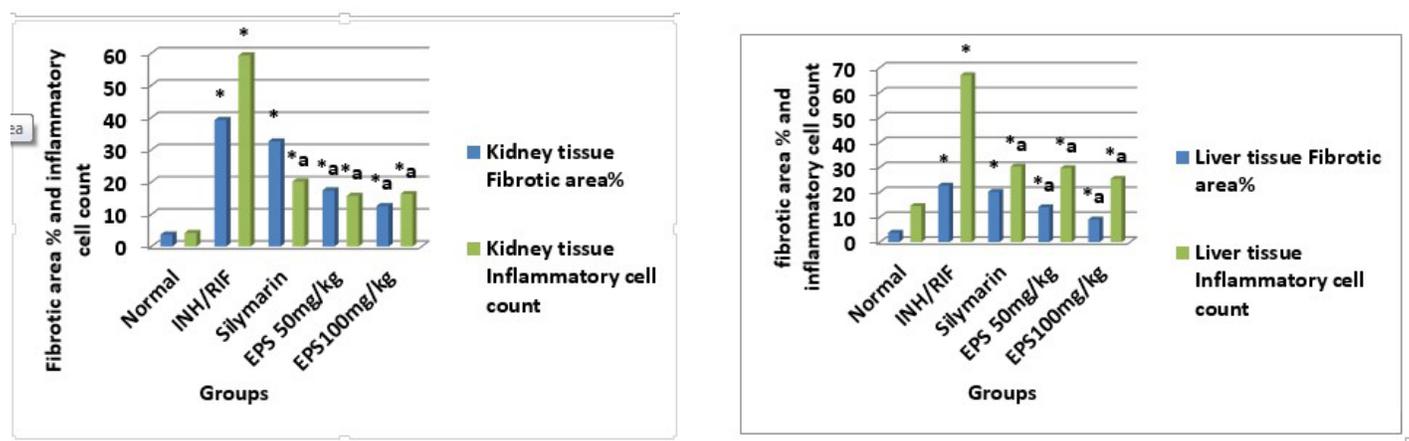


Fig. 7: Fibrotic area % and inflammatory cell count in all tested groups in kidney and liver tissue. Data were expressed as mean  $\pm$  SE (n = 6). \*vs normal control. <sup>a</sup>vs INH/RIF control at p < 0.05. EPS: exopolysaccharide; INH/RIF: isoniazide + rifampicin.

According to the fibrosis area percentage and inflammatory cell count of kidney tissue the control negative group were  $3.697 \pm 0.62$  and  $4.2 \pm 1.03$  respectively which were significantly decreased than all other four groups (Fig. 6 & 7), While the second group which received INH/RIF gives the highest readings; in both parameters;  $39.23 \pm 1.15$  for fibrotic area percent and  $59.27 \pm 1.14$  for the inflammatory cell count. The third group treated by silymarin has significantly decreased from the second group in relation to the inflammatory cell count  $20.2 \pm 0.44$  while there was non-significant difference in the percentage of the fibrotic area  $32.58 \pm 0.93$  from the positive control INH/RIF group (Table 3), According to the treated groups by polysaccharides group 4 and 5; both have a high significant decline in fibrotic area %  $17.40 \pm 0.01$  and  $12.45 \pm 0.86$ , respectively also it happened in the counting of inflammatory cells  $15.7 \pm 1.88$  for fourth group EPSMSHN 50 mg/kg and  $6.3 \pm 2.62$  for the fifth group EPSMSHN 100 mg/kg in comparison with the positive control INH/RIF group also with our reference treatment silymarin group.

## DISCUSSION

In present work the isolated *Bacillus* sp. MSHN2016 produced EPSMSHN with a very good yield, also EPSMSHN is contained functional groups like  $\text{SO}_3^-$  and  $\text{COO}^-$ . The  $M_w$  of EPSMSHN was  $5.50 \times 10^5$  g/mol. All the previous results indicate the protective role of EPSMSHN against INH/RIF-induced hepatic and renal toxicity. It was found by many authors that marine bacteria consider very good sources of EPSs if compared with the terrestrial sources (Jensen and Fenical, 1994; Laurienzo, 2010). The majority of EPSs produced by marine bacteria are heteropolysaccharides where the hydrolysis of the EPSMSHN by HPLC indicates the presence of four different monosaccharides, while monosaccharides of EPS from marine *Bacillus subtilis* were five (Ghoneim *et al.*, 2016).

EPSMSHN is also contained different functional groups like  $\text{SO}_3^-$  and  $\text{COO}^-$ . The percentage of sulfate and uronic differ from EPS to another wherein marine *Bacillus subtilis* the percentage of  $\text{SO}_3^-$  was lower than that found in EPSMSHN, while the uronic was higher in case of *Bacillus subtilis* due to the different origin of both organisms (Casillo *et al.*, 2018). Some EPS are neutral macromolecules, yet the larger parts are

polyanionic because of the nearness of uronic acids or ketal-connected pyruvate or inorganic residues, like  $\text{PO}_4^-$  and/or  $\text{SO}_3^-$  (Zhang *et al.*, 2016).

It was mentioned that most polymers are linear, with an average  $M_w$  ranging from  $1 \times 10^5$  to  $3 \times 10^5$  Da (Casillo *et al.*, 2018). The physical properties of polysaccharides are influenced by the way and aggregation the monosaccharides. The biological activities of the EPSs based on the chemical structure and the molecular weight (Laurienzo, 2010).

Albeit many known marine bacteria can deliver EPSs, few them are of biotechnological significance (Zhang *et al.*, 2016; Kichemazova *et al.*, 2017).

So, in the current study, EPSMSHN could ameliorate liver and kidney damage induced by INH and RIF by decreasing serum levels of ALT, AST, total and direct bilirubin, BUN and creatinine. Hepatotoxicity arises from long-term and clinical use of INH or RIF in (TB) treatment (Nanashima *et al.*, 2012), different metabolic and morphologic aberrations were detected after administration because of their detoxification in liver (Santhosh *et al.*, 2007). INH/RIF combination has been evolved as an experimental model of hepatic injury. Metabolism of INH occurs through acetylation and hydrolysis and the acetylated metabolites are hepatotoxins (Steele *et al.*, 1991). Hydrazine metabolite induces cytochrome P450 (CYP450) and promotes the production of more hepatotoxins (Vuilleumier *et al.*, 2006). Several studies have proven that RIF elevates INH toxic metabolite (hydrazine) formation. Inhibition of biliary secretion, as well as lipid peroxidation in the liver tissue, is aggravated by this combination (Zhang *et al.*, 2012). In the present study, INH and RIF injection produced signs of hepatotoxicity as indicated by increased ALT, AST, total and direct bilirubin. These findings are in accordance with previous data (Santhosh *et al.*, 2006; Obogwu *et al.*, 2014; Kim *et al.*, 2017).

INH/RIF combination also elevated renal function tests, BUN and serum creatinine. Experimental nephrotoxicity was not previously documented except in the study by Hashmi *et al.* (2013), who found that INH/RIF induced significant renal damage to rabbits as evidenced by elevated concentrations of the BUN and serum creatinine. Renal toxicity of RIF has been reported sporadically, however, some authors have reported clinical cases

occurring during continuous RIF therapy (Muthukumar *et al.*, 2002; Yanardag *et al.*, 2005). Oxidative stress has been implicated in the INH/RIF hepatotoxic effect (Cederbaum, 2006) via endogenous lipids peroxidation with the subsequent cell membrane destruction (Santhosh *et al.*, 2007). In the current study, the combined anti TB drugs increased lipid peroxidation and decreased GSH (the endogenous antioxidant) contents in the liver, this is in agreement with other results (Tasduq *et al.*, 2005; Saad *et al.*, 2010), and for the first time in kidney tissues.

Treatment with EPSMSHN prevented the incidence of hepatocellular apoptosis and degeneration and fibrosis in many tubules also promoted tissue recovery due to liver and kidney injury. Li *et al.* (2006) studied the mechanism of polysaccharides from *Cordyceps* sp. resistance on dimethyl-induced liver fibrosis through elevation of liver Kupffer cell function, toxic substances removal as well as reducing the immune and inflammatory response (Fang *et al.*, 1997).

Bioactivities of EPSs were found to be ascribed to their individual structure, such as the type of glycosyl units, the configuration of glycosidic bonds, and the substituent of the EPSs. Also, these biological effects are closely related to the spatial structure and molecular weight (Tsiapali *et al.*, 2001). Therefore, the anti-oxidative activity of the EPS may not be a result of a single factor, but a combination of different factors, most importantly variation in monosaccharide composition, structure configuration, and mode of attending glycosidic bonds and other structural characteristics of the EPS (Moure *et al.*, 2006).

In the present work, EPSMSHN could ameliorate liver and kidney lipid peroxidation and increased GSH contents induced by INH and RIF. In addition, EPSMSHN could attenuate liver inflammation and kidney fibrosis as shown in our histopathological study compared to the control group and better than silymarin.

## CONCLUSION

EPSMSHN produced from marine *Bacillus* sp. MSHN2016 at both doses protected from hepatic and renal toxicity induced by INH/RFP through its antioxidant and antifibrotic influence; therefore, it can be used as nutraceutical for treatment of hepatic and renal diseases.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared.

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#### How to cite this article:

Selim MS, Mohamed SS, Asker MM, Salama AAA, Abdullah HMI, Yassen NN. Production and characterization of exopolysaccharide from marine *Bacillus* sp. MSHN2016 with studying its effect on isoniazid/rifampicin-induced hepatic and renal toxicities in rats. *J App Pharm Sci*, 2018; 8(08): 001-011.