

Table S1 Survival of *L. lactis* subjected to drying at 22-25°C. Values are means of duplicate (with †) and triplicate determinations of total cells ± standard error of the mean. Corresponding letters indicate values are not significantly different.

	Time	Free Cells	1 h gelation	24 h gelation
Survival [log₁₀(CFU)]	0 d	10.94 ± 0.03 ^a	10.69 ± 0.03 ^{ab}	10.77 ± 0.03 ^a
	1 d	10.83 ± 0.02 ^a	-	-
	3 d	8.86 ± 0.25 ^{cd}	-	-
	5 d	8.44 ± 0.12 ^{†cde}	8.97 ± 0.01 ^{bcd}	-
	7 d	5.57 ± 0.02 ^{†gh}	-	9.28 ± 0.05 ^{†abc}
	9 d	4.80 ± 0.13 ^{hi}	-	-
	11 d	4.24 ± 0.23 ^{†hi}	6.60 ± 0.05 ^{efg}	-
	2 wk	4.68 ± 0.09 ^{hi}	-	7.38 ± 0.60 ^{def}
	3 wk	-	5.37 ± 0.14 ^{gh}	6.35 ± 0.72 ^{fg}
	4 wk	-	-	5.71 ± 0.68 ^{gh}
	5 wk	-	-	3.11 ± 0.08 ^{†i}