

**A PRELIMINARY STUDY: FIRSTLY OPTIMISATION OF THE IN VITRO  
BIOFILM FORMATION METHOD IN TRICHOSPORON ASAHII  
STRAINS ISOLATED FROM PATIENTS IN TÜRKİYE**

Sinem A. <sup>a, b</sup>,

Sevgi E. <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Istanbul University- Cerrahpaşa, Istanbul, Türkiye.

<sup>b</sup> Haliç University, Istanbul, Türkiye.

**ПРЕДВАРИТЕЛЬНОЕ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ: ПЕРВИЧНАЯ  
ОПТИМИЗАЦИЯ МЕТОДА ФОРМИРОВАНИЯ БИОПЛЕНКИ IN  
VITRO У ШТАММА TRICHOSPORON ASAHII, ВЫДЕЛЕННОГО ОТ  
ПАЦИЕНТОВ В ТУРЦИИ**

Синем А. <sup>1, 2</sup>,

Севги Э. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Стамбульский университет-Джеррахпаша, Стамбул, Турция.

<sup>2</sup> Университет Халич, Стамбул, Турция.

## Abstract

**Aim:** *Trichosporon asahii*, a fungus found in nature and human microbiota, has recently emerged as the most common cause of disseminated and deep-seated trichosporonosis, particularly in immunocompromised patients. Biofilm formation, one of the important virulence factors of *T. asahii*, facilitates its colonisation and proliferation, providing the fungus with antifungal and environmental stress's resistance. In this study, we aimed to develop a reproducible *T. asahii* biofilm model for our future research by optimising the inoculum concentration, adhesion-time, biofilm maturation-time, static and shaking parameters.

**Methods:** We included two clinical isolates obtained from urine samples and a reference strain in the study. For each strain, we applied 36 different experimental parameters, including,  $10^5$ ,  $10^6$  and  $10^7$  CFU/mL inoculum concentrations, 60, 90, and 120-minutes adhesion-times, 48 and 72-hours maturation-times, and static versus shaking. We determined the biofilm formation of fungus using the most commonly used crystal violet method. We determined standard deviation values with three replicates within each experiment, and we compared all the graphs obtained by repeating these experiments twice.

**Results:** After applying 36 different experimental parameter combinations, we determined the most optimised and reproducible parameters as  $10^7$  CFU/mL inoculum concentration, 120-minute adhesion-time, 72-hour maturation-time and static.

**Conclusion:** In optimisation studies conducted worldwide on this subject, it has been reported that biofilms formation varies in terms of quantity and duration across different countries, but there isn't any optimisation study in Turkey. We believe that the optimisation conditions we have firstly identified in our country will shed light on our future research and other studies to be conducted in the future.

**Keywords:** *Trichosporon asahii*, Invasive Fungal Infections, Biofilm, Optimisation, Fungi, Türkiye

**Резюме.** Цель: *Trichosporon asahii*, грибок, встречающийся в природе и микробиоте человека, недавно стал наиболее распространенной причиной диссеминированного глубокого трихоспороноза, особенно у пациентов с ослабленным иммунитетом. Образование биопленки, один из важных факторов вирулентности *T. asahii*, облегчает его колонизацию и распространение, обеспечивая грибку устойчивость к противогрибковым препаратам и внешнему стрессу. В настоящем исследовании мы попытались разработать воспроизводимую модель биопленки *T. asahii* для последующих исследований путем оптимизации концентрации инокулята, времени адгезии, времени созревания биопленки, статических параметров и параметров встряхивания.

Методы: В исследование были включены два клинических изолята, полученных из образцов мочи, и эталонный штамм. Для каждого штамма применялись 36 различных экспериментальных параметров, включая концентрации инокулята 10<sup>5</sup>, 10<sup>6</sup> и 10<sup>7</sup> КОЕ/мл, время адгезии 60, 90 и 120 минут, время созревания 48 и 72 часа и статику против встряхивания. Мы определили образование биопленки грибка, используя наиболее часто используемый метод окраски кристаллическим фиолетовым. Были определены значения стандартного отклонения с тремя повторами каждого эксперимента, со сравнением всех графиков, полученных при двухкратном повторе проведенных экспериментов.

Результаты: После применения 36 различных комбинаций экспериментальных параметров были определены наиболее оптимизированные и воспроизводимые параметры, такие как концентрация инокулята 10<sup>7</sup> КОЕ/мл, время адгезии 120 минут, время созревания 72 часа и статика.

Заключение: В исследованиях по оптимизации, описанных в литературе, сообщалось, что образование биопленок различается по количеству и продолжительности в разных зарубежных лабораториях, но в Турции

подобных исследований по оптимизации не описано. Мы считаем, что условия оптимизации, которые мы впервые определили в нашей стране, будут востребованы для последующих исследований.

**Ключевые слова:** Trichosporon asahii, инвазивные грибковые инфекции, биопленка, оптимизация, грибы, Турция

## 1 Introduction

2 *Trichosporon* species are yeast-like, anamorphic, and basidiomycetous; can be  
3 isolated from decaying materials, water, soil, cheese, insects, birds, bats and cattle  
4 feces; and can colonize and multiply in the gastrointestinal tract, vagina, skin, nails  
5 and upper respiratory tract of humans. These fungal species have a wide  
6 geographical distribution and are more common in warm and tropical regions [1-3,  
7 5, 8, 10, 15]. Although the genus *Trichosporon* is usually associated with easily  
8 treatable superficial infections of the skin, especially white piedra, it has gained  
9 importance as a cause of opportunistic systemic infections since the first case of  
10 brain invasive trichosporonosis was reported in 1970 [3, 8, 10, 14, 15]. It is  
11 becoming increasingly common, especially in patients with underlying  
12 haematological malignancies, aplastic anaemia, organ transplantation, extensive  
13 burns, AIDS and solid tumours, and can cause systemic infections such as  
14 pneumonia and endocarditis, accounting for approximately 10% of cases of  
15 disseminated fungal infections [3, 5, 7]. *Trichosporon* infections associated with  
16 sinusitis, ophthalmological surgery and prosthetic device infections, intravenous  
17 drug abuse and peritoneal dialysis are also observed in nonimmunocompromised  
18 patients [2, 7].

19 Among *Trichosporon* species, especially *Trichosporon asahii* is the most common  
20 cause of disseminated or deep-seated trichosporonosis [3, 7-10, 12, 15]. Among the  
21 clinical materials obtained from patients, *T. asahii* is the most frequently isolated  
22 species from blood and urine samples [16]. Clinical isolates are estimated to have  
23 greater pathogenicity than environmental isolates [9]. *T. asahii* is capable of biofilm  
24 formation, phenotypic and genotypic variation and the production of proteolytic  
25 enzymes such as esterase, hemolysin, phospholipase, protease, coagulase and  
26 DNAase, but the role of these virulence traits in infection is not clear [3, 5, 6, 9, 14,  
27 15]. The most studied virulence factor among these virulence factors is adhesion and  
28 biofilm formation, especially in medical devices [13]. Although most reported cases

29 of haematogenous *T. asahii* infection occur during the neutropenic phase in patients  
30 with leukaemia, another predisposing factor for infection is associated with biofilm  
31 formation on invasive devices such as intravenous or urinary catheters, endoscopic  
32 forceps and arteriovenous grafts [3, 7, 12, 15]. A biofilm is a three-dimensional  
33 structure formed by microbial communities embedded in a polymeric extracellular  
34 matrix consisting of polysaccharide, protein and extracellular DNA produced by  
35 cells adhering to a biotic or abiotic surface. It facilitates the colonization, growth and  
36 proliferation of yeast [3, 7, 15]. Biofilms formed by yeast can produce proteases,  
37 and biofilm formation provides resistance to antibiotics and environmental stress [3,  
38 4, 7, 15]. Biofilm formation in *T. asahii* occurs at four different developmental  
39 stages. These stages include the initial adhesion of yeast cells between 0 and 2 hours,  
40 germination and microcolony formation between 2 and 4 hours, filamentation  
41 between 4 and 6 hours and proliferation and maturation between 24 and 72 hours  
42 [7]. It is thought that prosthetic devices may serve as substrates for the postadhesion  
43 growth of biofilms, which are microbial communities embedded in an extracellular  
44 polymeric substance [7]. *T. asahii* biofilm formation may confer markedly increased  
45 resistance to antimicrobial agents and protection from host defense [3, 7]. Although  
46 antifungal drugs are used to treat trichosporonosis, the infection is usually persistent,  
47 may recur soon after treatment and is associated with high mortality ranging from  
48 50-80% [2, 3, 7, 12, 14]. Although newer azoles, such as voriconazole and  
49 posaconazole, which are used against *T. asahii* infections, are more effective  
50 antifungals than amphotericin B and fluconazole, biofilm formation in *T. asahii* has  
51 been associated with up to 16,000-fold increased resistance to voriconazole,  
52 particularly compared to that in planktonic cells [1, 7, 11, 14]. When there is a high  
53 level of antifungal resistance, treatment usually requires surgical removal of the  
54 infected device, which has a negative impact on the patient [2, 12]. Therefore,  
55 serious infections can be seen with *T. asahii* strains that are deeply localized and do  
56 not respond to treatment.

57

58 The aim of this study was to develop and optimize a reproducible biofilm model to  
59 monitor the biofilm formation of *T. asahii* in clinical samples. For this purpose, we  
60 evaluated the inoculum amount, adhesion time, biofilm maturation time, staticity  
61 and shaking parameters during biofilm formation. We are also considering applying  
62 the data we will obtain from this preliminary study to our experiments in another  
63 study in which we investigated the critical role of enzymes synthesized by *T. asahii*,  
64 whose importance we emphasize in clinical samples, in biofilm formation on  
65 polystyrene surfaces.

## 66 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### 67 **Strains used and growth conditions**

68 In this retrospective study, two *T. asahii* strains isolated from urine samples of  
69 patients admitted to İstanbul University- Cerrahpaşa, Cerrahpaşa Medical Faculty,  
70 Medical Microbiology Laboratory in 2017 and 2019, identified by MALDI-TOF MS  
71 method in those years and stored at -80°C were included. *T. asahii var. asahii CBS*  
72 *2479* was used as the reference strain. The strains were inoculated on Sabouraud  
73 dextrose agar (SDA), incubated at 37°C for 48 hours and then stored in Sabouraud  
74 dextrose medium (SDB) supplemented with 15% glycerol at -80°C for reuse. The  
75 48-hour SDA cultures obtained were used in the later stages of the study.

### 76 **Establishment of biofilm formation by the strains**

77 While investigating the biofilms formed by the strains, different parameters in the  
78 study of Iturrieta-González, Padovan [10] were combined and applied. For this  
79 purpose, inoculum amounts of 10<sup>5</sup>, 10<sup>6</sup> and 10<sup>7</sup> CFU/mL; adhesion times of 60, 90  
80 and 120 minutes; biofilm maturation times of 48 and 72 hours; and static and 100  
81 rpm shaking parameters were used, and 36 different parameters were applied for

82 each strain. These applications were performed both in two patient strains and in the  
83 reference strain.

84 Roswell Park Memorial Institute (RPMI) 1640 medium (containing L-glutamine and  
85 phenol red without sodium bicarbonate) was prepared with MOPS according to the  
86 CLSI M27A3 guidelines (pH 7.0) according to the CLSI M27A3 guidelines,  
87 sterilized by filtration and stored at +4°C until use. A few colonies were taken from  
88 the 48-hour culture produced in SDA with a sterile core, inoculated into RPMI 1640  
89 medium and incubated at 37°C and 100 rpm overnight. The cells were centrifuged  
90 at 3000 rpm for 5 minutes, the supernatant was discarded, and the pellet was washed  
91 twice with PBS. Cell suspensions prepared with RPMI medium for each origin were  
92 prepared at concentrations of 10<sup>5</sup>, 10<sup>6</sup> and 10<sup>7</sup> CFU/mL according to their absorbance  
93 at 530 nm. In a flat-bottomed, 96-well polystyrene microplate, 100 µl of cell  
94 suspension was added to each well. Three replicates were performed for each isolate.  
95 The mixture was incubated at 37°C for 60, 90 or 120 min under static shaking  
96 conditions at 100 rpm. The supernatant was removed, and the cells were washed  
97 with 150 µl of PBS. Thus, cells that did not adhere to the surface were removed.  
98 Then, 150 µl of RPMI medium was added to each well and incubated at 37°C for 48  
99 and 72 hours under static shaking conditions at 100 rpm. Thus, biofilm formation  
100 was allowed. The supernatant was changed every 24 hours, and each experiment was  
101 repeated 2 times.

#### 102 **Determination of biofilm formation in strains by the crystal violet method**

103 After biofilm formation, the supernatant was aspirated, and the cells were washed 2  
104 times with 200 µl of PBS and dried at room temperature for 45 min. Then, 110 µl of  
105 each sample was stained with 0.4% crystal violet for 45 min. Afterwards, the cells  
106 were washed 4 times with 200 µl of sterile distilled water. Two hundred microliters  
107 was incubated with 95% ethanol for 45 min, 100 µl was transferred to another



108 microplate, and the absorbance values were measured at a wavelength of 570 nm  
109 with a spectrophotometer.

## 110 **Statistical analysis**

111 Three repetitions were made in each experiment for 36 parameters applied to the  
112 three strains included in the study, and the mean absorbance values and standard  
113 deviations were determined with these repetitions. Each experiment was repeated  
114 twice. To determine the reproducibility of the experiment, the means and standard  
115 deviations in these two experiments were compared by applying the independent  
116 samples t test in MedCalc Software  
117 ([https://www.medcalc.org/calc/comparison\\_of\\_means.php](https://www.medcalc.org/calc/comparison_of_means.php) (Version 22.023;  
118 accessed May 17, 2024).

## 119 **RESULTS**

### 120 **Assessment of biofilm formation by the crystal violet method**

121 An inoculum amount of  $10^5$ ,  $10^6$  or  $10^7$  CFU/mL; an adhesion time of 60, 90 or 120  
122 minutes; a biofilm maturation time of 48 or 72 hours; and static shaking at 100 rpm  
123 were applied to the two patient strains and reference strains.

124 The mean absorbance values and standard deviation values were determined by  
125 repeating the same experiment three times for 36 different parameters applied, and  
126 graphs were created with these values. All graphs were compared for reproducibility  
127 of the experiment. The statistically significant difference between the two  
128 experiments for 36 parameters applied at three origins showed that the experiment  
129 could not be reproduced. The P value shown in Table 1 was less than 0.05, indicating  
130 that there was a significant difference between the two experiments and that the  
131 experiment could not be repeated. When the P value was greater than 0.05, there was  
132 no significant difference between the two experiments, and the results were  
133 reproducible (Table 1).

134 From the graphs created for the strain of 2017, the parameters with the least  
135 difference between the 1st and 2nd experiments were analysed. The parameters with  
136 the least differences between the 1st and 2nd experiments were  $10^5$  CFU/mL, static,  
137 120 min adhesion time and 48 h result;  $10^5$  CFU/mL, shaking, 120 min adhesion  
138 time and 48 h result;  $10^6$  CFU/mL, shaking, 90 and 120 min adhesion time and 48 h  
139 result; and  $10^7$  CFU/mL, static, 120 min adhesion time and 72 h result, for a total of  
140 5 parameters (Table 1).

141 From the graphs created for the 2019 strain, the parameters with the least differences  
142 between the 1st and 2nd experiments were  $10^7$  CFU/mL, static, 60 and 120 minutes  
143 of adhesion time and 48 hours result,  $10^6$  CFU/mL, shaking, 120 minutes of adhesion  
144 time and 48 hours result,  $10^6$  CFU/mL, static, 60 minutes of adhesion time and 72  
145 hours result, and  $10^7$  CFU/mL, static, 60 and 120 minutes of adhesion time and 72  
146 hours result, a total of 6 parameters (Table 1).

147 The parameters with the least difference between the 1st and 2nd experiments from  
148 the graphs generated for the reference strain *T. asahii* var. *asahii* CBS 2479 were  $10^7$   
149 CFU/mL, shaking, 90 min adhesion time and 48 h result and  $10^7$  CFU/mL, static, 60  
150 and 120 min adhesion time and 72 h result, for a total of 3 parameters (Table 1).

151 Statistical analysis was performed to verify that the parameters with the least  
152 difference between experiments 1 and 2 of the three included strains were  
153 reproducible. Since the P value of these parameters was greater than 0.05, there was  
154 no significant difference between the two experiments, indicating that the  
155 experiment was repeatable (Table 1).

156 Among the 36 parameters applied for all three strains, the common parameters that  
157 can be repeated is  $10^7$  CFU/mL, static conditions, a 120-minute adhesion time and  
158 72 hours result. This result can be seen in the “reproducibility” column in Table 1.  
159 This parameter is the optimized result, and the graphs with these results for the three  
160 strains are shown in Figure 1 (Figure 1).

161

## 162 **DISCUSSION**

163 *Trichosporon asahii* is the most common trichosporonosis agent that can cause  
164 invasive infections with a high mortality rate, especially in immunocompromised  
165 patients, and can be a source of infection through biofilm formation on invasive  
166 devices. [3, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15]. Therefore, it is important to investigate biofilm  
167 formation in this fungus. In this study, a reproducible *T. asahii* biofilm formation  
168 model was optimized by evaluating the ability of two *T. asahii* strains isolated from  
169 patients in Türkiye and the reference strain to form biofilms on polystyrene surfaces.

170 Determining the adhesion process, which is the first step in biofilm formation, is  
171 also important because it is the beginning of infection [9]. During biofilm formation,  
172 after the initial adhesion of the yeast to the surface, the mature phase begins with  
173 filamentation [12].

174 Di Bonaventura, Pompilio [7] applied inoculum amounts of  $10^4$ ,  $10^5$  and  $10^6$   
175 CFU/mL; adhesion times of 30, 60 and 120 minutes; and biofilm maturation times  
176 of 24, 48 and 72 hours and reported that *T. asahii* cells could adhere to polystyrene  
177 surfaces after only 30 minutes of incubation. They stated that the adherent cells were  
178 organized as microcolonies representing the early microbial adaptive response in the  
179 first 4 hours despite the low metabolic profile, and then the formation of mature  
180 biofilms increased from 6 hours to 72 hours. They determined the most optimal  
181 experimental setup as  $10^5$  CFU/mL, 60 min adhesion time and 72 hours biofilm  
182 formation time.

183 Iturrieta-González, Padovan [10], based on different protocols in their study, used  
184 inoculum amounts of  $10^5$ ,  $10^6$  and  $10^7$  CFU/mL; adhesion times of 60, 90 and 120  
185 minutes; biofilm maturation times of 48 and 72 hours; shaking at 75 rpm; and static  
186 environment parameters for optimisation experiments. As a result,  $10^7$  CFU/mL, 90

187 min of adhesion time, shaking and 48 hours of biofilm maturation were determined  
188 to be optimal.

189 In another optimisation study,  $10^7$  CFU/mL inoculum was used, and adhesion times  
190 of 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 hours were compared. In contrast to other studies, 1 and 2 hours  
191 of adhesion were judged to be insufficient, and significantly greater biofilm  
192 production was observed between 2 and 4 hours. They concluded that if the exposure  
193 time increases when there is sufficient surface area, it can lead to high virulence and  
194 ultimately persistence of infection [14].

195 According to optimisation studies carried out around the world, *T. asahii* biofilm  
196 production is carried out in different ways, and biofilms are formed in different  
197 countries, in different amounts and for different periods in each study.

198 As far as we could examine, we could not find any research in our country where  
199 optimization studies were carried out on *T. asahii* biofilm production. In this  
200 preliminary study before our study, for this purpose, we determined the optimal  
201 parameters for *T. asahii* biofilm production. In our research, we applied 36 different  
202 parameters to all three strains included in the study by crossing inoculum amounts  
203 of  $10^5$ ,  $10^6$  and  $10^7$  CFU/mL; adhesion times of 60, 90 and 120 minutes; biofilm  
204 maturation times of 48 and 72 hours; and static and 100 rpm shaking parameters. We  
205 applied these parameters twice to each strain. We statistically compared the  
206 absorbance results between these two experiments by including the means and  
207 standard deviations that we determined from three repetitions within the experiment.  
208 A P value between the two experiments was greater than 0.05 indicated that there  
209 was no statistically significant difference between the two experiments and that the  
210 experiment was reproducible. It was observed that the common parameters for  
211 reproducible results in all three strains were  $10^7$  CFU/mL, static conditions, 120  
212 minutes of adhesion time and 72 hours result. We concluded that this result is the  
213 most optimized result.

214 The results obtained in our study are compatible with the 72 hours given as the most  
215 optimised biofilm maturation time in the optimisation study performed by Di  
216 Bonaventura, Pompilio [7], but the adhesion times of  $10^7$  CFU/mL and 120 minutes  
217 in our study are not compatible with the optimised inoculum amount of  $10^5$  CFU/mL  
218 and the adhesion time of 60 minutes in their study.

219 When we compared our study with the study of Iturrieta-González, Padovan [10], it  
220 was found to be compatible with the inoculum amount of  $10^7$  CFU/mL in the study  
221 of Di Bonaventura, Pompilio [7]. The most optimised conditions determined by this  
222 study, such as an incubation time of 90 minutes, a biofilm maturation time of 48  
223 hours and the fact that the experiment was carried out in a shaking apparatus, are not  
224 compatible with the values in our study. In addition, the shaking speed in this study  
225 was 75 rpm, while the shaking speed we used was 100 rpm.

226 Montoya, Elizondo-Zertuche [14] maintained a constant concentration of  $10^7$   
227 CFU/mL in their optimisation studies and compared the adhesion times and found  
228 that 2-4 hours was optimal. In our study, we determined 120 minutes to be the most  
229 optimised adhesion time and observed that it was compatible with this study.

## 230 CONCLUSIONS

231 As far as we could examine in our country, we observed that there was no  
232 optimization phase in the studies investigating the biofilm formation process of *T.*  
233 *asahii*. We will use the most optimized results we obtained after this optimization  
234 study in our study with the comprehensive clinical samples we mentioned. We  
235 believe that the optimization conditions we have determined will lead studies to be  
236 carried out on this subject in our country and raise awareness. However, we think  
237 that the results may differ depending on the laboratory conditions studied, the strains,  
238 and the type of clinical sample. For this reason, we believe that optimization and  
239 standardization should be ensured to determine the suitability of the conditions under  
240 study before starting to work on each study.

241 We believe that *T. asahii*, which, unfortunately, has not been studied extensively,  
242 even though it causes serious infections worldwide and, in our country, is important  
243 for examining the biofilm formation process and investigating infection treatment  
244 processes. We predict that the parameters we have determined as a result of this  
245 optimization study will lead to the development of different strategies to examine  
246 these factors in more comprehensive and different types of clinical samples in  
247 different studies. In this way, we hope that studies will be conducted to reveal the  
248 unknown aspects of the fungal biofilm formation mechanism in more detail.

**ТАБЛИЦЫ**

**Table 1.** Reproducible parameters of the three strains used and comparison of these parameters.

| Parameters                         | Strains              |                      |              |     |                      |                      |         |     |                      |                      |              |     |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----|----------------------|----------------------|---------|-----|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----|
|                                    | 2017                 |                      |              |     | 2019                 |                      |         |     | CBS 2479             |                      |              |     |
|                                    | 1 <sup>st</sup> exp. | 2 <sup>nd</sup> exp. | P value      | Rep | 1 <sup>st</sup> exp. | 2 <sup>nd</sup> exp. | P value | Rep | 1 <sup>st</sup> exp. | 2 <sup>nd</sup> exp. | P value      | Rep |
| 10 <sup>5</sup> , 48h, St,<br>120m | 1.19 ±<br>0.19       | 1.11 ±<br>0.09       | 0.56*        | X   | 1.85 ±<br>0.58       | 0.48 ±<br>0.07       | 0.02**  |     | 0.77 ±<br>0.14       | 0.27 ±<br>0.01       | 0.003**      |     |
| 10 <sup>7</sup> , 48h, St,<br>60m  | 2.95 ±<br>0.08       | 1.71 ±<br>0.11       | <0.001<br>** |     | 1.98 ±<br>0.05       | 1.89 ±<br>0.22       | 0.52*   | X   | 0.69 ±<br>0.03       | 0.48 ±<br>0.04       | 0.002**      |     |
| 10 <sup>7</sup> , 48h, St,<br>120m | 2.81 ±<br>0.27       | 1.46 ±<br>0.15       | 0.002**      |     | 2.26 ±<br>0.07       | 2.39 ±<br>0.05       | 0.07*   | X   | 0.71 ±<br>0.02       | 0.29 ±<br>0.02       | <0.001<br>** |     |

|                                    |                |                |            |                |                |            |  |                |                |         |   |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------|----------------|----------------|------------|--|----------------|----------------|---------|---|
| 10 <sup>5</sup> , 48h, Sh,<br>120m | 0.55 ±<br>0.11 | 0.50 ±<br>0.05 | 0.52*<br>X | 1.16 ±<br>0.13 | 1.69 ±<br>0.04 | 0.003**    |  | 0.59 ±<br>0.19 | 0.23 ±<br>0.01 | 0.03**  |   |
| 10 <sup>6</sup> , 48h, Sh,<br>90m  | 1.57 ±<br>0.10 | 1.64 ±<br>0.03 | 0.30*<br>X | 1.99 ±<br>0.06 | 1.29 ±<br>0.07 | <0.001**   |  | 0.55 ±<br>0.07 | 0.31 ±<br>0.02 | 0.005** |   |
| 10 <sup>6</sup> , 48h, Sh,<br>120m | 1.16 ±<br>0.01 | 1.29 ±<br>0.16 | 0.22*<br>X | 2.06 ±<br>0.24 | 1.91 ±<br>0.01 | 0.36*<br>X |  | 0.78 ±<br>0.29 | 0.23 ±<br>0.01 | 0.03**  |   |
| 10 <sup>7</sup> , 48h, Sh,<br>90m  | 2.69 ±<br>0.06 | 1.01 ±<br>0.29 | <0.001**   | 2.72 ±<br>0.13 | 1.73 ±<br>0.32 | 0.008**    |  | 0.69 ±<br>0.17 | 0.56 ±<br>0.01 | 0.26*   | X |
| 10 <sup>6</sup> , 72h, St,<br>60m  | 2.31 ±<br>0.13 | 1.35 ±<br>0.06 | <0.001**   | 2.39 ±<br>0.11 | 2.40 ±<br>0.32 | 0.98*<br>X |  | 0.78 ±<br>0.11 | 0.33 ±<br>0.03 | 0.003** |   |
| 10 <sup>7</sup> , 72h, St,<br>60m  | 2.31 ±<br>0.20 | 1.60 ±<br>0.08 | 0.005**    | 2.95 ±<br>0.03 | 2.81 ±<br>0.08 | 0.06*<br>X |  | 1.04 ±<br>0.32 | 0.59 ±<br>0.03 | 0.07*   | X |
| 10 <sup>7</sup> , 72h, St,<br>120m | 2.26 ±<br>0.25 | 2.47 ±<br>0.37 | 0.46*<br>X | 3.46 ±<br>0.01 | 3.59 ±<br>0.09 | 0.06*<br>X |  | 0.48 ±<br>0.05 | 0.54 ±<br>0.03 | 0.20*   | X |

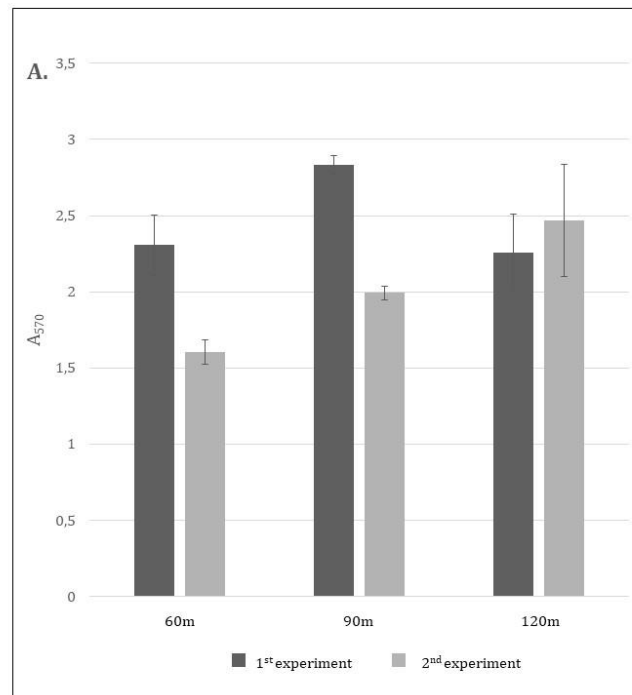


|              |   |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|---|
| <b>Total</b> | 5 | 6 | 3 |
|--------------|---|---|---|

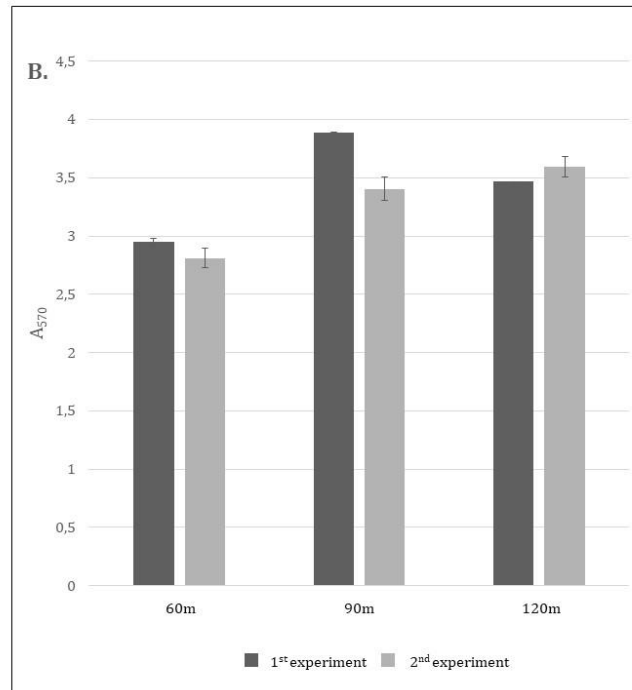
( $10^5$ ,  $10^6$ ,  $10^7$ : Amounts of inoculum used (CFU/mL), 48h: 48hour, 72h: 72hour, St: static, Sh: shaking, 60m: 60 minutes adhesion time, 90m: 90 minutes adhesion time, 120m: 120 minutes adhesion time, 1<sup>st</sup> exp.: first experiment results (Mean  $\pm$  Standard Deviation), 2<sup>nd</sup> exp.: second experiment results (Mean  $\pm$  Standard Deviation). \*:  $p > 0.05$ , There is no statistically significant difference between the 2 experiments and the experiment is reproducible. \*\*:  $p < 0.05$ , There is statistically significant difference between the 2 experiments and the experiment is no reproducible. Rep.: Reproducibility. X: The experiment is reproducible.)

## РИСУНКИ

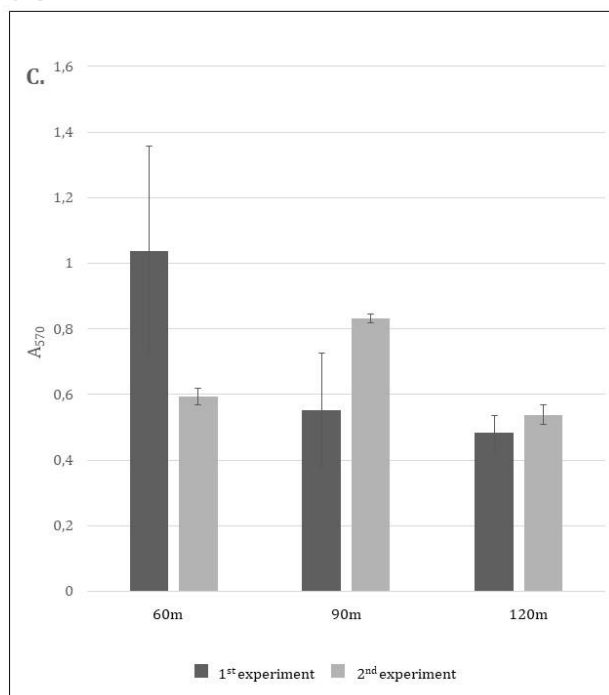
**Figure 1-A.** Results of two experiments with  $10^7$  CFU/mL, 60, 90 and 120 min adhesion time, 72 h incubation and static conditions of the patient strain isolated in 2017.



**Figure 1-B.** Results of two experiments with  $10^7$  CFU/mL, 60, 90 and 120 min adhesion time, 72 h incubation and static conditions of the patient strain isolated in 2019.



**Figure 1-C.** Results of two experiments with  $10^7$  CFU/mL, 60, 90 and 120 min adhesion time, 72 h incubation and static conditions of the reference strain *T. asahii* var. *asahii* CBS 2479.



## ТИТУЛЬНЫЙ ЛИСТ\_МЕТАДААННЫЕ

### **Блок 1. Информация об авторе ответственном за переписку**

**Ayaz, Sinem**, Research Assistant, Haliç University, Faculty of Medicine,  
Department of Medical Microbiology, Istanbul, Türkiye;

PhD Candidate, Istanbul University- Cerrahpaşa, Institute of Graduate Studies,  
Department of Medical Microbiology, Istanbul, Türkiye;

post address: 34060;

telephone: +905423253511;

ORCID: 0000-0002-3547-9053;

e-mail: [sinemayaz@halic.edu.tr](mailto:sinemayaz@halic.edu.tr) / [sinemkarabulut@outlook.com.tr](mailto:sinemkarabulut@outlook.com.tr)

**Синем Аяз**, Научный сотрудник, Университет Халич, Медицинский  
факультет, Кафедра медицинской микробиологии, Стамбул, Турция;

кандидат наук, Стамбульский университет - Джеррахпаша, Институт  
последипломного образования, Кафедра медицинской микробиологии,  
Стамбул, Турция;

Почтовый адрес: 34060;

Телефон: +905423253511;

ORCID: 0000-0002-3547-9053;

Электронная почта: [sinemayaz@halic.edu.tr](mailto:sinemayaz@halic.edu.tr) / [sinemkarabulut@outlook.com](mailto:sinemkarabulut@outlook.com)

### **Блок 2. Информация об авторах**

**Ergin, Sevgi**, Prof. Dr.;

Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa, Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Medicine, Department of  
Medical Microbiology, Istanbul, Türkiye;

OPTIMISATION OF BIOFILM FORMATION METHOD IN TRICHOSPORON ASANII  
ОПТИМИЗАЦИЯ МЕТОДА ФОРМИРОВАНИЯ БИОПЛЕНОК У TRICHOSPORON ASANII  
10.15789/2220-7619-APS-17643

posta address: 34060;

telephone: +905333321877;

ORCID: 0000-0003-2039-3078;

e-mail: sevgiergin@yahoo.com

**Севги Эргин, Профессор, Доктор наук;**

Стамбульский университет-Джерахпаша, медицинский факультет  
Джерахпаша, кафедра медицинской микробиологии, Стамбул, Турция;

почтовый адрес: 34060;

телефон: +905333321877;

ОРЦИД: 0000-0003-2039-3078;

электронная почта: sevgiergin@yahoo.com

### **Блок 3. Метаданные статьи**

A PRELIMINARY STUDY: FIRSTLY OPTIMISATION OF THE IN VITRO  
BIOFILM FORMATION METHOD IN TRICHOSPORON ASANII STRAINS  
ISOLATED FROM PATIENTS IN TÜRKİYE

ПРЕДВАРИТЕЛЬНОЕ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ: ПЕРВАЯ ОПТИМИЗАЦИЯ  
МЕТОДА ФОРМИРОВАНИЯ БИОПЛЕНКИ IN VITRO У ШТАММА  
TRICHOSPORON ASANII, ВЫДЕЛЕННОГО ОТ ПАЦИЕНТОВ В ТУРЦИИ

**Сокращенное название статьи для верхнего колонтитула:**

OPTIMISATION OF BIOFILM FORMATION METHOD IN TRICHOSPORON  
ASANII

ОПТИМИЗАЦИЯ МЕТОДА ФОРМИРОВАНИЯ БИОПЛЕНОК У  
TRICHOSPORON ASANII

**Keywords:** *Trichosporon asahii*, Invasive Fungal Infections, Biofilm, Optimisation, Fungi, Türkiye.

**Ключевые слова:** *Trichosporon asahii*, инвазивные грибковые инфекции, биопленка, оптимизация, грибы, Турция.

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