## **ORIGINAL ARTICLE**



# **Dairy Industry wastewater and stormwater energy valorization: efect of wastewater nutrients on microalgae‑yeast biomass**

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## **Abstract**

Valorization of dairy-industry wastewater and stormwater energy is a new approach to establishment of sustainable agriculture, which is based on use of stormwater containing dairy wastewater for production of yeast-algae (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*–*Scenedesmus abundans)* biomass and biofuel. Dairy wastewater (DW) has high COD (68,000 mg/L) and BOD (31,800 mg/L). To cultivate yeast-microalgae, dilution was performed using stormwater with the dilution rate of 10 to 100%. The objective of this study was to treat the dairy wastewater and stormwater (SW) with microalgae. In this study cultures of *Scenedesmus abundans* (microalgae), *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*+*Scenedesmus abundans* (yeast+microalgae) and *Scenedesmus abundans*+*Chlorella minutissima* (microalgae+microalgae) were cultivated on diferent dilution ratios (10–100%). The artifcial consortium of yeast and microalgae has been able to remove 41.7% of total nitrogen (TN), 60.9% of total phosphorus (TP), 83% of COD, and 90% of BOD for 14 days. Reduction in bacterial load was also reported. Dry weight of yeast-algal biomass was found to be 1.9 g/L in DW and 1.2 g/L in control medium. Moreover, increased lipid content (27.5%) was also observed in DW cultivated biomass as compared to the control (21%) and further an increase in unsaturated fatty acids (USFA) and PUFA content was also observed. Increase in protein content while decrease in carbohydrate content was reported. Chlorophyll *a* and carotenoid content were high in yeast–algal pellets cultivated in DW and SW.

**Keywords** Microalgae · Yeast · *Scenedesmus abundans* · *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* · Dairy wastewater

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## **1 Introduction**

The dairy business, which is one of the world's most important food processing industries, produces a huge amount of wastewater after cleaning, cooking, foor washing, and sanitization [[1\]](#page-7-0). Lactose, lipids, minerals, detergents, and sanitizers abound in dairy effluent  $[2]$  $[2]$ . Dairy wastewater is characterized by high organic (i.e., COD of 85–95,000 mg/L, BOD of 40–48,000 mg/L) and nutrient TN of 14–830 mg/L, TP of  $9-280$  mg/L) contents [\[3](#page-7-2)].

Stormwater is the water that comes from heavy rainfall or ice melting. Although harvesting and reuse of stormwater may reduce the demand of non-portable water, a wide range of pollutants and pathogens reported to be in storm-water may cause a serious health risk to human being [[4,](#page-7-3) [5](#page-7-4)]. Stormwater can further wash out pollutants from industrial, domestic, or agricultural sites and is not suitable for human consumption and agricultural applications because of the presence of naturally occurring components. However, the proftable usage of stormwater can transform it into a more

feasible and cheap material coming from the treatment methods of wastewater and water discharges [\[6](#page-7-5)]. Consequently, in recent years, increase in the demand of wastewater, stormwater harvesting, and reuse in diferent purposes have emerged as new feld of sustainable water management [[7\]](#page-7-6). From an environmental viewpoint, this is largely beneficial in lowering the amounts of liquid waste simultaneously decreasing the consumption of resources with respect to energy, material, and water utilization. Therefore, just like wastewater, stormwater should also be treated properly, because its improper management, mainly at the time of rainy seasons, can lead to serious infuence on receiving waters [\[6](#page-7-5)].

To fnd the clean, economic, renewable energy source is the most challenging problem to replace conventional biofuel. Biofuel is a new opportunity to achieve global energy security and reduction in greenhouse gasses. The use of 1st generation biofuels has a lot of controversy and limitations, mainly as its competition with food security. The development of 2nd generation biofuels is considered to produce fuel from lignocellulosic biomass; however, high production cost and slow commercialization are major drawbacks. The use of 3rd generation biofuels could overcome these problems [[8,](#page-7-7) [9](#page-7-8)]. In this context, the use of microalgae for biofuel production has several advantages like easy to cultivate on wastewater, small life cycle, rapid growth potential, store neutral lipids, did not required herbicides or pesticides, and convert sun energy and  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  into chemical energy and  $O<sub>2</sub>$ . Microalgae species able to grow under diferent types of environmental conditions and able to produce diferent type of biofuel like biodiesel, bioethanol, hydrogen, and biogas [\[9](#page-7-8)–[12\]](#page-7-9).

Since plants developed from green algae, natural symbiosis between fungi and algae known as lichens has been widely documented [[13\]](#page-7-10). Yeast is a single-celled organism that is mostly employed in the food processing industry [\[14](#page-7-11)]. It is utilized mostly in bakeries, distilleries, brewing, and winemaking and is good source of protein, vitamins, and minerals [\[15](#page-7-12)]. Yamada and Sgarbieri [[16](#page-7-13)] found that yeast cells contain 62% protein, 8.2% total lipids, and 10.4% RNA.

Several researchers have been used microalgae to clean dairy effluent and integrated it into lipid and biofuel production [\[3](#page-7-2), [17\]](#page-7-14). Nutrient (N, P) removal, cultivation period, biomass productivity, and lipid production vary depending on wastewater characteristics and microalgal species [\[2](#page-7-1)]. Chokshi et al. [[3\]](#page-7-2) reported the complete removal of N and P from dairy wastewater by *Acutodesmus dimorphus* microalgae. In another study, Kothari et al. [[18\]](#page-8-0) reported the 87% removal of P and 60% of N in dairy wastewater by *Chlorella pyrenoidosa*.

In recent years, microbial consortium has been produced by various researchers on laboratory scale for chemical production [\[19\]](#page-8-1), feed [[20](#page-8-2)], and wastewater treatment [\[21](#page-8-3)]. Zhang et al. [\[22](#page-8-4)] have postulated that, in yeast and microalgae consortium, the stresses caused by  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  and  $O<sub>2</sub>$  during

growth can be eliminated by utilizing  $O_2$  by yeast and  $CO_2$ by algae. Liu et al. [[23\]](#page-8-5) conducted an experiment to demonstrate that artifcial microalgae and yeast consortium enhances the lipid and biomass productivity. Similarly, Qin et al. [\[24](#page-8-6)] investigated on the advantage of mixed culture of yeast *Yarrowia lipolytica* and microalgae *Chlorella vulgaris* for treating liquid digestate of yeast industry and observed an increment in biomass productivity, lipid content, and higher heating value (HHV) of the mixed culture as compared to those of monoculture. Moreover, the nutrient removal efficiency was also higher in mixed culture and a feasible approach for cogeneration of biofuel feedstock was also indicated. The cultivation of microalgal and yeast consortia in 3:1 ratio is optimum inoculum to remove micropollutants from piggery wastewater [[25](#page-8-7)].

Alam et al. [[26\]](#page-8-8) reported that consortium of microalgae with bacteria and yeast increase the algal biomass, bioremediation, and wastewater treatment. In another study, Jingrui et al. [\[27\]](#page-8-9) reported that consortium of microorganism exchange and complete nutrients requirement of each other's. Worldwide interest is rising in research on treating wastewater using the microalgae and yeast consortiums. In this study, we have examined the potential of removing nutrients from dairy and stormwater by artifcial microalgae and yeast consortia and their efect on the yeast algae biomass and lipid content.

## **2 Material and methods**

## **2.1 Yeast strain, microalgal strain, and dairy wastewater (DW)**

Yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae UUIND*1 (KY385556) was isolated earlier. Yeast culture was maintained in YEPD (yeast extract peptone dextrose — glucose, 10; peptone, 5; yeast extract, 3 g/L) media. To avoid bacterial growth, YEPD media was supplemented with ampicillin 5–10 µL (100 mg/mL). Growth of yeast was monitored by measuring optical density (OD) at 660 nm using a spectrophotometer (UNICO model 2100) [[28\]](#page-8-10).

*Scenedesmus abundans* (NCIM 2897) was purchased from NCL (Pune, India). The strain was maintained in Bold's Basal Medium (BBM) [[29](#page-8-11)]. *Chlorella minutissima* (MCC-27) was purchased from IARI (New Delhi, India). Stock culture was cultivated at 25 °C, 300 µmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> white light and an 18-h light and 6-h dark cycle. Light is provided by cold white Crompton Greaves LED lamps. Cultures were gently mixed twice a day.

Dairy wastewater was collected from the Graphic Era University dairy, Uttarakhand, India. Once collected, DW was fltered through a Whatman flter paper No. 1 to remove total suspended solids. The basic characteristics (COD,

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BOD, TN, and TP) of DW were determined following the standard methods [[30\]](#page-8-12).

## **2.2 Experimental design**

Cultures of *Scenedesmus abundans* (microalgae), *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*+*Scenedesmus abundans* (yeast+microalgae), and *Scenedesmus abundans*+*Chlorella minutissima* (microalgae+microalgae) were cultivated on diferent dilution ratios (10–100%) with microalgae: yeast 3:1 ratio with initial concentration  $5 \times 10^5$  cells/mL [\[23\]](#page-8-5) (Figs. [1](#page-2-0) and [2\)](#page-2-1). Dilution was done by stormwater, which was collected from the university footpaths, gardens, and lawns after heavy rainfall. Control culture for this experiment was *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*+*Scenedesmus abundans* (yeast+microalgae) in BBM.

The batch experiments were performed in a 250-mL Erlenmeyer fask with 150-mL control medium and raw DW. At a dilution ratio of 80%, the maximum growth was reported. The microalgae and yeast were inoculated in a flask containing both control medium and DW  $(w/w = 3/1)$ (Fig. [1](#page-2-0)). The fasks were inoculated with microalgae to set the cell density at 0.2 OD. Erlenmeyer fasks were incubated for 14 days at 28 °C, under 300 µmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> and an 18-h light 6-h dark cycle. Light was provided by cold white Crompton Greaves LED lamps. Cultures were gently mixed on every 6 h to avoid formation of algal bioflm. Growth rate of microalgae was determined by spectrophotometer (Shimadzu-1900, UV–VIS Spectrophotometer) at OD at 680 nm [[31](#page-8-13)]. The cultivation batch experiments were performed in triplicates. The maximum growth rate was reported by a yeast-microalgae consortium (Fig. [1](#page-2-0)), which was selected and then further evaluated for biodiesel production. Dry cell weight (DCW) was measured by drying the wet biomass at 80 °C overnight and then dry biomass was then measured gravimetrically.

#### **2.3 Analysis**

#### **2.3.1 FTIR analysis**

Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) was utilized for the identifcation of the chemical structural

<span id="page-2-1"></span>

diferences in microalgal-yeast pellets. The absorption spectrum of the sample was recorded between 4000 and ~ 450 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

#### **2.3.2 Estimation of biomass productivity and lipid content**

Biomass productivity (mg/L/d) was measured by following equation:

Biomass productivity (mg/L/d) =  $(D_2 - D_1)/(t_2 - t_1)$  (1)

where,  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  are dry biomass (mg/L) at time  $t_1$  and  $t_2$ [\[32\]](#page-8-14).

#### **2.3.3 Total lipid extraction and analysis**

Total lipids from dried biomass were extracted by a modifed Bligh and Dyer' method [[33](#page-8-15)]. Briefy harvested algal biomass was sonicated with chloroform: methanol (2:1; v/v) and stirred at 200 rpm for 6 h and then centrifuged at 8000 rpm for 10 min and suspended solids were removed and upper phase was treated with  $0.034\%$  MgCl<sub>2</sub> and centrifuge again at 6000 rpm for 10 min and discard the upper phase. Lower phase 2 N KCl was mixed and centrifuge at 6000 rpm for 10 min and then aspirating out lower phase. Lower phase was mixed with chloroform: methanol: water; 3:47:48 (v/v/v) followed by centrifugation at 6000 for 10 min and lower phase was dried. Lipid content in dry weight (% dw) was calculated by the following equation:

Lipid yield (
$$
\%
$$
 dw) =  $\frac{\text{Lipid content (g)}}{\text{Dry algae biomass (g)}}$  (2)

Accumulation of lipid in yeast-algal cells was analyzed by Nile red staining [\[34\]](#page-8-16).

#### **2.3.4 Estimation of biochemical composition and pigments**

Total carbohydrate content was determined by Arora et al. [\[35\]](#page-8-17) method. Briefly, 25-mg dried yeast-algal biomass was treated with 250 µl of 72%  $H_2SO_4$  and incubated at 30 °C in water bath for 1 h. A 7 mL distilled water was added in the solution and autoclave at 121 °C for 1 h. Yeast-algal biomass hydrolysate was allowed to stand for some time, centrifuged at 8000 rpm for 15 min. Upper phase was used to total sugar estimation [[36](#page-8-18)]. The total proteins were estimated nitrogen content was determined by using CHN and calculated by following formula:

$$
Total protein = Total nitrogen \times 6.25 \tag{3}
$$

For photosynthetic pigments isolation, 5-mL media containing yeast algal cell was treated with 10-mL acetone at 70 °C for 30 min, centrifuged at 6000 rpm for 10 min, and 3-mL upper phase was analyzed spectrophotometrically at 480, 649, and 665 nm. Chlorophyll *a* (chl *a*), chlorophyll *b* (chl *b*), and total carotenoid (carotenes and xanthophylls) concentrations were determined according to the equation proposed by [\[37](#page-8-19)].

#### **2.3.5 Total bacterial count (CFU/mL)**

Total CFU/mL count was estimated using Kumar et al. [[38\]](#page-8-20) method. Eighty percent diluted water and treated water were spread on nutrient plate. Petri dishes were incubated overnight at 37 °C for optimal growth of bacteria. After 18 h of incubation, bacterial colonies were counted using a CFU counter.

#### **2.3.6 Transesterifcation and Biodiesel properties**

Transesterifcation of the lipids extracted into FAMEs was done using 6% methanolic sulfuric acid [\[39](#page-8-21)]. Biodiesel profling was done by GC–MS (Agilent Technologies, Athens, GA, USA) according to Arora et al. [[34](#page-8-16)]. Biodiesel characterization such as specifc gravity, saponifcation value, MUFA (%), PUFA (%), SV (mg/g), and density was analyzed online using Biodiesel Analyzer 2.2 (url: [http://brteam.](http://brteam.org/biodieselanalyzer) [org/biodieselanalyzer\)](http://brteam.org/biodieselanalyzer).

#### **2.4 Statistical analysis**

Data analysis was carried out by repeating the experiments in triplicate  $(n=3)$ . The variability of the data was presented as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation.

## **3 Results and discussions**

## **3.1 Efcacy of algae‑yeast consortium in dairy wastewater treatment**

Wastewaters obtained from dairy industries are characterized by high COD and nutrients (N and P)  $[40]$  $[40]$  $[40]$ . The use of algae-based methods for dairy wastewater treatment has been argued by diferent researchers due to its high polluting load [[41,](#page-8-23) [42](#page-8-24)]. However, the utilization of microbial consortia has been widely reported as an efective alternate in treating diferent kinds of wastewaters [\[43,](#page-8-25) [44\]](#page-8-26). Ghaly and Kamal [[45\]](#page-8-27) cultivated the *Kluyveromyces fragilis* yeast in cheese whey wastewater (*COD*: 59,640 mg/L) and observed about 91% reduction in COD after 28-h cultivation.

The microalgae-yeast consortium was grown in the raw DW and evaluated for its nutrient removal efficiency and biodiesel productivity. Initial inoculum size, pH, and the availability of nutrients, light, and temperature regulate algal development in the wastewater  $[46]$  $[46]$ . A high inoculum size of microalgae (i.e., 0.2 OD) was selected in this study. It is expected that the higher initial inoculum size leads to better microalgae growth and hence higher nutrient removal efficiency from wastewaters  $[46]$  $[46]$ . An algal inoculum size of  $1 \times 10^7$  cells m/L has been reported optimum for microbal growth and nutrients removal from wastewater as compared with the inoculation sizes of  $10^6$  (medium) and  $10^5$  (low) cells mg/L [\[47](#page-8-29)]. The OD of microalgae and yeast cells were increased from 2nd day (Fig. [1\)](#page-2-0). Iasimone et al. [[48\]](#page-8-30) reported that in combined yeast and microalgal cultivation, yeast cells grow from frst day, and microalgal cells grows after 6th day. The diference in growth may be due to diferent metabolisms of two diferent microorganisms. Zhang et al. [[22\]](#page-8-4) also reported the microalgal slow growth as compared to yeast cells during co-cultivation of two microorganism.

The primary physico-chemical characteristics of DW are shown in Table [1](#page-4-0). Due to high COD and BOD values, the microalgae-yeast consortium was able to tolerate 20% raw DW. Moreover, the symbiotic relation between yeast and microalgae resulted in the removal of 41% nitrogen and 90% BOD. Daneshvar et al. [[2\]](#page-7-1) reported 92.2% of total nitrogen and 100% of phosphate could be removed by microalgae when it was cultivated on DW. At the end of the cultivation period, 83% reduction was reported in COD. Cheirsilp et al. [\[49](#page-8-31)] measured the higher reduction in COD when wastewater treated with algae-yeast consortia as compared to single culture of microalgae or yeast. The increase in pH was obtained at the end of the stationary phase. This condition explained that there is decrease in bacterial growth. A similar change in pH was reported by Iasimone et al. [[48\]](#page-8-30) in microalgae-yeast culture.

A high bacterial load of  $24 \times 10^{22}$  cells/L was reported in raw DW (20%) and SW. After 14 days of treatment, reduction in bacterial load  $(9 \times 10^{-11})$  was reported. Reduction of bacterial load in urban wastewater was also reported by Kumar et al. [[38](#page-8-20)] after treatment with microalgae. A reduction in bacterial load might be due to adsorption of bacteria on algal cells surface [[50](#page-8-32)]. Generally, bacteria and microalgae represent relationships fuctuating from parasitism to mutualism [[51](#page-8-33), [52](#page-8-34)]. The symbiotic relationship between cultured microalgae and bacterial populace in wastewater followed by the accumulation of nitrogen and phosphorus by microalgae might be the fundamental aspect related with the deduction of bacterial population in microalgae cultivated wastewaters [\[53\]](#page-8-35). In addition, microalgae also reduce the nutrient content in wastewater resulting in decreased bacterial load of wastewater [\[38,](#page-8-20) [50\]](#page-8-32). Some microalgae produce toxic polysaccharides which inhibit the growth of other microorganisms [[54\]](#page-9-0).

## **3.2 Biomass productivity and biochemical composition**

An artifcial consortium for the removal of nutrients from DW was utilized in this investigation. The initial microalgal biomass concentrations for DM-cultivated consortium and control were set at 3:1. Optical density measured at 680 nm and gravimetric data were examined for microalgal growth. Biomass concentrations of  $1.9 \pm 0.4$  g/L for yeast-algal association and  $1.2 \pm 0.2$  g/L for control were reported after 14-day cultivation. The maximum biomass productivity was 135 mg/L/day. It may be because yeast is a good source of protein that supplies enough nitrogen and  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  to algae [\[22](#page-8-4)]. These results indicate that microalgae grow well when cocultivated with yeast in DW. *Acutodesmus dimorphus* biomass in DW (0.84 g/L) was reported by Chokshi et al. [\[3](#page-7-2)].

Kim et al. [[55\]](#page-9-1) reported the 2.5 times higher growth rate of microalgae growing on yeast extract as a nitrogen source as compared to the other nitrogen sources. Gu et al. [[56\]](#page-9-2) reported that a growth rate of 10.4 g/L was achieved by supplying yeast extract to a freshwater microalgal strain, *Scenedesmus acutus.*

An increased lipid content (27.5%) was also observed in the DW cultivated biomass, compared to the control (21%) depicted in Fig. [3](#page-5-0). The accumulation of lipid droplets within the microalgal and yeast cells was identifed by Nile-Redstained cells (Fig. S1). Similar fndings were reported by Kim et al. [\[55](#page-9-1)]; lipid productivity can reach up to 36.0 mg/L/

<span id="page-4-0"></span>





<span id="page-5-0"></span>**Fig. 3** Biochemical composition: **A** lipid content, carbohydrate content, and protein content of algae and yeast on the  $14$ .<sup>th</sup> day. **B** FTIR analysis of consortium in control and DW

day when microalgae were cultivated with yeast extract. Existing studies have stated an obvious relationship between increase in algal biomass and lipid content of mixed culture. This might be because photoautotrophic culture of algae supplies additional substrates for lipid production [\[49\]](#page-8-31). Accordingly, in combination with increased biomass productivity, the lipid content of two species can also be higher as compared to those in monocultures. Hence, mixed culture of two species will possess symbiotic association and synergistic infuence that can lead to higher biomass and lipid agglomeration in contrast with monocultures [\[22](#page-8-4)].

In the yeast-algal co-cultivation in DW medium, protein content was enhanced. A signifcant number of standard 98.1 amino acids could be found in yeast [[57\]](#page-9-3). At a high nitrogen concentration, protein content increased [\[58](#page-9-4)]. No signifcant change was reported in the carbohydrate content. Kim et al. [[55\]](#page-9-1) showed a similar outcome during their investigation. where no change in the carbohydrate content was recorded when microalgae were grown on yeast extract.

FT-IR spectroscopy evaluated the chemical confguration of controlled-grown and DW-grown yeast and algae biomass. The functional group in the control and DW cultivated biomass was found to be almost similar. The band at 700–500 cm−1 represents the C–C stretching. The vibration band at 1200–1000 cm<sup>-1</sup> is assigned to C=O/C–O–C stretching. The band at  $1270-1230$  cm<sup>-1</sup> is assigned to C–O–C stretching. The band at 1400–1350 cm−1 represents C-H vibration. The  $C = O$  structural components are assigned the vibration band at 1630–1535 cm−1. The band at 1750–1640 cm<sup>-1</sup> is responsible for  $C=O$  stretching. The band at 3000–2800  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is attributed to C–H stretching, aromatic. The band at  $3700-3200$  cm<sup>-1</sup> in the spectra reveals the O–H stretching.

Chlorophyll *a* and carotenoid contents were high in yeast–algal pellets cultivated in DW and SW (Table [2](#page-5-1)). Arora et al. [[34\]](#page-8-16) reported that increase in chlorophyll content is associated with the nutrient-dependent growth of microalgae cells. Consequently, the study observed that defciency in nitrogen content can lead to an increased prominent infuence in enhancing Chl a, Chl b, and carotenoids ratios in comparison with phosphorus. The reason behind this fact might be the degradation of chlorophyll a due to its high nitrogen content. Similarly, Kamalanathan et al. [\[59](#page-9-5)] also reported that high nitrogen content would increase the pigments in microalgae.

## **3.3 Fatty acid profles and biodiesel properties**

The FTIR spectra of lipids obtained from yeast-algal biomass are illustrated in Table [3](#page-6-0) and depicted in Fig. S2. The chemical structure of lipids in control and DW

<span id="page-5-1"></span>**Table 2** Pigments content of Algal-yeast cells on 10th day



*Chl a\** Chlorophyll a, *Chl b\*\** Chlorophyll b, *Car*. *\*\*\** Carotenoids

S. No	Wavenumbers $(cm-1)$	Functional groups	C-biomass	DW-biomass	C-lipid	DW-lipid
	3700-3200	O-H stretching	3420	3312	3386	3433
2	3000-2800	C-H stretching, aromatic	2922	2940, 2830	3001, 2925, 2855	2923, 2854
3	1750-1640	$C = O$ stretching, ketone, ether, aldehyde		1649	1741.1631	1740,1642
$\overline{4}$	1630-1535	$C=0$	1629			
5	1400-1350	$C-H$	1328	1392	1374	1374
6	1270–1230	$C$ – $C$ stretching	1237	1264	1248	1249
8	1200-1000	$C = O/C-O-C$ stretching	1108	1056	1165, 1081	1184, 1081
9	700-500	C-C stretching	820, 540	561	542	556

<span id="page-6-0"></span>**Table 3** FT-IR spectra for chemical structure and functional groups of biomass

cultivated biomass showed a relatively analogous chemical composition.

Dairy wastewater afected the fatty acid composition of yeast and microalgae biomass. Figure [4](#page-6-1) displays SFA, MUFA, and PUFA  $(>1\%$  of total fatty acids) corresponding to control biomass. Palmitic acid decrease (C16:0) and palmitoleic acid  $(C16:1)$  and oleic acid rise  $(C18:1)$  have been found in biomass grown in DW. FAME data displayed that co-cultivation of yeast-microalgae increased the unsaturated fatty acids (USFA) and PUFA content as compared to control. Besides this, the previous research has further reported that the fatty acid profle and lipid content of algae will enhance under the infuence of multiple environmental stresses like nutrient starvation at the time of stationary growth phase after full maturation [\[60](#page-9-6)]. The kinematic viscosity of the C16:1 methyl ester is useful for making biodiesel suitable for use at low temperatures [\[61\]](#page-9-7). Dairy wastewater cultivated biomass biodiesel has a low cetane number with a high saponifcation value and iodine value as compared to control medium cultivated biomass (Table [4](#page-7-15)).

# **4 Conclusion**

In this study, mixed cultivation of yeast and microalgae in DW and SW was assessed. The result showed that the nutrient removal efficiency of the yeast and microalgae consortium could be as high as 41.7%, 60.9%, 83%, and 90% for TN, TP, COD, and BOD, respectively, after 14-day treatment. Moreover, a higher biomass and lipid content was achieved at the end of the cultivation period. FAME data indicated that co-cultivation of yeast-microalgae consortium



<span id="page-6-1"></span>**Fig. 4** Fatty acids composition of control and DW-cultivated algae-yeast

<span id="page-7-15"></span>**Table 4** Fuel properties of biodiesel obtained from yeastalgae pellets



No standard limit designated by biodiesel standards

increased USFA and PUFA content as compared to control. Thus, the use of DW and SW can be a helpful and ecologically benign approach for yeast and microalgae cultivation to treat dairy effluent.

**Supplementary information** The online version contains supplementary material available at<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13399-022-02947-7>.

**Author contribution** VK: supervision, practical work, writing original draft. PG: experimental work. AP: experimental work. MV: analysis, writing review and editing. HK: editing and review. MV: editing and review. AVG: analysis, writing review and revision of manuscript. KGR: editing and revision of manuscript.

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**Conflict of interest** The authors declare no competing interests.

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