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2 **Effects of Cellulase and Xylanase Enzymes Mixed with Increasing Doses of *Salix babylonica***
3 **Extract on *in vitro* Gas Production Kinetics of a Mixture of Corn Silage with Concentrate¹**

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16

17 **Abstract**

18 An *in vitro* gas production (GP) technique was used to investigate the effects of combining different
19 doses of *Salix babylonica* extract (SB) with exogenous fibrolytic enzymes (EZ) based on cellulase (C)
20 and xylanase (X), or their mixture (XC; 1:1 v/v) on *in vitro* fermentation characteristics of a total mixed
21 ration of corn silage and concentrate mixture (50:50, w/w) as substrate. Four levels of SB extract (0,
22 0.6, 1.2 and 1.8 mL g⁻¹DM) and four supplemental styles of EZ (1 µL g⁻¹ DM; Control (no enzymes),
23 X, C and XC (1:1, v/v) were used in a 4×4 factorial arrangement. *In vitro* GP (mL g⁻¹ DM) were
24 recorded at 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 24, 36, 48 and 72 h of incubation. After 72 h, the incubation process was
25 stopped and supernatant pH was determined, and then filtered to determine dry matter degradability
26 (DMD). Fermentation parameters, such as the 24 h gas yield (GY₂₄), *in vitro* organic matter

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27 digestibility (OMD), metabolizable energy (ME), short chain fatty acid concentrations (SCFA), and
28 microbial crude protein production (MCP) were also, estimated. Results indicated that there was a
29 SB×EZ interaction ($P<0.0001$) for the asymptotic gas production (b), the rate of gas production (c), GP
30 from 6 to 72 h, GP₂ ($P=0.0095$), and GP₄ ($P=0.02$). The SB extract and different combination of
31 enzymes supplementation influenced ($P<0.001$) *in vitro* GP parameters after 12 h of incubation; the
32 highest doses of SB (i.e., 1.8 mL g⁻¹ DM), in the absence of any EZ, quadratically increased ($P<0.05$)
33 the initial delay before gas production begins (L) and GP at different incubation times, with lowering b
34 (quadratic effect, $P<0.0001$) and c (quadratic effect, $P<0.0001$; linear effect, $P=0.0018$). GP was lowest
35 ($P<0.05$) when the highest SB level was combined with cellulose. There were SB×EZ interactions
36 ($P\leq0.001$) for OMD, ME, the partitioning factor at 72 h of incubation (PF₇₂), GY₂₄, SCFA, MCP
37 ($P=0.0143$), and pH ($P=0.0008$). The OMD, ME, GY₂₄ and SCFA with supplementation of SB extract
38 at 1.8 mL g⁻¹ DM were higher ($P<0.001$) than the other treatments, however, PF₇₂ was lower (quadratic
39 effect, $P=0.0194$) than the other levels. Both C and X had no effect ($P>0.05$) on OMD, pH, ME, GY₂₄,
40 SCFA and MP. The combination of SB extract with EZ increased ($P<0.001$) OMD, ME, SCFA,
41 PF₇₂ and GP₂₄, whereas there was no impact on pH. It could be concluded that addition of SB extract, C,
42 and X effectively improved the *in vitro* rumen fermentation, and the combination of enzyme with SB
43 extract at the level of 1.2 mL g⁻¹ was more effective than the other treatments.

44

45 **Keywords:** cellulase, *in vitro* fermentation, *S. babylonica*, xylanase.

46

47 INTRODUCTION

48 The use of exogenous enzymes as a feed additive strategy have attracted growing attention and proved
49 to be useful in improving production efficiency of ruminants (Beauchemin *et al.* 2003). Morgavi *et al.*
50 (2000) reported that enzymes improved fiber degradation in the rumen by acting synergistically with

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51 the rumen microflora, thereby increasing their hydrolytic capacity in the rumen (Beauchemin *et al.*
52 2004). Moreover, the use of fibrolytic enzymes in ruminant diets is generally characterized by an
53 increases dry matter (DM) intake, cellulose degradation and/or nutrient digestibility, and consequently
54 increase animal performance (Yang *et al.* 2000). The major fibrolytic enzymes are cellulases and
55 xylanases, which degrade cellulose and hemicellulose, respectively, with synergy occurring between
56 their activities (Bhat and Hazlewood 2001). It is also well known that ruminal microorganisms perform
57 numerous enzymatic activities which hydrolyze the complex structure of plant cell walls to its
58 constituent monomeric components (Khattab *et al.* 2011, 2013). However, ruminal microbial
59 fermentation may result in considerable energy and protein losses as methane and ammonia N (NRC
60 2001). Indeed, 2 to 12 percent of the digestible energy ingested by ruminants is lost in the rumen as
61 methane, whereas from 75 to 85 percent of the nitrogen consumed by dairy cows is excreted in feces
62 and urine (Busquet *et al.* 2006; Mitsumori and Sun 2008).

63 On the other hand, plant extracts, rich in secondary metabolites, have been used as feed additive in
64 order to manipulate ruminal fermentation and improve the efficiency of nutrients use, by decreasing the
65 amount of methane or ammonia N produced (Rezaei and Pour 2012). This strategy has achieved
66 increasing interest since these compounds are generally recognized as safe for human consumption
67 (Busquet *et al.* 2006). Previous studies reported that some secondary metabolites, such as essential oils,
68 can modify rumen N metabolism by reducing degradation of proteins, and ammonia production in the
69 rumen (Jiménez-Peralta *et al.* 2011). This beneficial effect, however, could be offset by a decrease of
70 volatile fatty acid production and feed digestibility (Martinez *et al.* 2006). It has been shown that the
71 concentration of plant extracts and their secondary compounds is capable of imparting positive effects
72 on rumen fermentation (Calsamiglia *et al.* 2007). However, all studies reported in the literature
73 highlight effects of either exogenous enzymes or plant extracts feed additive on rumen fermentation,
74 but there is little information on the effect of these feed additives used in combination.

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75 Therefore, the objective of this study was to assess the effects of different doses of plant extracts
76 when combined with exogenous fibrolytic enzymes on in vitro ruminal fermentation of a mixture of
77 corn silage with concentrate.

78

79 RESULTS

80 There was a *S. babylonica* extract×enzyme interaction ($P<0.0001$) for the asymptotic gas production
81 (b ; mL g^{-1} DM), the rate of gas production (c ; /h), GP from 6 to 72 h (mL g^{-1} DM), GP_2 ($P=0.0095$),
82 and GP_4 ($P=0.02$) with no effects ($P>0.05$) on lag time (L ; Table 1). However, there were no effect
83 ($P>0.05$) of extract at doses of 0, 0.6, and 1.2 mL g^{-1} DM of substrate on b , c , L , and GP at different
84 incubation times with exception of GP_2 ($P<0.0001$) at 1.2 mL g^{-1} DM of substrate. Addition of *S.*
85 *babylonica* extract (i.e., SB) at the highest doses (i.e., 1.8 mL g^{-1} DM of substrate) and in the absence
86 of any enzymes quadratically increased lag time ($P=0.0003$) and volumes of gas produced at different
87 incubation times (linear and quadratic effects, $P<0.05$), which resulted in lowest values for the
88 asymptotic gas production (linear effect, $P=0.0149$; quadratic effect, $P<0.0001$) and rate of gas
89 production (linear effect, $P=0.0018$; quadratic effect, $P<0.0001$). The effect of treatments on the
90 volumes of GP was more pronounced after 48 h of incubation and reached 80% for 1.8 SB with control
91 enzyme and followed by a gradual decrease with fermentation times to reach only 5% at 72 h; at the
92 same precedent conditions. In general and except for values recorded at 12 h of incubation, GP was
93 lowest ($P<0.05$) when the highest SB level was combined with cellulose addition. For the other
94 treatments, with the exception of b , GP_{48} and GP_{72} , there were no differences in terms of gas
95 production (Table 1).

96 *In vitro* rumen fermentation profile as affected by the combination of different levels of SB extract
97 with exogenous enzymes is presented in Table 2. There were SB extract×enzyme interactions ($P\leq0.001$)
98 for OMD, ME, PF_{72} , GY_{24} , SCFA, MCP ($P=0.0143$), and pH ($P=0.0008$), with no effect on DMD

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99 ($P>0.05$). However, there were no effect ($P>0.05$) of treatments on final pH (6.6-6.7) and DMD (79-
100 88%). The highest SB doses, and in absence of any enzyme addition, Control recorded the highest
101 OMD (linear effect, $P=0.0315$; quadratic effect, $P<0.0001$), ME (linear effect, $P=0.0317$; quadratic
102 effect, $P<0.0001$), GY₂₄ (quadratic effect, $P=0.034$) and SCFA (linear effect, $P=0.0316$; quadratic
103 effect, $P<0.0001$). With the exception of the highest SB doses and within the same doses, there was no
104 effect ($P>0.05$) of enzyme addition on all the parameters measured. However, at 1.8 doses of SB, with
105 the exception of MCP, an effect ($P<0.05$) of enzyme addition on the pattern of fermentation was
106 observed only with the Control treatment (no enzyme addition) giving rise to a higher fermentation
107 than that recorded when enzymes were added alone or in a combination with SB.

108

109 **DISCUSSION**

110 Natural plant extracts represent one of the options to replace the use of antibiotic as growth
111 promoters in animal feeds (Salem *et al.* 2012). Indeed, there has been very limited research on the
112 effect of these extracts when combined with exogenous enzymes on ruminal microbial fermentation.
113 The intent of the present screening was to identify the optimal dose of *S. babylonica* extract and the
114 amount of fibrolytic enzyme (xylanase/cellulose) needed to improve *in vitro* ruminal fermentation. To
115 achieve this, four doses of SB (i.e., 0, 0.6, 1.2 and 1.8 mL/g DM) were tested *in vitro* combined with
116 individual or a mixture of exogenous fibrolytic enzymes. The SB extract used in this study contained
117 moderate levels of phenolic compounds and saponins (Jiménez-Peralta *et al.* 2011). With the exception
118 of the highest SB doses (1.8 mL g⁻¹ DM), treatment with exogenous fibrolytic enzymes at the different
119 SB doses had no effect ($P>0.05$) neither on parameters of gas production nor on *in vitro* degradation
120 and pattern of fermentation. No effect of dietary enzyme supplementation on ruminal fermentation
121 parameters was also noted in other studies (Beauchemin *et al.* 1999).

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122 Inconsistent results were observed with exogenous fibrolytic enzymes. Baah *et al.* (2005)
123 indicated positive effects on activity of rumen bacteria, total bacterial growth rate, volatile fatty acids
124 (VFA), gas production, DM intake and milk production in cattle. However, Kim *et al.* (2005) reported
125 no significant effects on VFA production, DM degradation rates, methane production. Fibrolytic
126 enzymes may improve the nutritive value of feeds due to enhanced attachment by rumen
127 microorganisms to feeds particles (Nsereko *et al.* 2002), creation of a stable enzyme feed complexes
128 (Kung *et al.* 2000), and/or the possibility of alteration in the fiber structure, which could stimulate
129 microbial colonization (Giraldo *et al.* 2004). The effects of enzymes, however, seem to be dependent
130 on many factors such as source, type and dose of enzyme, type of diets fed to the animals, enzymes
131 application methods, and method of administration (Beauchemin *et al.* 2003; Carro *et al.* 2007).

132 It is well reported that enzyme activity measurements must be conducted under conditions closely
133 defined with respect to temperature, pH, ionic strength, substrate concentration, and substrate type,
134 since all of these factors will affect the activity of an enzyme. The optimal temperature and pH for
135 assessing enzyme activity are generally not representative of the conditions in the rumen, which are
136 closer to a pH of 6.0 to 6.7 and 39 °C (Van Soest 1994). Studies reported by Gashe (1992) indicated that
137 under at pH values ranging between 4.5 and 5.5 exogenous enzymes could make a contribution to
138 ruminal fiber digestion. This condition could explain partly the lack of enzymatic effect on *in vitro*
139 fermentation since pH varied between 6.63 and 6.70. Thus, the activities quoted for commercial
140 enzyme products are considerably higher than for those that would be measured at a pH and
141 temperature similar to that of the rumen. In discrepancy with our results, Colombatto *et al.* (2003)
142 reported a significant relationship between xylanase activity and feed digestion. However, the
143 relationship was positive with alfalfa hay, but negative with corn silage. It appears therefore that it may
144 not be possible to predict the potential of increasing cell wall digestion in the rumen using exogenous
145 feed enzymes based only on their biochemical characterization of substrate. This observation is not

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146 surprising because enzyme activities are measured on model substrates that do not represent the
147 complexity of plant cell wall material. From this finding, we suggest that there might be an ideal ratio
148 between the major enzymatic activities to achieve further improvement of degradation when enzymes
149 are combined with other additives such as plant extracts.

150 Furthermore, because the conditions of the assays and method of expressing enzyme activity vary
151 among manufacturers, it is difficult to compare enzyme products or predict the efficacy of the product
152 in ruminant diets. In some studies, the response to enzymes has been substantial. For example, Lewis *et*
153 *al.* (1999) treated forage with a cellulase/xylanase mixture (Finn Feeds Int.; supplying 1 mL kg⁻¹ of
154 total mixed ration, DM basis) and observed that cows in early lactation produced 16% more milk.
155 However, higher and lower levels of the same enzyme product were less effective. It is clear that
156 exogenous enzymes can be effective for ruminants, but it is important to determine the conditions that
157 are most likely to result in positive responses. In fact, it was hypothesized that method of application
158 has an impact on ruminal fermentation.

159 The ability of cellulases and xylanases to increase the extent of fiber digestion may be limited by the
160 lack of enzymes that degrade the core structure of lignin-cellulose complexes in low quality forages
161 (Carro *et al.* 2007). Krueger *et al.* (2003) showed that an enzymatic complex containing high esterase,
162 cellulose and endogalacturonase activities enhanced the digestion of tropical hays, and suggested that
163 the use of enzymes such as ferulic acid esterases could make the digestible xylans in the cell wall more
164 susceptible to enzymatic degradation.

165 Irrespectively of enzymes addition and by the exception of the highest doses (1.8 mL g⁻¹ DM) of SB,
166 treatments with different SB doses, in general, had not significant effect on pattern of fermentation and
167 *in vitro* degradation.

168 Previous studies reported by Jiménez-Peralta *et al.* (2011) pointed out that administration of high
169 doses (i.e., 1.2 and 1.8 mL g⁻¹ DM) of SB to growing lambs fed on high concentrate diet affected

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170 potentially ruminal fermentation and *in vitro* gas production parameters. These authors suggested that
171 ruminal bacteria of lambs are capable of metabolizing phenolic compounds (Chen *et al.* 1988), and
172 may act as catalysts for fiber degradation by increasing access of fibrolytic bacteria to the cell wall
173 polysaccharides in the high concentrate diet. In our study, rumen liquid used for the *in vitro* incubations
174 was collected from cows fed on commercial concentrate and alfalfa hay, with no preliminary
175 experience with SB extract.

176 In our study, pH varied between 6.63 and 6.70 and was not affected neither by SB doses nor by
177 enzymes addition. Only high doses of (1.8 mL g^{-1} DM) of SB without any enzymes addition resulted
178 generally in slightly beneficial effect on *in vitro* fermentation. Under these conditions, there was a
179 particular increase of cumulative gas production recorded at different incubation times and most
180 parameters of pattern of fermentation. This was expected since SCFA are the end products of rumen
181 microbial fermentation and represent the main supply of metabolizable energy for ruminants (Van
182 Soest 1994). It is possible that plant extracts at these doses and levels of secondary compounds did not
183 exhibit any antimicrobial effects (Cowan, 1999) possibly due to the ability of rumen microorganisms to
184 degrade them. Busquet *et al.* (2006) observed similar responses with some plant extracts when doses
185 ranged from 3 to 30 mgL^{-1} in a dairy cow-type environment. This could be due to the stimulating effect
186 of plant extracts on degradation of OM and synchronization between energy and protein release in the
187 rumen in the presence of some chemical constituents of the plant extracts (Jiménez-Peralta *et al.* 2011).
188 Nevertheless, in presence of an exogenous fibrolytic enzyme (xylanase/cellulose), the beneficial effect
189 of plant extract was offset and a significant decrease ($P < 0.05$) of *in vitro* gas production parameters and
190 pattern of fermentation was recorded. Perhaps high doses of SB would be needed to achieve an
191 improvement of ruminal fermentation in cows.

192

193 **Conclusion**

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194 *In vitro* gas production and ruminal fermentation results contribute to highlight that extract of *S.*
195 *babylonica*, when added at high doses (1.8 mL g^{-1} DM of diet) are promising potential modifiers of *in*
196 *vitro* ruminal fermentation. However, when added simultaneously with fibrolytic enzymes (individual
197 or mixture) they generally lose their beneficial effects on pattern of fermentation and *in vitro* gas
198 production parameters. However, the dose of 1.2 mL g^{-1} DM will be more effective than the other
199 doses when cellulase or xylanase or their combination will be added to diet.

200

201 MATERIALS AND METHODS

202 Substrate and treatments

203 A total mixed ration (TMR) of corn silage and concentrate mixture (50:50, w/w) was prepared and
204 contained g kg^{-1} DM): 939.6 organic matter (OM), 138.7 crude protein (CP), 302.2 neutral detergent
205 fiber (NDF), 127.0 acid detergent fiber (ADF) and 12.6 acid detergent lignin (ADL). Diet sample was
206 dried at 60°C for 48 h in a forced air oven until constant weight, ground in a Wiley mill to pass a 1 mm
207 sieve and stored in plastic bags for subsequent determination of chemical composition and *in vitro* gas
208 production parameters. Four doses of *Salix babylonica* extract (SB, i.e., 0, 0.6, 1.2, 1.8 mL g^{-1} DM of
209 substrate) were used in the absence (Control) or presence of $1 \mu\text{L g}^{-1}$ DM of cellulase (C), xylanase (X)
210 or their combination (XC; 1:1, v/v) as an exogenous fibrolytic commercial enzymes (Dyadic[®] PLUS,
211 Dyadic international, Inc., Jupiter, FL, USA) in a liquid form. Activities of the exogenous fibrolytic
212 enzymes were provided by the manufacturers, and were cellulase 30000 to 36000 units g^{-1} and beta-
213 glucanase from 7500 to 10000 units g^{-1} for cellulase plus, and xylanase from 34000 to 41000 units/g,
214 beta-glucanase from 12000 to 15000 units g^{-1} and cellulose at 45000 to 55000 units g^{-1} for xylanase
215 plus. Our analysis for extract of SB showed that it contained (g/kg DM): 164 total phenolics, 54
216 saponins and 763 aqueous fractions.

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218 ***In vitro* incubation**

219 Effects of enzymes on ruminal fermentation of forages were widely determined using the *in vitro*
220 gas production technique (Eun *et al.* 2006). Rumen inoculum was collected from two Brown Swiss
221 cows ((450±20) kg body weight) fitted with permanent rumen cannula and fed *ad libitum* a total mixed
222 ration made up of 50:50 commercial concentrate (PURINA®, Toluca, Mexico) and alfalfa hay
223 formulated to meet all of their nutrient requirements (NRC 2001). Fresh water was available to cows at
224 all times during the rumen inoculum collection phase.

225 Ruminal contents from each cow were obtained before the morning feeding, flushed with CO₂
226 mixed and strained through four layers of cheesecloth into a flask with O₂ free headspace. Samples
227 (500 mg) of each feed were weighed into 120 mL serum bottles with appropriate addition of SB doses
228 g⁻¹ DM. Consequently, 10 mL of particle free ruminal fluid was added to each bottle followed by 40
229 mL of the buffer solution according to Goering and Van Soest (1970), with no trypsinase added, in a
230 1:4 (v/v) proportion. Exogenous fibrolytic enzymes of C, X or CX were added on bottle contents (i.e.,
231 substrate and buffered rumen fluid) immediately before closing.

232 A total of 144 bottles (3 bottles in three runs with each four doses of SB (i.e., 0, 0.6, 1.2, 1.8 mL SB
233 g⁻¹ DM) and four exogenous fibrolytic enzymes (i.e., C, X or CX (1:1, v/v)) plus three bottles as blanks
234 (i.e., rumen fluid only) were incubated for 72 h. Once all bottles were filled, flushed with CO₂, they
235 were immediately closed with rubber stoppers, shaken and placed in an incubator at 39 °C. The pressure
236 of gas produced was recorded at 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 24, 36, 48, and 72 h during incubation using the gas
237 production technique (Extech instruments, Waltham, USA) of Theodorou *et al.* (1994). At the end of
238 incubation (i.e., at 72 h) bottles were uncapped, pH was measured using a pH meter (Conductronic
239 pH15, Puebla, Mexico) and the contents of each bottle were filtered to obtain the non-fermented
240 residue for determination of degraded substrates.

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242 **Dry matter degradability**

243 At the end of incubation, the DM degradability was determined according to Ørskov and McDonald
244 (1979). Contents of each serum bottle were filtered under vacuum through glass crucibles with a
245 sintered filter. Fermentation residues were dried at 105 °C overnight to determine DM disappearance,
246 with loss in weight after drying being the measure of undegradable DM (Ørskov and McDonald 1979).

247

248 **Chemical analyses and secondary metabolites determination**

249 Samples of the TMR were analyzed for DM (#934.01), ash (#942.05), N (#954.01) and EE (#920.39)
250 according to AOAC (1997). NDF (Van Soest *et al.* 1991), ADF and lignin (AOAC 1997; #973.18)
251 analyses were carried out using an ANKOM200 Fiber Analyzer Unit (ANKOM Technology Corp.,
252 Macedon, NY, USA). NDF was assayed with use of an alpha amylase and with sodium sulfite in the
253 ND solution. Both NDF and ADF are expressed without residual ash.

254 Secondary compounds were determined by taking 10 mL of *S. babylonica* (i.e., SB) extract
255 fractionated by funnel separation with a double volume of ethyl acetate (99.7/100, analytical grade,
256 Fermont®, Monterrey, Mexico) to determine total phenolics by drying and quantifying the total
257 phenolics layer in the funnel. After total phenolics separation, a double volume of n-butanol (99.9/100,
258 analytical grade, Fermont®), was added to fractionate the saponins (Makkar *et al.* 1998). The remaining
259 solution was considered to be the aqueous fraction which contains the other secondary compounds such
260 as lectins, polypeptides and starch (Cowan 1999).

261

262 **Calculations**

263 To estimate kinetic parameters of GP, results (mL g⁻¹ DM) were fitted using the NLIN option of
264 SAS (2002) according to France *et al.* (2000) as:

265
$$A = b \times (1 - e^{-c(t-L)})$$

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266 Where, A is the volume of GP (mL g⁻¹ DM) at time t; b is the asymptotic GP (mL g⁻¹ DM); c is the
267 rate of GP (/h), and L (h) is the discrete lag time prior to initiation of GP.

268 Metabolizable energy (ME, MJ kg⁻¹ DM) and *in vitro* organic matter digestibility (OMD, g kg⁻¹ OM)
269 were estimated according to Menke *et al.* (1979) as:

270 $ME = 2.20 + 0.136 GP (\text{mL } 0.5 \text{ g}^{-1} \text{ DM}) + 0.057 CP (\text{g kg}^{-1} \text{ DM})$

271 $OMD = 148.8 + 8.89 GP + 4.5 CP (\text{g kg}^{-1} \text{ DM}) + 0.651 \text{ ash} (\text{g kg}^{-1} \text{ DM})$

272 Where, GP is net GP in mL from 200 mg of dry sample after 24 h of incubation.

273 The partitioning factor at 72 h of incubation (PF₇₂; a measure of fermentation efficiency) was
274 calculated as the ratio of DM degradability *in vitro* (DMD, mg) to the volume (mL) of GP at 72 h (i.e.,
275 DMD/total gas production (GP₇₂)) according to Blümmel *et al.* (1997). Gas yield (GP₂₄) was calculated
276 as the volume of gas (mL gas g⁻¹ DM) produced after 24 h of incubation divided by the amount of
277 DMD (g) as:

278 Gas yield (GY₂₄) = mL gas g⁻¹ DM/g DMD

279 Short chain fatty acid concentrations (SCFA) were calculated according to Getachew *et al.* (2002) as:

280 SCFA (mmol/200 mg DM) = 0.0222 GP - 0.00425

281 Where, GP is the 24 h net gas production (mL/200 mg DM).

282 Microbial CP biomass production was calculated according to Blümmel *et al.* (1997) as:

283 MP (mg g⁻¹ DM) = mg DMD - (mL gas × 2.2 mg mL⁻¹)

284 Where, 2.2 mg mL⁻¹ is a stoichiometric factor which expresses mg of C, H and O required for
285 production of SCFA gas associated with production of one mL of gas.

286

287 **Statistical analyses**

288 Mean values of each run were used as the experimental unit. Results of *in vitro* gas production and
289 ruminal fermentation parameters were analyzed as a 4×4 factorial experiment (i.e., 4 levels of SB

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290 extract being 0, 6, 1.2, 1.8 mL SB g⁻¹ DM) with 4 exogenous fibrolytic enzymes (i.e., no enzyme, C, X
291 or CX (1:1, v/v), using the PROC GLM option of SAS (2002) as:

292

$$Y_{ij} = \mu + SB_i + EZ_j + (SB_i \times EZ_j) + ijk \varepsilon$$

293 Where, Y_{ijk} is every observation of the i th extract (SB_i) when incubated with the j th EZ types (EZ_j ;
294 type enzyme preparation); μ is the general mean; SB_i ($i=1-4$) is the extract doses effect; EZ_j is the
295 enzyme dose effect ($j=1-4$); $(SB^*EZ)_{ij}$ is the interaction between extract and enzyme dose.

296

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300

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415 **Table 1** *In vitro* rumen gas kinetics and cumulative gas production after 72 h of incubation as affected by the combination of different
 416 levels of *Salix babylonica* extracts (SB, mL g⁻¹ DM) with exogenous enzymes (at 1 µL g⁻¹DM) of cellulase (C) and xylanase (X) or their
 417 mixture (CX, 1:1, v/v)

Extract (SB)	Enzyme (EZ)	Gas production parameters ¹			<i>In vitro</i> gas production (mL g ⁻¹ DM)									
		b	c	L	GP ₂	GP ₄	GP ₆	GP ₈	GP ₁₀	GP ₁₂	GP ₂₄	GP ₃₆	GP ₄₈	GP ₇₂
0	Control	146.7	0.087	1.753	36.2	64.3	80	99.9	113.2	126.4	154.2	170.6	180.6	190.8
	X	145.6	0.07	1.930	34.2	55.4	71.6	90.2	104.6	117.8	145.1	162.4	178.8	186.6
	C	140.7	0.078	1.921	36.9	56.7	73.7	92.1	106.2	119.5	145.7	160.9	175.3	183.6
	XC	152.1	0.072	1.402	40.8	65.5	81.6	99.5	113.2	126.3	153.5	169.8	185.5	199.1
	SEM	2.24	0.002	0.064	1.27	1.52	1.57	1.56	1.59	1.65	1.94	2.22	2.51	2.17
	P	0.41	0.28	0.064	0.355	0.103	0.146	0.156	0.186	0.215	0.266	0.349	0.5708	0.1383
0.6	Control	141	0.081	1.722	39.7	61.3	76.6	94.7	109.5	122.3	150	163.4	176.1	183.9
	X	147.7	0.076	1.530	37.5	62.2	76.9	96	109.1	121	150	165.4	180.1	189.4
	C	153.3	0.077	1.330	39	64.4	82.2	101.1	114.4	126.2	157.7	173.7	189.2	197.7
	XC	150.5	0.079	1.786	37.5	62.5	82.4	101.5	114.6	125.3	156.3	171.9	186.9	196.7
	SEM	1.89	0.0010	0.1000	0.95	1.43	1.35	1.41	1.34	1.62	1.56	1.49	1.55	1.62
	P	0.2029	0.6488	0.4919	0.8045	0.89	0.31	0.28	0.34	0.65	0.25	0.11	0.06	0.052
1.2	Control	157.0	0.079	1.707	36.2 a	59.4	79.5	99.9	114.4	127	157.3	173.7	189.2	199.3
	X	154.3	0.083	1.744	33.3 a	57.5	77.6	98.1	112.4	124.6	155.5	170.1	183.9	193.9
	C	162.6	0.072	1.666	26.3 b	51.4	69.5	88.8	104.3	117	148.8	167	184.4	195.9
	XC	186.8	0.080	1.293	29.1 b	54	80.2	100.7	119.5	131.9	164.4	185	204.9	217
	SEM	4.64	0.0040	0.1730	0.39	0.04	2.35	2.6	2.68	2.75	2.87	2.57	2.92	2.98
	P	0.1298	0.8044	0.7821	<0.0001	0.88	0.4	0.4	0.31	0.34	0.35	0.15	0.1	0.08
1.8	Control	208.2 a	0.1551 a	3.017a	31.0 a	56.6 a	103.3 a	149.9 a	172.3 a	184.8 a	215.6 a	229.5 a	242.7 a	254.3 a
	X	149.7 c	0.095 b	1.964 b	29.1 ab	54.2 ab	73.0 b	95.5 b	112.4 b	123.9 b	153.7 b	165.4 b	176.0 b	186.6 b
	C	149.9 c	0.087 b	1.841 b	25.7 b	47.4 b	66.2 b	90.2 b	105.1 b	116.2 b	144.0 b	157.6 b	170.0 b	183.6 b
	XC	160.0 b	0.073b	1.885 b	24.7 b	46.6 b	66.8 b	88.1 b	101.4 b	113.5 b	146.4 b	164.0 b	181.0 b	192.4 b
	SEM	3.95	0.004	0.083	0.49	0.84	1.01	3.38	3.82	3.89	3.82	3.97	4.32	4.38
	P	0.002	0.0006	0.0029	0.006	0.006	<0.0001	0.0005	0.0005	0.0006	0.0005	0.0011	0.0011	0.0013
Pooled SEM P values SB: Linear		16.92	0.0022	0.0576	4.2	6.07	8.2	11.8	12.7	13.2	13.4	13.6	14.9	14.9
0.0149	0.0018	0.132	0.0081	0.0094	0.0109	0.0126	0.0145	0.0165	0.0317	0.0458	0.0491	0.0314		

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Quadratic	<.0001	<.0001	0.0003	0.9639	0.7271	0.4515	0.2449	0.1152	0.047	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001
EZ	0.0098	<0.0001	0.0487	0.0273	0.0289	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.0004	0.0002
SB ×EZ	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.0836	0.0095	0.022	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001

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419 ¹ *b* is the asymptotic gas production (mL g⁻¹ DM); *c* is the rate of gas production (/h); *L* is the initial delay before gas production begins
420 (h).

421 ^{a,b,c} Different superscripts following means among enzymes in the column within each extract level indicate differences at *P*<0.05.

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424 **Table 2** *In vitro* rumen fermentation profile as affected by the combination of different levels of *Salix babylonica* (SB, mL g⁻¹ DM)

425 extracts with exogenous enzymes (at 1 μL g⁻¹DM) of cellulase (C) and xylanase (X) or their mixture (CX, 1:1, v/v)

Extract (SB)	Enzyme (EZ)	pH	DMD (mg/g DM)	OMD (g/g DM incubated)	ME (MJ/kg DM)	PF ₇₂ (mg DMD: mL gas)	GY ₂₄ (mL gas/g DMD)	SCFA (mmol/g DM)	MCP (mg/g DM)
0	Control	6.68	793	460	6.68	6.29	160.5	2.79	514.5
	X	6.70	836	449	6.51	6.95	143.0	2.65	571.3
	C	6.71	823	446	6.46	6.95	144.0	2.61	562.7
	XC	6.69	845	456	6.61	6.82	147.1	2.74	571.6
	SEM	0.005	80.6	30.8	0.058	0.148	3.59	0.047	10.72
	P	0.362	0.197	0.547	0.555	0.395	0.372	0.557	0.259
0.6	Control	6.69	837	450	6.51	6.96	144.2	2.65	571.9
	X	6.70	824	455	6.60	6.67	150.2	2.72	552.4
	C	6.70	839	464	6.74	6.51	153.7	2.84	555.5
	XC	6.68	853	462	6.71	6.67	149.9	2.81	571.9
	SEM	0.011	76.4	23.9	0.036	0.198	2.12	0.029	8.23
	P	0.952	0.636	0.187	0.197	0.097	0.5	0.183	0.755
1.2	Control	6.69	880	472	8.85	6.64	152.9	2.93	586.0
	X	6.80	867	472	6.86	6.5	154.3	2.94	573.8
	C	6.67	819	472	6.85	6.18	162.8	2.93	526.7
	XC	6.67	842	508	7.40	5.54	182.3	3.38	504.8
	SEM	0.007	169.9	56.2	0.086	0.217	5.43	0.07	20.51
	P	0.716	0.616	0.132	0.133	0.3504	0.275	0.1327	0.4837
1.8	Control	6.67	840	596 ^a	8.75 ^a	4.19 ^b	241.61 ^a	4.47 ^a	393.4 ^b
	X	6.64	913	474 ^b	6.88 ^b	6.80 ^a	147.26 ^b	2.95 ^b	617.8 ^a
	C	6.64	812	467 ^b	6.78 ^b	6.22 ^a	162.76 ^b	2.87 ^b	524.9 ^{ab}
	XC	6.63	850	468 ^b	6.80 ^b	6.47 ^a	154.58 ^b	2.89 ^b	560.9 ^{ab}
	SEM	0.008	185.7	70.9	0.108	0.152	5.89	0.088	19.99
	P	0.495	0.331	0.0005	0.0005	0.0013	0.0016	0.0005	0.022
Pooled SEM		0.03	168.8	25.0	1.38	0.79	12.26	1.031	17.91
P value									
SB									
Linear		0.9345	0.3624	0.0315	0.0317	0.0854	0.1352	0.0316	0.0854
Quadratic		0.3564	0.001	<.0001	<.0001	0.0194	0.034	<.0001	0.0194
EZ		0.0006	0.299	0.0002	0.0002	0.0297	0.0026	0.0002	0.066
SB × EZ		0.0008	0.441	<.0001	<.0001	0.0001	<.0001	<.0001	0.0143

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427 ¹ DMD is dry matter degradability; OMD is *in vitro* organic matter digestibility; ME is metabolizable energy; PF₇₂ is the partitioning
428 factor at 72 h of incubation; GY₂₄ is gas yield at 24 h; SCFA is short chain fatty acids; MCP is microbial CP production.

429 ^{a,b} Different superscripts following means among EZ in the column within each extract level indicate differences at $P<0.05$.

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