

1 Recombinant Paraprobiotics as a New Paradigm for Treating Gastrointestinal  
2 Nematode Parasites of Humans

3

4 Running title: Paraprobiotic cure for intestinal nematodes

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6 Hanchen Li\*, Ambily Abraham\*, David Gazzola\*, Yan Hu\*\*, Gillian Beamer<sup>2</sup>, Kelly

7 Flanagan, Ernesto Soto, Florentina Rus, Zeynep Mirza, Austin Draper<sup>3</sup>, Sridhar

8 Vakalapudi<sup>3</sup>, Cheryl Stockman<sup>4</sup>, Perry Bain<sup>4</sup>, Joseph F. Urban, Jr.<sup>5</sup>, Gary R. Ostroff<sup>\*\*\*#</sup>,

9 and Raffi V. Aroian<sup>\*\*\*#</sup>

10 \* Equal first author contributors. HL and DG ran all parasite assays; AA ran

11 development of IBaCC. Order picked at random between these three.

12 Program in Molecular Medicine, University of Massachusetts Medical School,

13 Worcester, MA 01605

14 <sup>2</sup>Department of Infectious Disease and Global Health, Tufts University, North Grafton,

15 MA 01536

16 <sup>3</sup>Synthetic Biomanufacturing Facility, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84341

17 <sup>4</sup>Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, North Grafton, MA 01536

18 <sup>5</sup>United State Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Beltsville

19 Human Nutrition Research Center, Diet, Genomics, Immunology Laboratory, Beltsville,

20 MD 20705

21 \*\*Current address: Biology Department, Worcester State University, Worcester, MA

22 01602

23 #Co-corresponding authors: [raffi.aroian@umassmed.edu](mailto:raffi.aroian@umassmed.edu), [gary.ostroff@umassmed.edu](mailto:gary.ostroff@umassmed.edu)

1 Abstract

2 Gastrointestinal nematodes (GINs) of humans, e.g., hookworms, negatively impact  
3 childhood growth, cognition, nutrition, educational attainment, income, productivity, and  
4 pregnancy. Hundreds of millions of people are targeted with mass drug administration  
5 (MDA) of donated benzimidazole (BZ) anthelmintics. However, BZ efficacy against GINs  
6 is suboptimal, and reduced/low efficacy has been seen. Developing an anthelmintic for  
7 human MDA is daunting: it must be safe, effective, inexpensive, stable without a cold  
8 chain, and massively scalable. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) crystal protein 5B (Cry5B) has  
9 anthelmintic properties that could fill this void. Here we develop an API (Active  
10 Pharmaceutical Ingredient) form of Bt Cry5B compatible with MDA. We expressed  
11 Cry5B in asporogenous Bt during vegetative phase, forming cytosolic crystals. These  
12 **Bacteria with Cytosolic Crystals (BaCC)** were rendered inviable (inactivated BaCC or  
13 IBaCC) with food-grade essential oils. IBaCC potency was validated *in vitro* against  
14 nematodes. IBaCC was also potent *in vivo* against human hookworm infections in  
15 hamsters. IBaCC production was successfully scaled to 350 liters at a contract  
16 manufacturing facility. A simple fit-for-purpose formulation to protect against stomach  
17 digestion and powdered IBaCC were successfully made and used against GINS in  
18 hamsters and mice. A pilot histopathology study and blood chemistry workup showed  
19 that five daily consecutive doses of 200 mg/kg Cry5B IBaCC (the curative single dose is  
20 40 mg/kg) was non-toxic and completely safe. IBaCC is a safe, inexpensive, highly  
21 effective, easy-to-manufacture, and scalable anthelmintic that is practical for MDA and  
22 represents a new paradigm for treating human GINs.

23

24

1

## 2 INTRODUCTION

3 Among the neglected tropical diseases, soil-transmitted helminths/nematodes  
4 (STHs/STNs) or gastrointestinal nematodes (GINs) collectively affect the largest  
5 number of people with a global estimate of >1.5 billion infected individuals (1). Human  
6 GINs include hookworms (*Ancylostoma duodenale*, *Ancylostoma ceylanicum*, *Necator*  
7 *americanus*), ascarids (*Ascaris lumbricoides*), and whipworms (*Trichuris trichiura*) (2).  
8 Human GIN parasites have an enormous impact on children, leading to physical growth  
9 stunting, cognitive impairment, malnutrition, anemia, impaired physical fitness, loss of  
10 future income, decreased educational attainment, and defective immune responses to  
11 other infectious diseases (e.g., HIV, malaria, tuberculosis) and vaccines (1–3). These  
12 parasites also cause significant complications for pregnant women and significant  
13 reductions in adult worker productivity, accounting for > 5 million disability-adjusted life  
14 years (DALYs) and productivity losses of over US\$100 billion annually, with the  
15 majority of morbidity attributed to hookworms (2, 4–7).

16

17 Only one class of drug, the benzimidazoles (BZs), is approved and suitable for single-  
18 dose mass drug administration (MDA) (8, 9). GIN resistance to these drugs develops  
19 readily and is extremely common in veterinary medicine, where they have been used  
20 much longer and more intensely than in human medicine (8, 10). Against human GINs,  
21 these drugs have poor efficacy against whipworms. Low efficacy of albendazole (the  
22 most efficacious BZ used in humans) against hookworms and *Ascaris* has been

1 reported in many locales, with definitive BZ resistance alleles detected in natural  
2 populations of human hookworms in Kenya and Brazil (11–20).

3  
4 New mechanism-of-action anthelmintics are urgently needed in the pipeline as the lead  
5 time for drugs to reach the market is years. As human GIN MDA intensifies, further loss  
6 of BZ efficacy is highly likely. However, developing new drugs for humans GINs is  
7 exceedingly difficult: 1) drug development is very expensive, costing several billions  
8 (21), a cost that cannot easily be recouped on diseases of the poorest peoples; 2) the  
9 number of people impacted is enormous -- any new therapy has to be massively  
10 scalable (an estimated 1.5 billion doses currently needed for children and women alone)  
11 and cheap (BZs are currently donated) (22); 3) the therapy has to withstand harsh  
12 environmental conditions without a cold chain; and 4) the therapy has to be safe and  
13 effective. Thus, the normal rules of “market-incentive” drug development do not apply.  
14 In fact, no drug has ever been developed for human GINs; all drugs used are expanded  
15 label uses of drugs developed for veterinary medicine. Of the two drugs used in MDA  
16 today, albendazole was approved in humans in 1982 (23); mebendazole in 1974 (USA;  
17 (24)). No new drugs have thus entered human GIN treatment for more than 30 years.

18  
19 *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) crystal (Cry) proteins have the potential to offer a novel,  
20 natural, safe, and broad spectrum anthelmintic alternative. Bt spores are mass  
21 produced globally as a biopesticide, encompassing ~75% of the bioinsecticide market  
22 (25). The main insecticidal components of Bt are three-domain (3D-)Cry proteins that  
23 bind specifically to the invertebrate intestine, damaging the gut and killing the

1 invertebrate target (26). 3D-Cry proteins have also been engineered into a range of  
2 food crops and are expressed in ~100 mHa of transgenic crops worldwide (27). More  
3 than a dozen different 3D-Cry proteins have been tested and found to be completely  
4 safe to vertebrates at doses of >>1000 mg/kg, and are FDA/EPA-approved for ingestion  
5 (28, 29). The 3D-Cry protein Cry5B is related to the 3D-Cry proteins used as  
6 insecticides but targets nematodes instead., When administered orally as spore-crystal  
7 lysates or SCLs (a mix of Bt spores and Cry protein crystals as they naturally occur),  
8 Cry5B is highly effective against GIN infections in hamsters, pigs, and dogs (30–34).  
9 The nematode receptor for Cry5B is an invertebrate-specific glycolipid absent in  
10 vertebrates (35).

11  
12 Developing 3D-Cry proteins as large-scale ingested therapeutics compatible with  
13 human MDA, however, requires a very different set of considerations than application  
14 as topical or transgenic biopesticides and insecticides. Here we address these  
15 considerations, developing an active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) based on Cry5B  
16 compatible with safety, cost, scale, ease of production, and stability required for human  
17 MDA.

18

19

## 20 RESULTS

### 21 **Inactivated Bacterium with Cytosolic Crystal (IBaCC)**

22 We reasoned that delivering Cry5B in a live bacterium (Bt or otherwise) to humans  
23 would be problematical given that 1) Bt is closely related to *Bacillus cereus*, which can

1 cause food poisoning, 2) release of live recombinant bacteria has environmental  
2 concerns because live bacteria in the soil could select for Cry5B resistance against free  
3 living stages of hookworms t, 3) live bacteria could replicate in the human  
4 gastrointestinal tract (amplifying environmental and resistance concerns), 4) there are  
5 uncertainties in the response of billions of people to live bacteria, 5) degradation of live  
6 bacteria during storage could reduce potency and stability, and 6) delivery of a stable  
7 live bacterial therapeutic around the world for MDA would be difficult to achieve. An  
8 alternative of producing and delivering Cry5B as a purified protein is also problematic as  
9 making enough purified protein cheaply and massively for MDA is difficult to envision.

10

11 We therefore set out to deliver Cry5B, without purification of the protein, as part of a  
12 dead bacterial product (or “paraprobiotic” (50)). To make a Cry5B paraprobiotic, we  
13 initially turned to and produced Cry5B spore-crystal lysates, which have been used for  
14 most published *in vivo* studies of Cry5B anthelmintic efficacy as well as all Bt  
15 insecticidal production and use (31, 33, 34, 43, 45). We attempted to inactivate (kill) the  
16 spores without losing activity of the crystal protein using gamma irradiation (51).

17 Although gamma irradiation resulted in a significant ( $10^6$  -  $10^7$ ) reduction in spore  
18 viability (Fig. 1A), the procedure completely killed CryB anti-nematode activity (Fig. 1B).  
19 Preliminary studies using chemical treatment instead of gamma-irradiation to inactive  
20 spores without damaging crystal activity yielded similar, disappointing results.

21

22 We therefore decided that a better approach would be to express Cry5B in vegetative  
23 bacteria that could be more easily killed (inactivated). Based on our previous

1 experiences and based on the fact that the inactivation process needed to be  
2 compatible with human ingestion, we hypothesized that food-grade monoterpenes  
3 derived from essential oils would be effective and safe antimicrobials for this application  
4 (52–55). We therefore expressed Cry5B in asporogenous (*spo0A*-) Bt so that the  
5 Cry5B crystals would be formed inside of a vegetative Bt without subsequent spore  
6 formation (Fig. 2A) (46, 48). We call such cells BaCC for **B**acterium with **C**ytosolic  
7 **C**ystal. A number of food-grade monoterpenes were found that were capable of  
8 inactivation (killing) of *spo0A*- cells (Table S1). When Cry5B was expressed in these  
9 cells and inactivated with terpene, the crystals stayed trapped within the cells, and the  
10 protein remained intact (Fig. 2A, B). A  $>10^7$  fold reduction in CFUs was seen upon  
11 terpene treatment, with often no viable cells detected (Fig. 2C). We call these cells  
12 IBaCC for Inactivated BaCC.

13

#### 14 **IBaCC is an active nematicide**

15 IBaCC was tested and quantified for anti-nematode activity initially against free-living  
16 stages of nematodes. Against the free-living nematode *C. elegans*, IBaCC (containing  
17 Cry5B crystals) intoxicated and killed L4/adult stages whereas identically prepared IBa  
18 (Inactivated **B**acterium with empty vector control; no Cry5B) did not (Fig. 3A). When  
19 tested against the free-living developing larval stages of the human hookworms *A.*  
20 *ceylanicum* and *N. americanus*, Cry5B IBaCC, but not vector-only IBa, was highly  
21 potent, strongly inhibiting larval development even at doses of 0.5 - 1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  (Fig. 3B).

22

1 We next tested IBaCC for anti-nematode activity against adult hookworm parasites *in*  
2 *vitro*. Cry5B IBaCC, but not IBa, was potent at intoxicating both species of adult  
3 parasitic hookworms at doses as low as 5 µg/mL (Fig. 4A, B). Cry5B in IBaCC showed  
4 a dose-dependent inhibition of motility similar to previously published studies with  
5 purified Cry5B (30). We had previously confirmed uptake of 0.4 µm particles by adult  
6 hookworms (56). To confirm uptake of IBaCC by hookworms, we labeled IBaCC with  
7 rhodamine, which predominantly labels full length Cry5B. (Fig. 4C; rhodamine labeled  
8 IBaCC was fully potent as seen by 100% dead adult hookworms after 24 hours in 16  
9 µg/mL Cry5B rhodamine-IBaCC). Visualization of uptake of rhodamine IBaCC after 4  
10 hours by adult hookworms *in vitro* was confirmed by fluorescence microscopy (Fig. 4D).  
11 Taken together, these data indicate that Cry5B expressed in IBaCC is ingested by, and  
12 is highly active against, nematodes, even though the bacterium is not viable.  
13 Conversely, empty vector inactivated bacteria (IBa) without Cry5B is not active against  
14 nematodes.

15

### 16 **Cry5B IBaCC is a potent anthelmintic *in vivo* against both genera of human** 17 **hookworms**

18 We next tested whether or not IBaCC efficacy *in vivo* against hookworms. *Ancylostoma*  
19 *ceylanicum* is an important zoonotic hookworm parasite of humans (57–60), and *A.*  
20 *ceylanicum* infections in hamsters are considered a good laboratory model for  
21 hookworm infections in humans (61). *A. ceylanicum* is also in the same genera as  
22 *Ancylostoma duodenale*, the second most common hookworm parasite in humans.  
23 Hamsters were infected with *A. ceylanicum*, and the infestations were allowed to



1 proceed to mature adults with the appearance of parasite eggs (fecundity) excreted into  
2 the hamster feces (31, 33, 44). These hamsters were then treated with IBaCC  
3 produced in our laboratory containing 10 mg/kg Cry5B (Figure 5A) or treated with IBa  
4 (vector-only control produced at the same time and processed identically to Cry5B  
5 IBaCC but lacking Cry5B). Whereas IBa had no impact on hookworm burdens or fecal  
6 egg counts (Fig. 5A, Supplemental Fig. 1; Table 1), IBaCC had a strong impact,  
7 resulting in elimination of more than 93% of the hookworm (Fig. 5A; Table 1).

8  
9 We also tested Cry5B IBaCC against the most common hookworms of humans, *N.*  
10 *americanus*, which can be maintained and studied in immunosuppressed hamsters (31).  
11 This hookworm infection is more difficult to treat (*e.g.*, *Necator*, but not *Ancylostoma*  
12 hookworms, are recalcitrant to ivermectin treatment; (62)). Cry5B IBaCC was highly  
13 effective against *N. americanus* hookworm infections in hamsters (Fig. 5B; Table 1).

14

### 15 **IBaCC is scalable and transferrable**

16 We then looked at whether Bt fermentation and Cry5B production and processing to  
17 IBaCC could successfully be transferred to and scaled up at a contract manufacturing  
18 facility. Our IBaCC strain and protocols were transferred to a contract manufacturing  
19 organization (CMO) at Utah State University. Fermentation of Cry5B BaCC and  
20 processing to IBaCC was brought up to the 350 L scale by CMO. Cry5B IBaCC  
21 produced at the CMO was then tested *in vivo* against *A. ceylanicum* hookworm  
22 infestations in hamsters at 2 and 6 mg/kg Cry5B. IBaCC produced at the manufacturing  
23 facility was effective at reducing *A. ceylanicum* burdens and parasite fecal egg counts

1 in hamsters relative to water control (Fig. 6A; Table 1). Increasing the dose of Cry5B in  
2 this large-scale IBaCC production run to 15 mg/kg essentially cured the parasite  
3 infestation (Fig. 6B; Table 1). Efficacy was similar to that achieved with in-house  
4 produced IBaCC (Fig. 5 compared to Fig. 6).

#### 6 **Cry5B IBaCC can be made into a fit-for-purpose formulation and dried down**

7 Previous work has shown that the potency of Cry5B spore crystal lysates are enhanced  
8 by addition of a pre-treatment with cimetidine to neutralize stomach acid. However, pre-  
9 treatment with a drug like cimetidine is not compatible with MDA. We therefore tested  
10 whether the development of a safe and simple “fit-for-purpose” formulation compatible  
11 with MDA, notably simultaneous delivery with sodium bicarbonate, would be protective  
12 for IBaCC. IBaCC was given alone or simultaneously with sodium bicarbonate to  
13 hookworm-infected hamsters. We found that acid neutralization with sodium  
14 bicarbonate given simultaneously with IBaCC slightly but significantly increased IBaCC  
15 efficacy against hookworms (Fig. 7A; Table 1).

16  
17 Delivery of IBaCC as a powder (and not as a liquid slurry as in above experiments) is  
18 also a critical parameter for storage and MDA. We therefore freeze-dried IBaCC into a  
19 powder and compared the efficacy of the same batch of IBaCC before and after freeze-  
20 drying (given *per os* as a powder suspension in water). As shown (Fig. 7B; Table 1),  
21 freeze-drying had no impact on IBaCC *in vivo* efficacy.

22

1 Efficacy of freeze-dried IBaCC simultaneously delivered with sodium bicarbonate was  
2 also tested against a different, luminal-feeding (63) intestinal parasitic nematode in a  
3 different host, namely *Heligmosomoides polygyrus bakeri* infections in mice. These  
4 data confirm that this simple fit-for-purpose IBaCC formulation is effective against a  
5 different parasitic nematode in a number of different host (Fig. 8). The single dose  
6 efficacy seen (53% reduction single dose 40 mg/kg Cry5B) was superior to that shown  
7 in previous studies with this parasite (31, 45).

8

### 9 **Pilot preclinical toxicology study**

10 Cry proteins have a stellar safety record and are considered non-toxic even at high  
11 doses, and the bacterium delivering IBaCC is dead (inactivated). Thus, IBaCC is  
12 predicted to be completely safe. However, IBaCC represents a new form for delivering  
13 a Cry protein. Thus, we performed a pilot maximal Cry5B dose safety study (Fig. S2)  
14 using histopathology blood chemistry as readouts.

15

16 Sixteen uninfected hamsters (eight females and eight male) were split into two groups.  
17 Half the hamsters (four females and four males) were given 200 mg/kg Cry5B IBaCC  
18 *per os* daily for five days in a row. Since a single 40 mg/kg dose of Cry5B is curative  
19 for hookworms (31), each dose represents 5X the curative dose and, cumulatively, 5X  
20 the required number of doses were given. The other half of the hamsters received an  
21 equal volume of water *per os* on each of the five days. Three days after the final  
22 treatment, half of the hamsters in each group were sacrificed (acute group). All major  
23 organs were immediately dissected, fixed in formalin, sectioned, and stained, looking for

1 signs of disease and lesions (see Methods for details). Ten days after the final  
2 treatment, the remaining half of the hamsters in each group were sacrificed (recovery  
3 group). The acute group would permit observation of any short-term adverse  
4 consequences of treatment, whereas the recovery group would permit observation of  
5 the resolution of adverse consequences seen in the acute group (if any). After staining,  
6 274 sections from all major organs and tissues were examined blinded and scored by a  
7 board-certified pathologist.

8

9 The full results are presented in Table S2. Based on this maximal dose pilot treatment  
10 study, there were no significant differences seen between water and IBaCC groups.

11 There were also no significant differences seen between the acute and recovery groups  
12 comparing across other groups, and no significant differences seen between males and  
13 females comparing across other groups. No significant pathologies were seen in any  
14 groups.

15

16 After sacrifice, blood samples were also collected and analyzed for blood chemistry with  
17 a focus on enzymes that could be indicative renal or hepatic injury (alanine  
18 aminotransferase or ALT, gamma-glutamyl transferase or GGT, aspartate  
19 aminotransferase or AST, bilirubin, blood urea nitrogen or urea, and creatinine).

20 Comparison of hamsters in the water versus Cry5B IBaCC groups showed no statistical  
21 difference in any of these levels (Table S3), consistent with high level of safety and lack  
22 of toxicity.

23

1 Repeated, maximal dosing of IBaCC appear to be completely safe and non-toxic based  
2 on this pilot histopathology and blood chemistry study. Acute and chronic GLP  
3 toxicology studies with larger sample sizes are planned in the future with clinical-grade  
4 Cry5B IBaCC.

5

6

## 7 DISCUSSION

8 The primary aim of this study was to develop and demonstrate a practical, scalable  
9 therapeutic for treating GIN infections in humans. The importance of these aspects of  
10 human anthelmintics are too often neglected. To date, there has been no drug  
11 developed specifically for human GINs. All drugs used for human GIN treatment came  
12 from drugs developed for veterinary targets (64). Furthermore, the availability of current  
13 drugs for human MDA relies upon off-patent drugs that are donated (22). Anthelmintics  
14 for human GINs need to be effective, safe, stable, scalable, compatible with MDA, and  
15 low-cost.

16

17 Bt Cry proteins, one of which has anthelmintic activity against human GINs (31, 34),  
18 have many of the characteristics required. Bt spore-crystal lysates are massively  
19 produced around the world for agriculture (75% of the biopesticide market; (25)), are  
20 shelf stable, and low-cost. Bt Cry proteins have a superb track record of safety for more  
21 than six decades of use in agriculture (caterpillar/beetle) and vector (black fly, mosquito)  
22 control (28, 29, 65). Indeed, the specific receptor for Cry5B in nematodes is restricted  
23 to invertebrates (35). But the use of Cry proteins as insecticidal sprays and in >100

1 MHa of transgenic crops at sub-anthelmintic doses is a “far cry” from their use as  
2 purposely-eaten therapeutics and as a broad spectrum anthelmintic.

3  
4 Here, for the first time we describe a specific Bt Cry protein form developed to deliver  
5 Cry proteins as an ingestible therapeutic to vertebrates. This new form, Cry5B IBaCC,  
6 presents the Cry5B crystal protein as a crystal contained within the cell wall “ghost” of a  
7 dead vegetative bacterium, or paraprobiotic. Cry5B IBaCC is highly efficacious against  
8 multiple parasitic nematodes, including both genera of blood-feeding human hookworms  
9 and one lumenal-feeding parasitic nematode, *H. polygyrus bakeri*. IBaCC and/or the  
10 crystals inside the bacterium are ingested by the parasites, causing them to be  
11 intoxicated by damage to their intestinal cells. Efficacy *in vivo* is excellent, with a near  
12 complete clearance of hookworms at 15 mg/kg. On a molar concentration scale, Cry5B  
13 IBaCC is 175X more effective at clearing hookworms than albendazole (66).

14  
15 Cry5B IBaCC production was successfully transferred to an industrial CMO and scaled  
16 up to 350 liters. Cry5B IBaCC is also compatible with simple fit-for-purpose  
17 formulations, such as sodium bicarbonate (*e.g.*, Alka-Seltzer™) and can be dried down  
18 while retaining full activity. Importantly, this new form of Cry5B, IBaCC, appeared safe  
19 in a maximal multi-dose acute toxicology study based on histopathology and blood  
20 chemistry workups. These findings confirm the lack of Cry5B toxicity reported in all  
21 previous rodent, livestock, and companion animal studies (30–32, 34, 45). Our current  
22 focus is optimizing the Cry5B production strain for increased Cry5B yields, scale up,  
23 and GLP toxicology studies prior to initiating first-in-human clinical trials.

1  
2 By killing the Cry5B-containing vegetative bacteria, but still using the whole  
3 fermentation, a host of issues associated with live bacteria or protein purification are  
4 obviated. Because the product is taken straight out of the fermenter, briefly incubated  
5 with essential oil, washed, and then ready for use, the process is simple and  
6 inexpensive. It could even be carried out locally in GIN endemic countries. Because  
7 the bacterium is killed, there are fewer issues with 1) degradation of the product over  
8 time as the bacterium dies, 2) regulatory issues associated with a product that is  
9 changing over time such as for live a bacteria as viability decays on the shelf, 3)  
10 selection of resistance with live bacteria replicating in the environment or in the GI tract,  
11 4) release of live recombinant bacteria into the environment, and 5) any potential toxicity  
12 associated with enterotoxins associated with *B. cereus* family of bacteria. These  
13 properties should make IBaCC readily acceptable to drug and environmental regulatory  
14 agencies.

15  
16 These studies validate IBaCC as a powerful, practical, safe, and deployable  
17 anthelmintic compatible with MDA that not only can safely and effectively deliver Cry5B  
18 but also any other anthelmintic Bt Cry protein for anti-GIN therapy. IBaCC uniquely and  
19 practically harnesses the safety, massive scalability, history, and power of Bt and Bt Cry  
20 proteins against one of the most prevalent and intractable disease of the poorest  
21 populations on earth. IBaCC promises new hope for a new arsenal of anthelmintics  
22 against the most common parasites of humans and animals.

23

## 1 MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2 **Nematodes**

#### 3 **Medium and Reagents**

4 Reagents for hookworm culture medium (HCM): RPMI 1640, fetal bovine serum (FBS),  
5 penicillin-streptomycin and fungizone antimycotic were all purchased from Gibco, U.S.A.  
6 Dexamethasone 21-phosphate disodium salt (DEX) (Cat# D1159-5G) and cimetidine  
7 (Cat# C4522-5G) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, USA. Cimetidine was prepared  
8 and dosed as described (36).

9

#### 10 ***Caenorhabditis elegans***

11 *Caenorhabditis elegans* was maintained using standard techniques (37). The following  
12 strains were used in this study: N2 Bristol (wild-type) and *glp-4(bn2)*. For images taken  
13 in Figure 3 (growth assay), hatched N2 L1 worms were incubated for 3 days at 25° C  
14 using a standard L1 growth assay (38, 39) in 48 well plates containing an *E. coli* food  
15 source and with treatments as indicated. Assayed worms were stilled with sodium azide,  
16 washed, and arranged for imaging in spot plates. Images were taken with a dissecting  
17 microscope fitted with a camera. The bioactivity of Cry5B in freeze-dried and irradiated  
18 freeze-dried SCLs (Fig. 1) was confirmed against *C. elegans* by a mortality assay for 48  
19 hours at 25°C as described (39–41). For Fig. 3 lethality study, assays were carried out  
20 with *glp-4(bn2)* hermaphrodites incubated at 25°C for 6 days. Data represent the average  
21 and standard error from three independent experiments with approximately 60 worms per  
22 experiment (180 total), except for the IBa control in Fig. 3A (two independent  
23 experiments).



1

## 2 **Animals and Parasites**

3 *Ancylostoma ceylanicum* and *Necator americanus* life cycles were maintained as  
4 previously published (31). Three- to four-week-old male Golden Syrian hamsters  
5 (HsdHan:AURA) were purchased from Envigo (U.S.A) and were infected at approximately  
6 4–5 weeks of age with either ~150 *A. ceylanicum* third-stage infectious larvae (L3i) orally  
7 or ~400 *N. americanus* L3i subcutaneously. Hamsters were provided with food and  
8 water *ad libitum*. The *Heligmosomoides polygyrus bakeri* life cycle was maintained at the  
9 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as described (42). Infectious staged  
10 larvae were shipped to University of Massachusetts Medical School. All animal  
11 experiments were carried out under protocols approved by the University of  
12 Massachusetts Medical School. All housing and care of laboratory animals used in this  
13 study conform to the NIH Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals in Research  
14 (see 18-F22) and all requirements and all regulations issued by the USDA, including  
15 regulations implementing the Animal Welfare Act (P.L. 89-544) as amended (see 18-F23).

16

## 17 ***In vitro* assays with parasites**

18 Egg-to-larva assays were carried out as described ((43); manuscript in preparation).  
19 Adult hookworm *in vitro* assays were carried out essentially as described (32, 44). Briefly,  
20 for *A. ceylanicum*, three adult hookworms per well were placed in 500  $\mu$ L hookworm  
21 medium in a 24 well format with the indicated treatment using four wells/condition and  
22 then set up three independent times. *N. americanus* parasites were similarly tested but  
23 with only three wells per condition, because the number of adult parasites per hamster is

1 more limited. For all conditions, there were roughly the same number of male and female  
2 worms. Hookworm adults were scored on a 0-3 scale (0 non-motile even when touched;  
3 1 non-motile unless touched; 2 slowly motile; 3 fully motile) as described (32, 44).

4  
5 Rhodamine-labeled IBaCC (rhod-IBaCC): IBaCC was resuspended in phosphate buffer  
6 (0.1 M, pH 7) at a concentration of 2 mg Cry5B/mL. Rhodamine isothiocyanate (RITC)  
7 was dissolved at 5 mg/mL in dimethylsulfoxide. RITC solution (60  $\mu$ L) was added to a 1  
8 mL suspension of IBaCC and the sample was incubated with constant mixing in the dark,  
9 at room temperature for 18 hours Tris buffer (60  $\mu$ L, 1 M, pH 8) was added and the  
10 reaction mixture was stirred for additional 15 minutes to quench free RITC. The sample  
11 was centrifuged to collect rhod-IBaCC and the pellet was washed with water to remove  
12 physisorbed dye. IBaCC and rhod-IBaCC were evaluated for particle uptake in *A.*  
13 *ceylanicum* at a concentration of 15  $\mu$ g Cry5B/mL using three adult hookworms per well  
14 in a 24-well format. Worms were evaluated by fluorescence microscopy for particle uptake  
15 at 1.5, 4 and 24 hours.

16  
17

### 18 ***In vivo* studies**

19 The *A. ceylanicum* and *N. americanus* *in vivo* experiments were carried out as described  
20 (31–33, 44). Briefly, fecal egg counts for *A. ceylanicum* were taken day 17-18 post-  
21 inoculation to establish groups with roughly equal infectivity and then treated with a single  
22 dose gavage on day 18 post-inoculation. Fecal egg counts were taken again days 22-23  
23 post-inoculation, and parasite burdens in the small and large intestine were taken on day

1 23 post-inoculation. Fecal egg counts for *N. americanus* were taken on days 55-56 post-  
2 inoculation to establish groups with roughly equal infectivity and then treated with a single  
3 dose gavage on day 56 post-inoculation. Fecal egg counts were taken again on days 60-  
4 61 post-inoculation, and parasite burdens in the small and large intestine were taken on  
5 day 61 post-inoculation. For all *in vivo* experiments except where sodium bicarbonate  
6 was used (Fig. 7A; all of Fig. 8; Fig. S1), cimetidine was prepared and given *per os* 15  
7 minutes ahead of Cry5B administration as previously described (31). For experiments  
8 with sodium bicarbonate, Cry5B IbaCC was given *per os* in 200  $\mu$ L 0.1 M sodium  
9 bicarbonate. Freeze-dried IbaCC was prepared as for SCL (described below).  
10 Experiments using *H. polygyrus bakeri*, experiments were carried out as described (31).  
11 Briefly, fecal egg counts were taken on days 14-15 post-inoculation to establish groups  
12 with roughly equal infectivity and then treated with a single dose gavage day on 15 post-  
13 inoculation. Fecal egg counts were taken again on days 19-20 post-inoculation, and  
14 parasite burdens in the small and large intestine were taken on day 20 post-inoculation.

15

## 16 **Bacteria**

### 17 **Spore and spore crystal lysates**

18 For the experiments in Figure 1, Bt subspecies *kurstaki* HD1-4D8 and HD1-4D9 were  
19 ordered through the *Bacillus* Genetic Stock Center. Both crystal-deficient Bt strains were  
20 transformed with a plasmid containing the Cry5B gene (40). Spore lysates (SLs; HD1  
21 Cry deficient strains) and spore-crystal lysates (SCLs; HD1 strains transformed with  
22 Cry5B plasmid) were prepared using standard methods (40, 45) and then stored at  $-80^{\circ}$   
23 C until use. For freeze drying, SL and SCL samples stored at  $-80^{\circ}$ C for at least 12 hours

1 were loaded into a FreeZone 1 Liter Benchtop Freeze Dry System (Labconco catalog  
2 number 7740020). The condenser was set to -60°C and the vacuum at 22 mTor.  
3 Irradiation of freeze-dried SL and SCL was accomplished with a cobalt-60 irradiation  
4 source at the University of Massachusetts Lowell Radiation Laboratory. Irradiation doses  
5 of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 60 kGy were initially tested, and 15kGy was chosen as the  
6 lowest radiation dose with a strong effect on spore viability. To determine the number of  
7 spores, 10 mg lyophilized powder was taken under sterile conditions before and after  
8 irradiation, transferred into 1 ml of sterile distilled water in microtubes, and homogenized  
9 by vortexing. 100 µl of the SL or SCL suspensions were removed from each sample and  
10 incubated at 80°C in a water bath for 20 minutes to kill any vegetative cells, and then  
11 diluted by a 10-fold dilution series. 100 µl of diluted samples (from 10<sup>6</sup> to 10<sup>9</sup>) were spread  
12 on top of LB agar plates in triplicate with Rattler plating beads and incubated overnight at  
13 30°C. Colonies on each plate were manually counted.

14

#### 15 **IBa and IBaCC strain construction and maintenance.**

16 The promoter region of *cry3A* (46) was fused to the coding region of *cry5B* and its  
17 downstream terminator via the N-terminal *ClaI* restriction site. This  $P_{cry3A-cry5B}$   
18 expression construct was subsequently cloned into pHT3101 (47). The resulting plasmid,  
19 pHY159, was electroporated into *B. thuringiensis* strain 407  $\Delta spo0A::kan$  (48). The entire  
20 *cry5B* insert was sequenced to confirm no mutations were included. Single colonies of  
21 407  $\Delta spo0A::kan$  cells harboring pHY159 or pHT3101 empty vector control (EVC) were

1 grown in nutrient-rich 3X LB with erythromycin (10ug/ml) at 30°C, shaking at 250rpm for  
2 2-3 days. Outsourced cultures at a biomanufacturing facility were similarly grown in a  
3 fermenter with constant monitoring and adjustments of pH and oxygen levels, at 30°C  
4 with 150 rpm agitation for 48 hours. In both cases, cells were harvested by centrifugation  
5 and resuspended to 10% initial volumes in ice-cold water. 10X concentrations of  
6 harvested cultures were inactivated with the addition of food grade monoterpene or  
7 essential oil at 0.1% final concentration and incubated with gentle agitation at room  
8 temperature for 15 minutes. Inactivated cultures were then centrifuged, washed with  
9 water, and resuspended in saline at 10% initial volume. For all experiments except Fig.  
10 7B, residual terpenes were extracted with corn oil (20% final volume) with gentle agitation  
11 at room temperature for 2 hours. We have not found any impact on *in vivo* efficacy with  
12 or without this step. IBaCC was recovered after centrifugation and three washes with ice-  
13 cold water. 10X concentrated samples were removed for several analyses, including  
14 SDS-PAGE (for Cry5B content and quantification), cell density, cell viability, and  
15 nematode-killing assays.

16

17 For experiments in Table S1, Bt 407  $\Delta spo0A::kan$  cells transferred with pHY159 were  
18 grown in Luria broth overnight at 30°C in 10 µg/mL erythromycin to saturation. The next  
19 day, 100 µL of terpenes (49) were added to 100 µL of overnight culture to a final volume  
20 of 1 mL in Luria broth plus erythromycin. Tubes were shaken overnight at 30°C. The  
21 next day, the cells were pelleted by centrifugation, washed with sterile water three times,  
22 and resuspended in 1 mL of sterile water. From each sample, 25 µL was plated onto a

1 Luria broth plate and incubated at 30°C overnight. Growth or lack of growth was noted  
2 the following day.

3

#### 4 **Histopathology and Blood Chemistry**

5 Organs from euthanized male and female animals were fixed in 10% neutral buffered  
6 formalin, processed and embedded in paraffin, sectioned at 5 µm, and stained with  
7 hematoxylin and eosin at Tufts University, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine,  
8 Core Histology Laboratory (North Grafton, MA, USA). Hematoxylin stains nuclei and  
9 structures rich in nucleic acids gray to blue to dark purple. Eosin stains protein-rich  
10 regions of cells and tissues various shades of pink. All sections were blindly examined by  
11 a board-certified veterinary pathologist (GB). The organs sampled and (# sections)  
12 examined per animal included: stomach (2), small intestine (4), pancreas (1), large  
13 intestine (2-3), kidney (2), adrenal (1), liver (3), spleen (1), mesentery (1), brain (4-6),  
14 lungs (3-4), heart (entire), thymus (1-2), cortical bone (multiple), bone marrow (multiple),  
15 growth plate (multiple). All tissues were examined for microscopic disease and lesions as  
16 follows: Presence of nematodes/eggs; Cellular immune or inflammatory infiltrates;  
17 Cellular degeneration, apoptosis, necrosis; Lesion severity (none, minimal, moderate,  
18 severe); Lesion location (anatomic site); and incidental findings. After examination without  
19 knowledge of the groups, the study key was provided. In all animals and in all groups  
20 (males, females, IBaCC, and water), the following tissues were considered within normal  
21 limits by light microscopy: Lymphoid or hematopoietic tissues (thymus, spleen, Peyer's  
22 Patches, bone marrow); Central nervous system (brain); Endocrine (adrenal); Skeletal

1 (bone; growth plates); Cardiopulmonary (heart, lungs), upper digestive tract (Squamous  
2 portion of the stomach, liver, or pancreas), and lower digestive tract (large intestine). The  
3 small intestine of all animals in all treatment groups contained minimal to mild, multifocal,  
4 plasmocytic to lymphoplasmocytic and rarely eosinophilic infiltrates within the lamina  
5 propria. The infiltrates were interpreted as normal resident mucosal immune cells. There  
6 was no evidence of significant inflammation, degeneration, necrosis, fibrosis, or other  
7 toxicities in these tissues. Multifocal, minimal to mild, mineralized foci were noted in the  
8 glandular epithelium of the stomach and the kidneys (renal tubules and collecting ducts)  
9 of all males and females in both the IBaCC and water groups. The cause and clinical  
10 significance of the mineralization is uncertain. Regardless, mineralization did not appear  
11 to be a specific adverse effect attributable to IBaCC administration. Further studies are  
12 needed to determine the pathogenesis and clinical relevance of this lesion. The glandular  
13 stomach of females and males in both treatment groups contained particulates in the  
14 superficial mucus, of uncertain cause or significance. In a fraction of animals in all  
15 treatment groups (1/4 IBaCC treated females; 2/3 water-treated females; 3/3 IBaCC  
16 males and 2/4 water-treated males), minimal to mild lymphocytic serositis with reactive  
17 mesothelial cell hypertrophy was observed. The cause and clinical significance of this  
18 lesion was not apparent, but the lesion does not appear to be a specific adverse effect  
19 attributable to IBaCC treatment.

20

21 Immediately after euthanasia, hamsters were exsanguinated by cardiac puncture and  
22 blood collected into SAFE-T-FILL Capillary Blood Collection Tubes–Serum (RAM  
23 Scientific). Blood was allowed to clot for at least 30 min at room temperature before

1 centrifugation. The collected serum was stored in -80°C until further use. Serum  
2 biochemistry profiles were performed on a COBAS c501 chemistry analyzer (Roche  
3 Diagnostics, Indianapolis, IN, USA) using standard protocols.

4

## 5 **2.5. Statistical analyses**

6 Prism v. 7 was used for all graphs and two group comparisons. Multigroup comparisons  
7 were carried out with SPSS v. 25. For all comparisons including just two groups except  
8 serum biochemistry (see Table S3), a one-tailed student's t-test was used with the  
9 assumption that treatment reduced parasite burdens and fecal egg counts. For all  
10 comparisons involving two groups relative to a control group, one-way analysis of  
11 variance (ANOVA) with a one-tailed Dunnett's post-test was used.

12

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1

## 2 FIGURE LEGENDS

3 Figure 1. Effects of gamma irradiation on Bt spore viability and Cry5B bioactivity. (A)  
4 Effect of 15 kGy of gamma irradiation on spore counts for two different Cry- Bt strains  
5 (4.D.8, 4.D.9) transformed with a Cry5B expressing plasmid. (B) Comparison of Cry5B  
6 efficacy expressed in 4.D.8 and 4.D.9 on *C. elegans* viability at 100 µg/mL before and  
7 after 15 kGy irradiation. Labels without “(15 kGy)” indicate non-gamma irradiated  
8 samples. Labels with “(15 kGy)” indicate gamma-irradiated samples.

9

10 Figure 2. BaCC (Bacterium with cytosolic crystal) and IBaCC (Inactivated Bacterium  
11 with Cytosolic Crystal). (A) *spo0A*- Bt cells expressing Cry5B from a vegetative  
12 promoter before (BaCC) and after (IBaCC) treatment with essential oil. Cry5B  
13 bipyramidal crystals (dark) are evident inside the bacteria pre- and post-treatment.  
14 Scale bar = 5 µm. (B) Protein gel showing Cry5B protein expressed in *spo0A*- cells  
15 before and after essential oil treatment. (C) Spore counts from *spo0A*- cells expression  
16 Cry5B before and after essential oil treatment along with standard deviation (actual  
17 spore counts =  $2.1 \times 10^7$  CFU/mL in BaCC and 0 in IBaCC).

18

19 Figure 3. Efficacy of IBaCC *in vitro* against nematodes. (A) *C. elegans*. Left, photos of  
20 *C. elegans* N2 exposed to various conditions (spore crystal lysate or SCL and IBaCC;  
21 both = 40 µg/mL Cry5B). Scale bar = 200 µm. The *C. elegans* were treated with azide  
22 to immobilize them just prior to imaging. Right, viability of *C. elegans glp-4(bn2)* L4  
23 hermaphrodites under various conditions (IBaCC = 29 µg/mL Cry5B). P value for

1 comparison is one-tailed T-test. (B) Hookworm larval development. Plotted are the  
2 numbers of L3i larvae that developed from 60 hookworm eggs within 7 days (A.  
3 *ceylanicum*, left; *N. americanus*, right). X axis indicates concentration of Cry5B for  
4 IBaCC (IBa = 0 for all).

5

6 Figure 4. Impact of Cry5B IBaCC on adult hookworms *in vitro*. Adult hookworm motility  
7 over time at 5, 50, and 200  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  Cry5B for (A) *A. ceylanicum* adults and (B) *N.*  
8 *americanus* adults (right) *in vitro* averaged over three independent trials. In all figures,  
9 plots show average and standard error. (C) left: SDS PAGE showing IBaCC before  
10 (IBaCC) and after (rhod-IBaCC) labeling with rhodamine; right: UV fluorescent image of  
11 same gel, showing predominant labeling of full length Cry5B band in rhod-IBaCC. (D)  
12 Uptake of rhod-IBaCC. Left pair of images, bright field image of IBaCC and rhodamine  
13 fluorescent image of adult hookworm fed IBaCC for 4 hours; Right pair of images, bright  
14 field image of rhod-IBaCC and rhodamine fluorescent image of adult hookworm fed  
15 rhod-IBaCC for 4 hours. Uptake of rhodamine-labeled Cry5B crystals is evident.

16

17 Figure 5. Efficacy of IBaCC produced in the laboratory *in vivo* against both human  
18 hookworm genera. (A) Shown are mean *A. ceylanicum* hookworm burdens (left) and  
19 fecal egg counts (right) in infected hamsters treated with water control, IBa, or IBaCC  
20 containing Cry5B. Here and subsequent figures error bars are standard error. EPG =  
21 eggs per gram of feces. (B) Mean *N. americanus* hookworm burdens (left) and fecal  
22 egg counts (right) in infected hamsters treated with water control or IBaCC containing  
23 Cry5B.

1  
2 Figure 6. Efficacy of Production Facility IBaCC *in vivo* against *A. ceylanicum*  
3 hookworms. (A) Dose response of *A. ceylanicum* burdens (left) and fecal egg counts  
4 (right) in infected hamsters treated with water control or CMO-produced IBaCC  
5 containing Cry5B. (B) *A. ceylanicum* burdens (left) and fecal egg counts in infected  
6 hamsters treated with water or CMO-produced 15 mg/kg Cry5B in IBaCC. EPG = eggs  
7 per gram of feces. P values for relevant comparisons are given.

8  
9 Figure 7. Fit-for-purpose formulation studies for Cry5B IBaCC. (A) Mean *A.*  
10 *ceylanicum* hookworm burdens (left) and fecal egg counts (right) in infected hamsters  
11 treated with water control, IBaCC, or IBaCC mixed with sodium bicarbonate. No  
12 cimetidine pre-gavage was used in these experiments. (B) Mean *A. ceylanicum*  
13 hookworm burdens (left) and fecal egg counts (right) in infected hamsters treated with  
14 water control, IBaCC, or the same batch of IBaCC freeze-dried (FD). P values for  
15 relevant comparisons are given. One-tailed Dunnett's; one-tailed T test.

16  
17 Figure 8. Confirmation of fit-for-purpose Cry5B IBaCC efficacy against a different,  
18 luminal feeding parasite in a second host. Mean *H. polygyrus bakeri* burdens (left) and  
19 fecal egg counts (right) in infected mice treated with water, sodium bicarbonate, or  
20 single-dose freeze-dried (FD) Cry5B IBaCC mixed with sodium bicarbonate. The FD-  
21 IBaCC used was an independent batch from that in Figure 7.

22

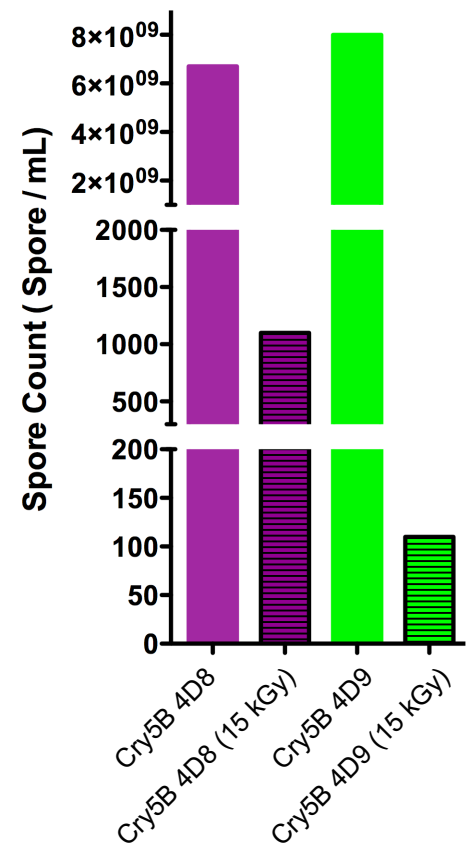
1 Table 1. Data from *in vivo* experiments.

Figure	Condition	Average worm burden (n)	Change from control	Average EPG (n)	Change from control
5A	Water	50.6 (5)	NA	4390 (5)	NA
	IBa	52.8 (5)	4.30%	4695 (5)	6.90%
	IBaCC 10 mg/kg Cry5B	3.3 (4)	-93.50%	875.0 (4)	-80.10%
5B	Water	21.0 (6)	NA	2867 (6)	NA
	IBaCC 15 mg/kg Cry5B	2.3 (6)	-89.00%	308.3 (6)	-89.20%
6A	Water	44.3 (6)	NA	2275 (6)	NA
	IBaCC 2 mg/kg Cry5B	14.5 (6)	-67.30%	808.3 (6)	-64.50%
	IBaCC 6 mg/kg Cry5B	5.2 (6)	-88.30%	366.7 (6)	-83.80%
6B	Water	35.6 (5)	NA	2790 (5)	NA
	IBaCC 15 mg/kg Cry5B	0.4 (5)	-98.90%	30.0 (5)	-98.90%
7A	Water	21.8 (5)	NA	3210 (5)	NA
	IBaCC 2.4 mg/kg Cry5B	8.4 (5)	-61.50%	1220 (5)	-62.00%
	IBaCC 2.4 mg/kg Cry5B + Bicarb	4.2 (5)	-80.70%	850.0 (5)	-73.50%
7B	Water	42.3 (6)	NA	3146 (6)	NA
	IBaCC 6 mg/kg Cry5B	3.8 (6)	-91.00%	404.2 (6)	-87.20%
	FD-IBaCC 6 mg/kg Cry5B	1.0 (6)	-97.60%	241.7 (6)	-92.30%
8	Water	60.2 (6)	NA	6517 (6)	NA
	Bicarb	46.5 (6)	-22.80%	8325 (6)	27.70%
	FD-IBaCC 40 mg/kg Cry5B + Bicarb	28.3 (6)	-53.00%	883.3 (6)	-86.40%
Supplement	Water	14.7 (6)	NA		
	Bicarb only	17.0 (6)	15.60%		
	IBa	16.7 (6)	13.60%		

2

Figure 1

**A**



**B**

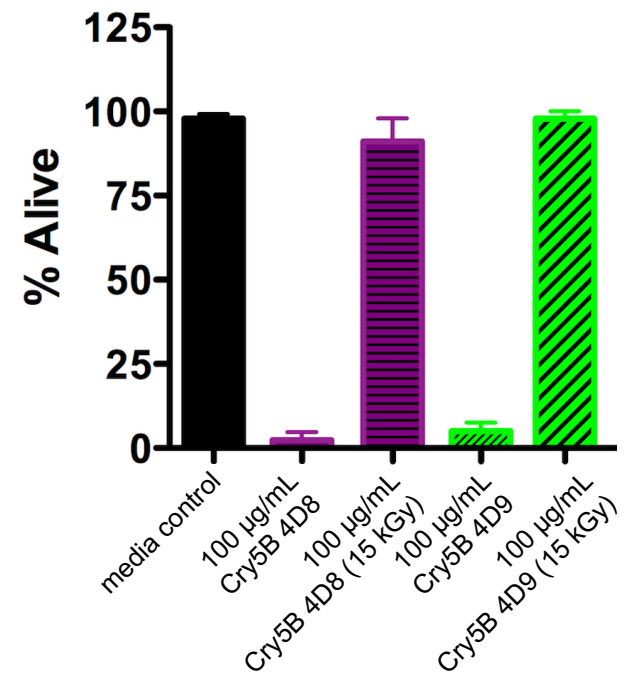


Figure 2

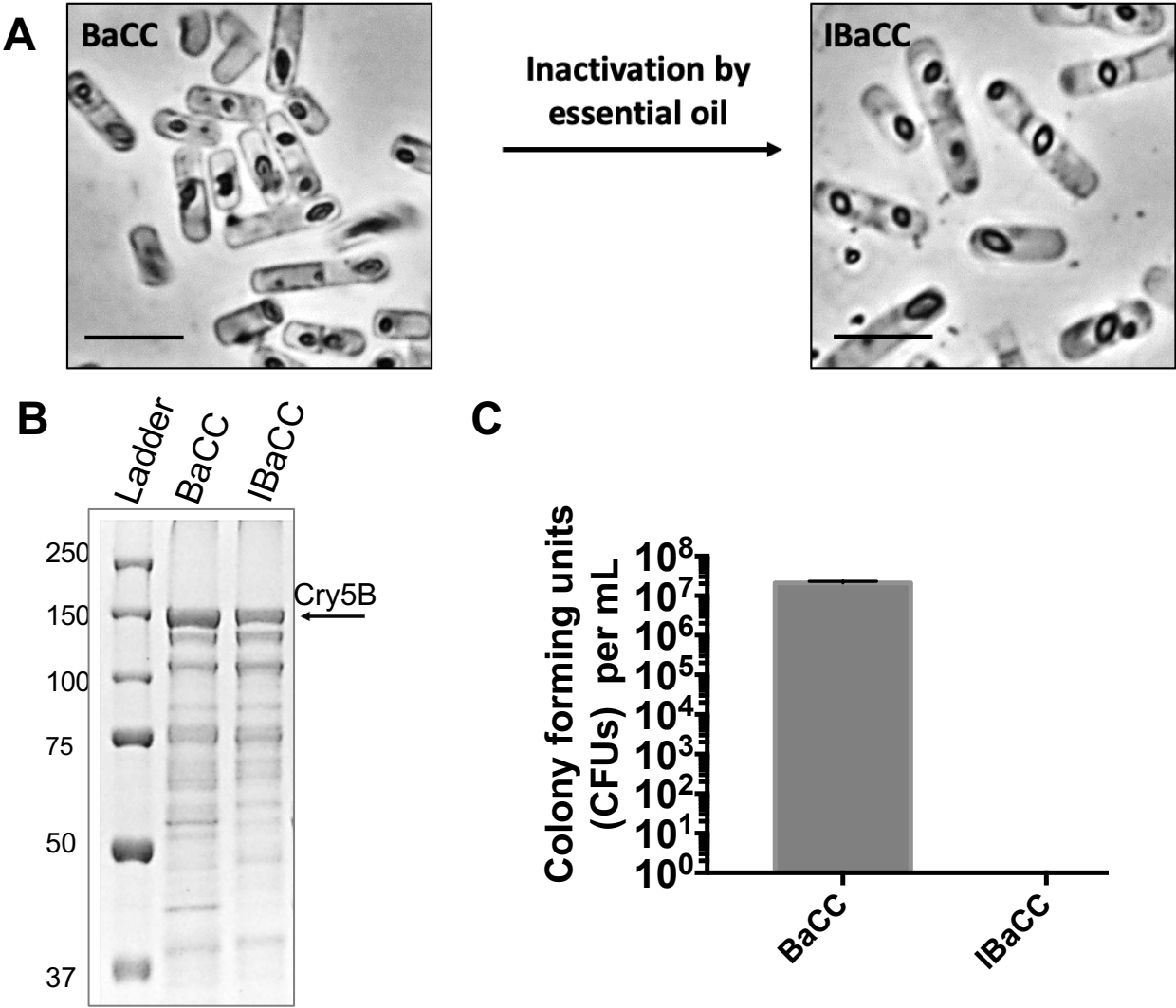




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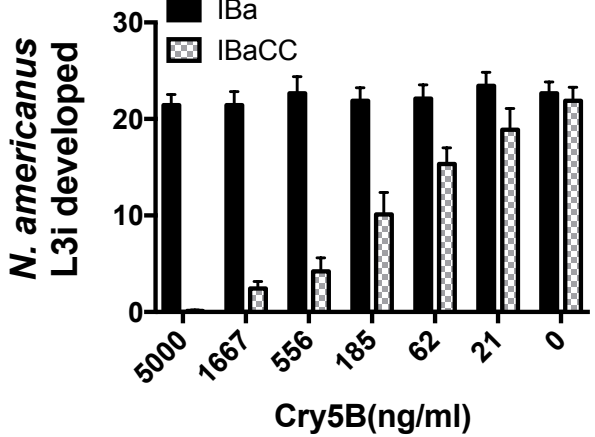
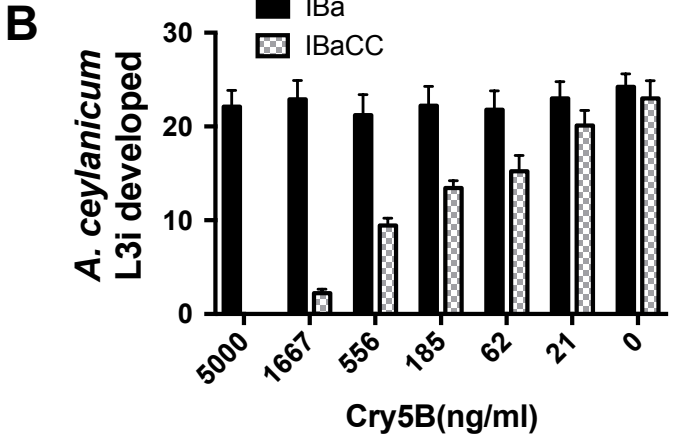
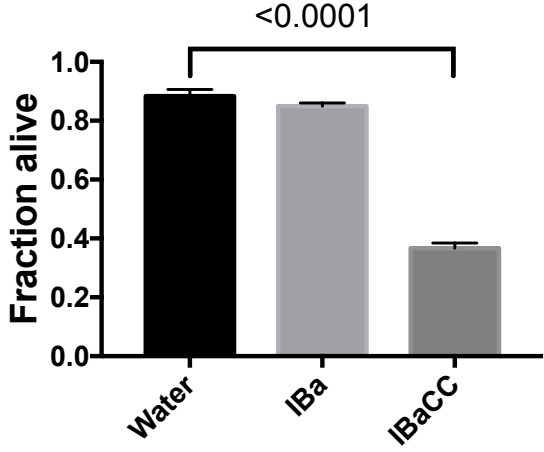
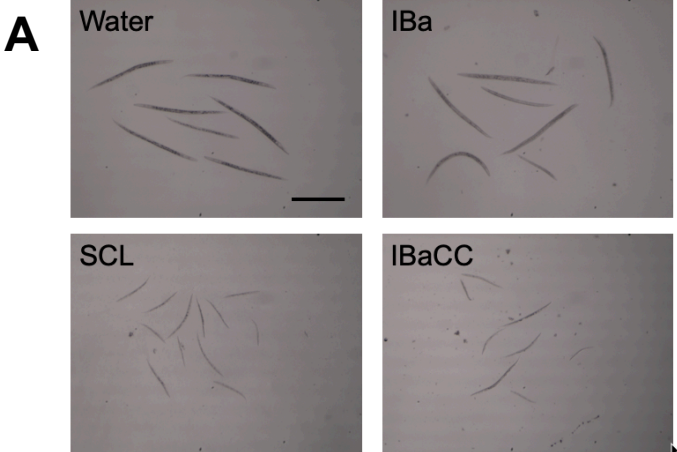


Figure 4

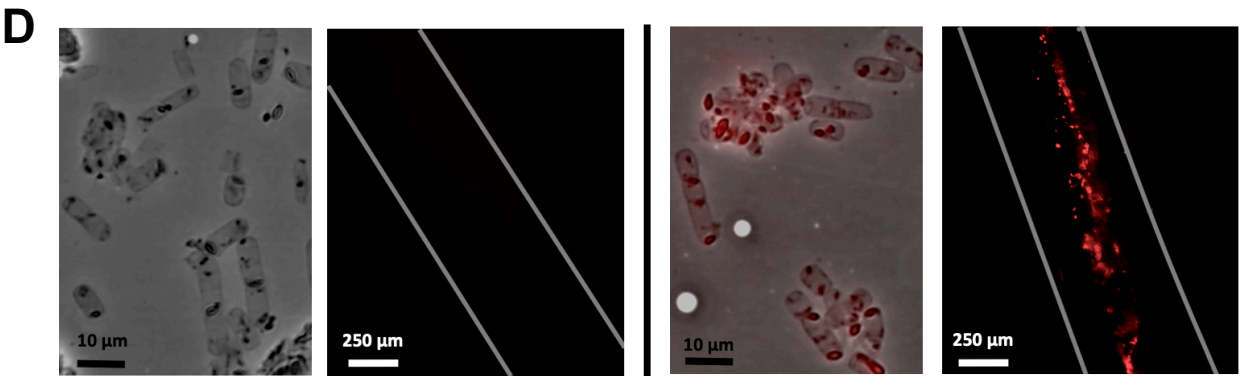
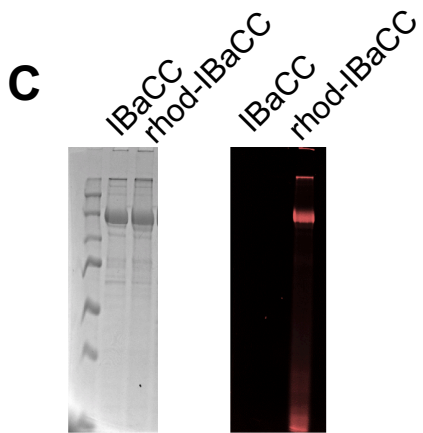
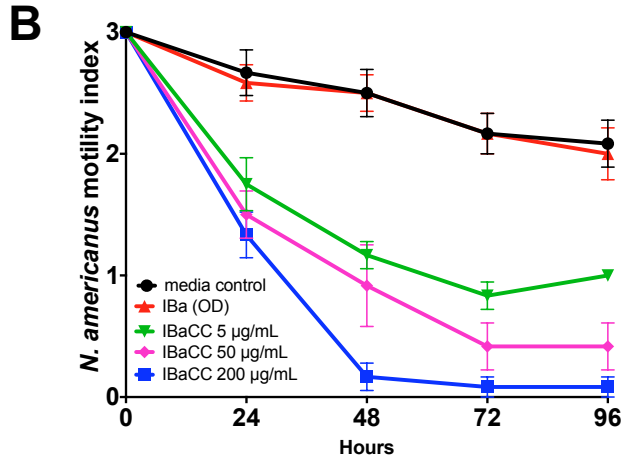
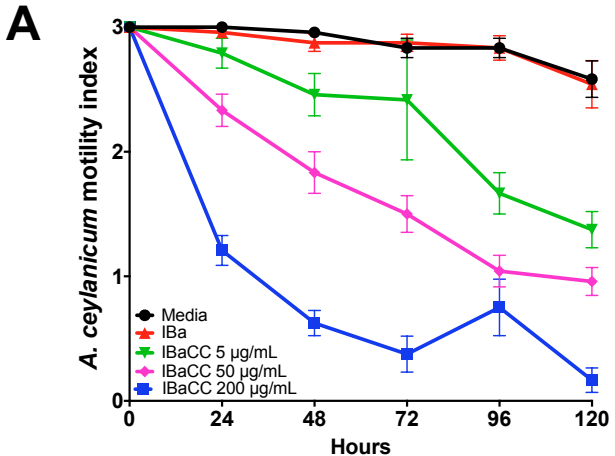
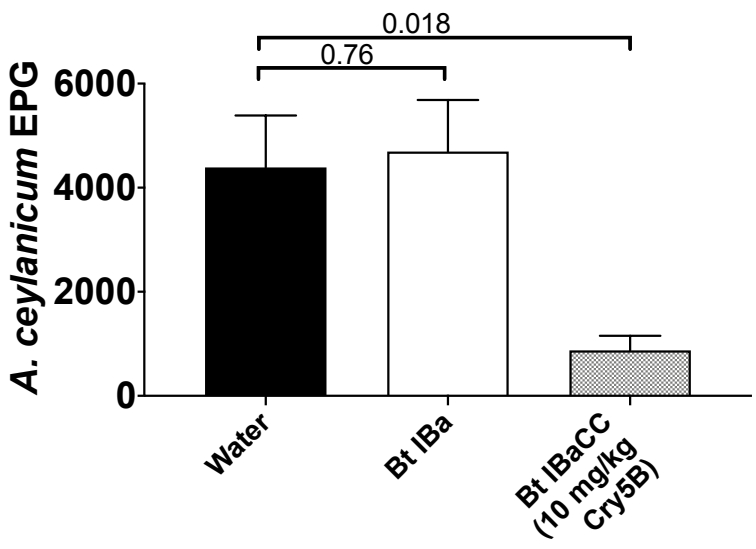
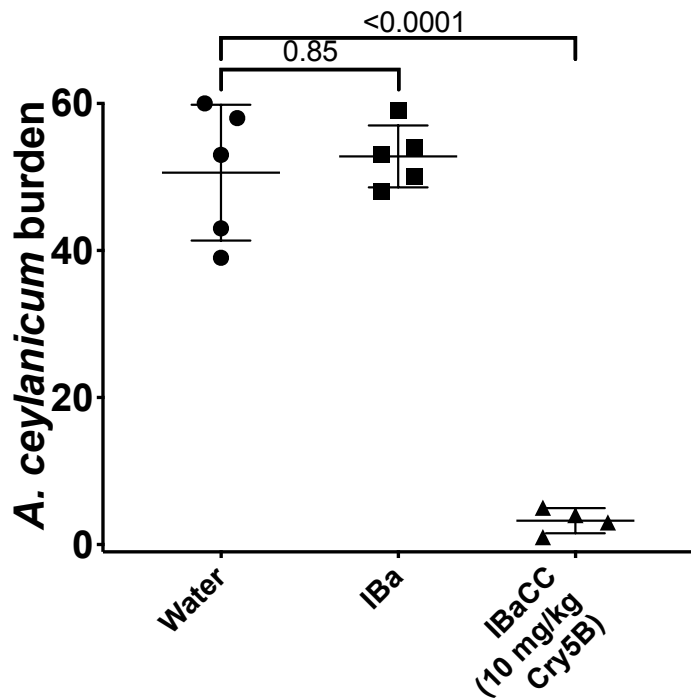


Figure 5

**A**



**B**

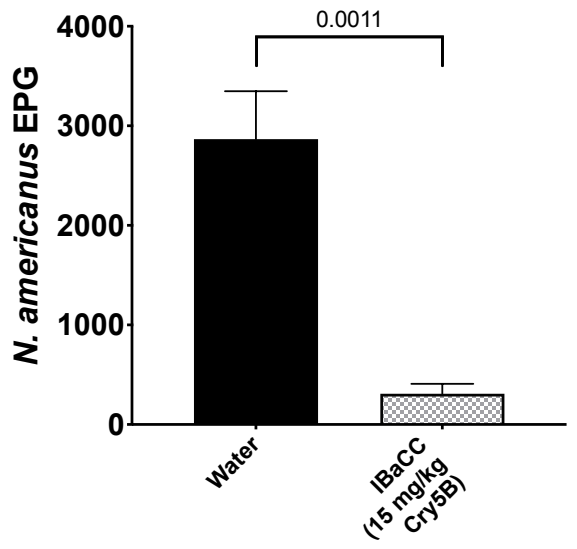
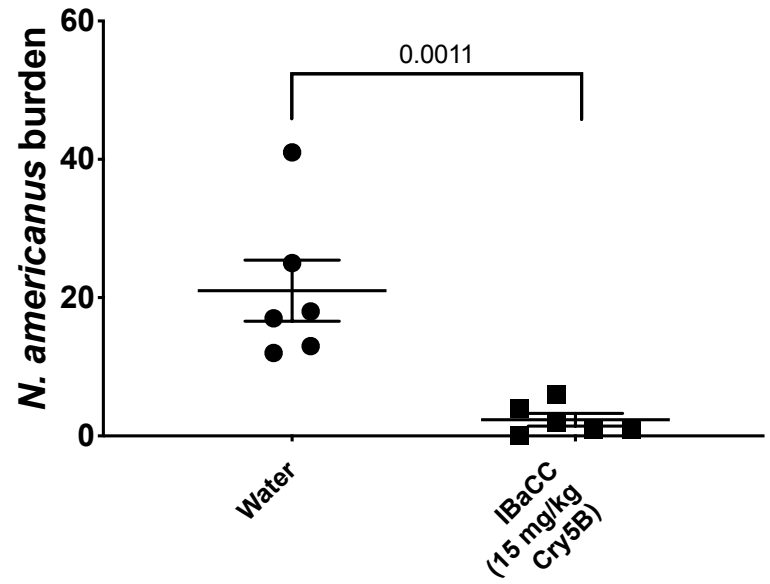
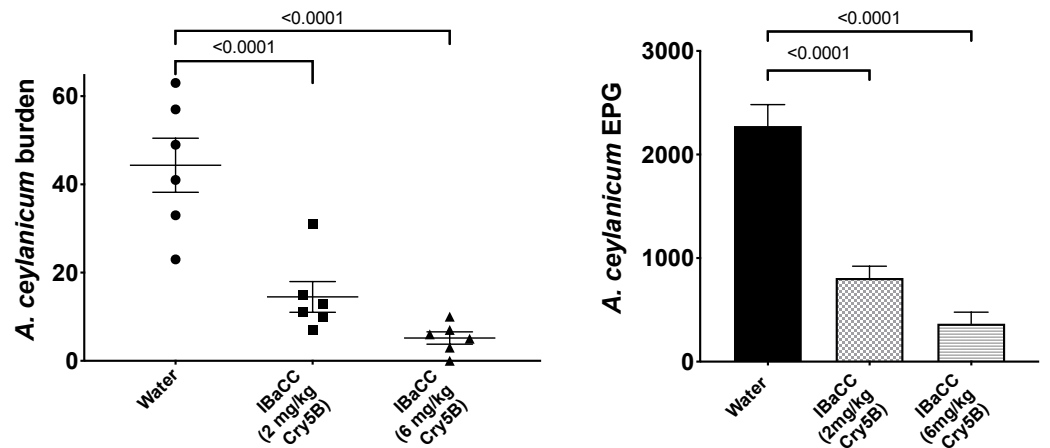


Figure 6

**A**



**B**

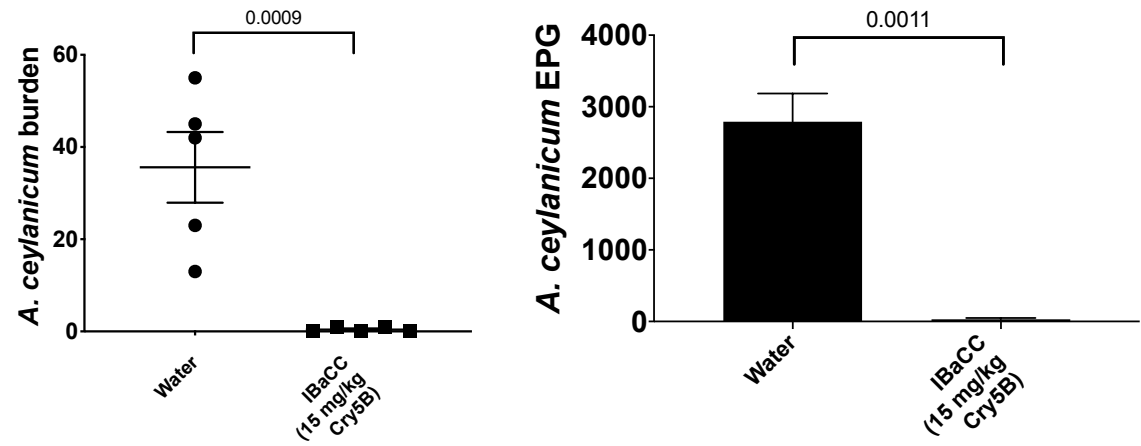


Figure 7

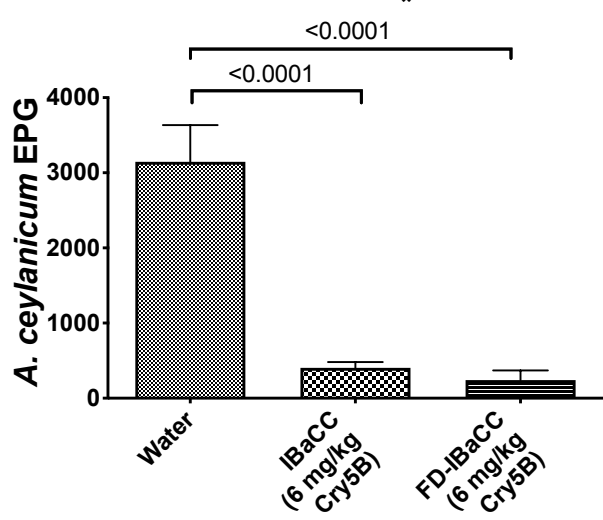
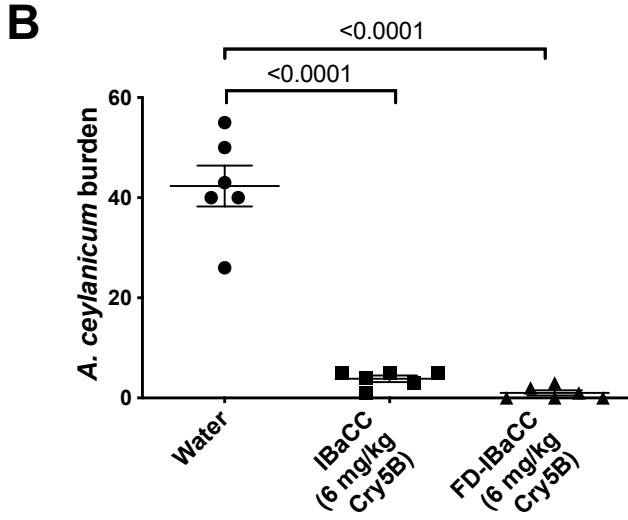
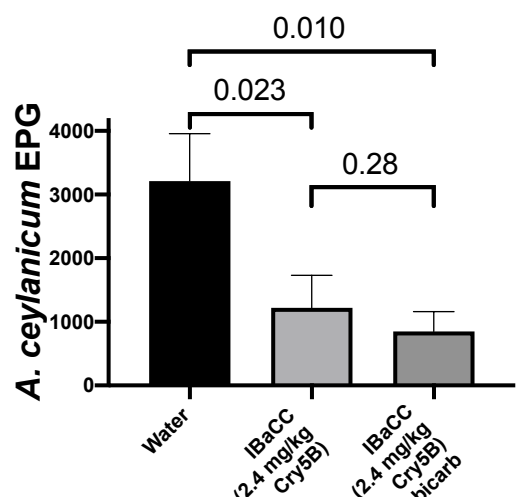
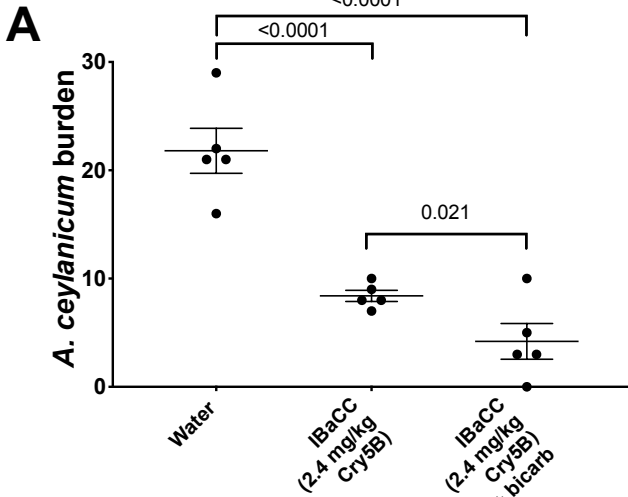
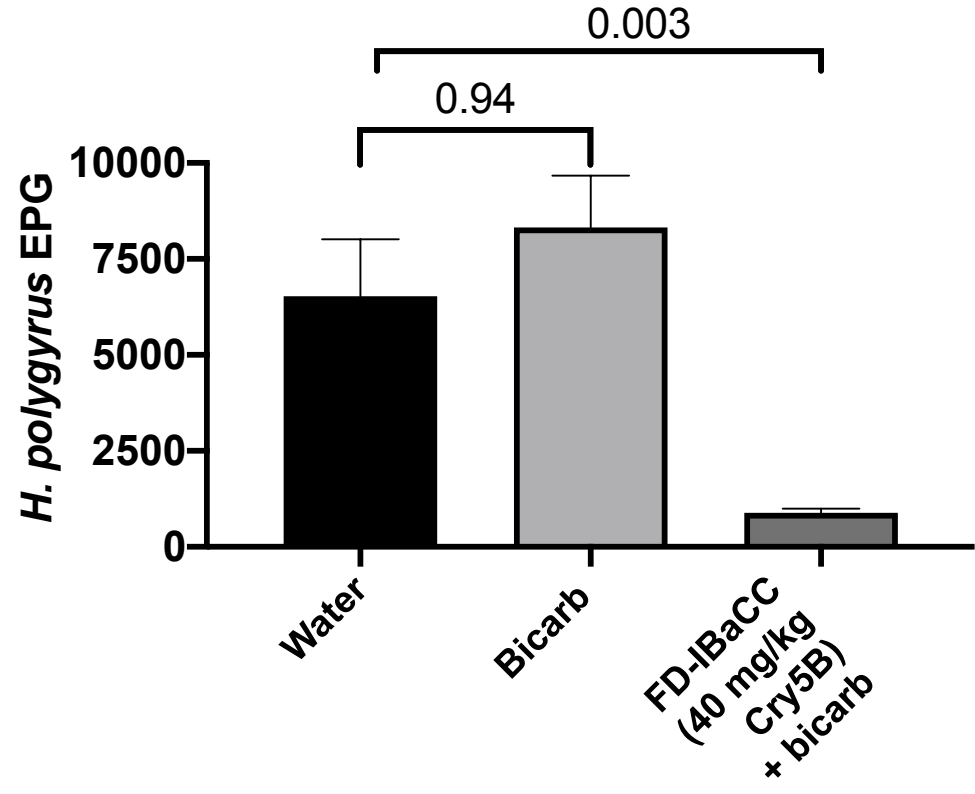
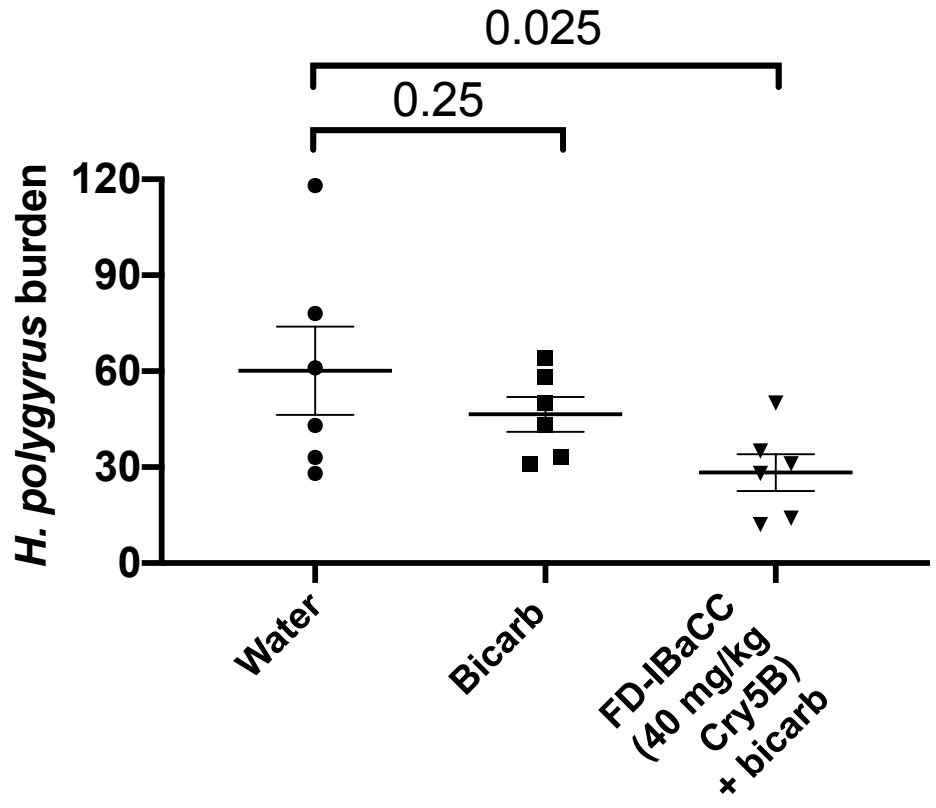


Figure 8



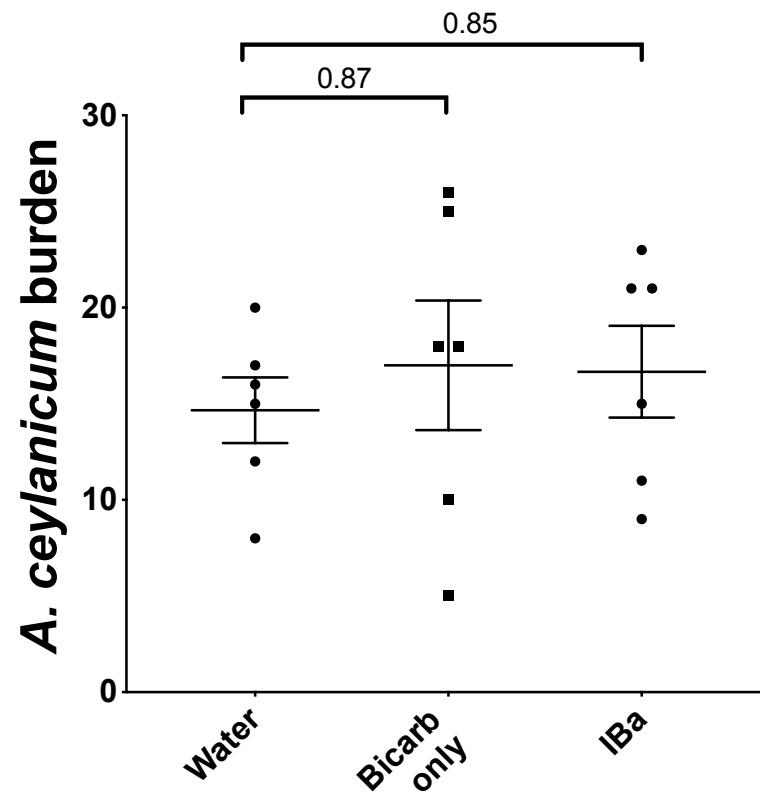


Figure S1. Negative control studies for hookworm burdens. Neither sodium bicarbonate alone nor IBa significantly impact hookworm burdens in hamsters.

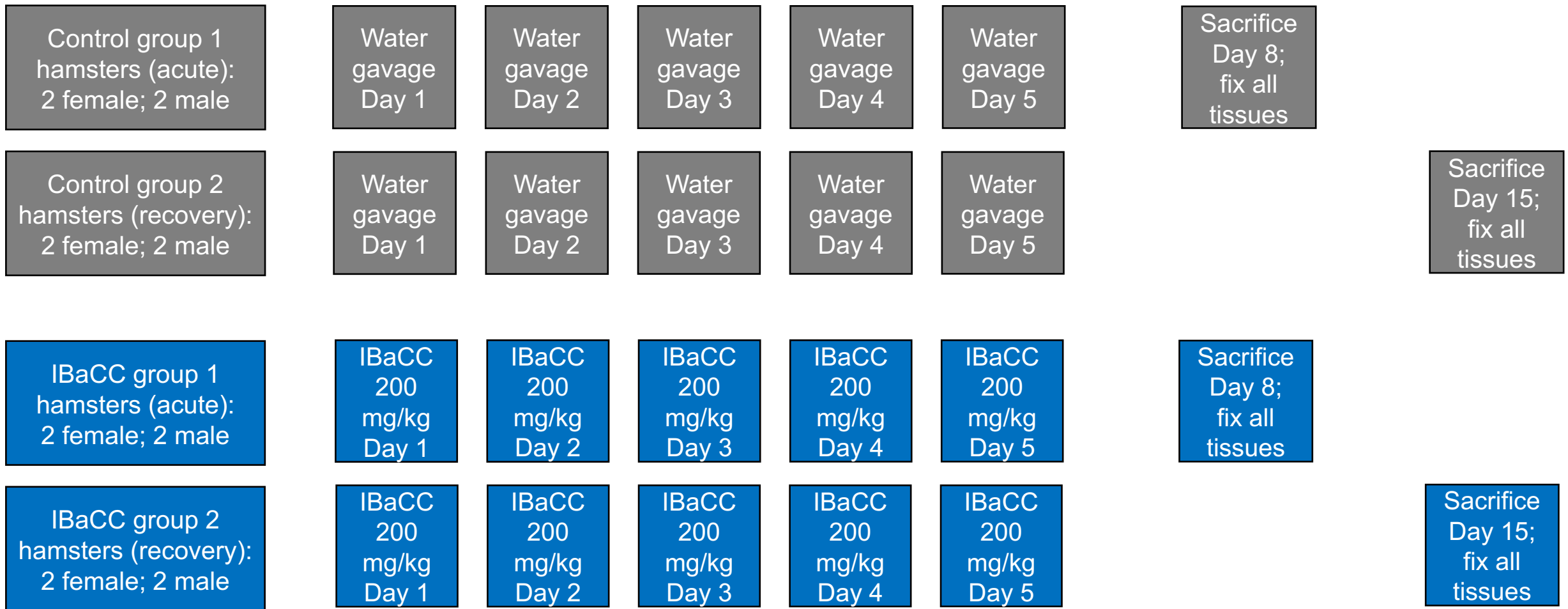


Figure S2. Experimental design for preliminary safety study. Volume of gavage was the same in all groups.



Table S1. Qualitative survey of essential oils tested against BaCC cells.

<b>Bt Spo0A- cells present?</b>	<b>Terpene tested (1 mg/ml)</b>	<b>Bt SpoA- dilution</b>	<b>Growth on plates?</b>
NO	none	NA	NO
YES	none	1.00E-03	YES
YES	Geraniol	1.00E-03	NO
YES	Eugenol	1.00E-03	NO
YES	Thymol	1.00E-03	NO
YES	Citral	1.00E-03	NO
YES	Carvacrol	1.00E-03	NO
YES	Cinnamic ald	1.00E-03	NO
YES	Tea tree	1.00E-03	YES
YES	Limonene	1.00E-03	YES
YES	Undecanoic acid	1.00E-03	NO

Table S2. Histopathology results: n=2148 Significant Microscopic Lesions; n=2148 particular tissue was not available or seen for that animal.

Table with 16 columns: Gender, Treatment, Day of euthanasia, slide label, organ, diagnosis, lesion, lesion type, severity, distribution, lesion location(s), cell types, incidental findings, and Comments. The table lists 2148 rows of histopathology data across various organs like stomach, spleen, kidney, liver, brain, and lung, detailing microscopic lesions and their clinical significance.

M	IBACC	3	B8.2	kidney	mineralized foci	y	mineralization	mf	mf	collecting ducts	tubular epithelial cells	na	na
M	IBACC	3	B8.2	spleen	nsent	n	n	n	n	na	na	na	na
M	IBACC	3	B8.2	mesentery	too small to eval.	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	WATER	3	B7.2	liver	nsent	n	n	n	n	na	na	na	na
M	WATER	3	B7.2	kidney	mineralized foci	y	mineralization	mf	mf	collecting ducts	tubular epithelial cells	na	na
M	WATER	3	B7.2	spleen	nsent	n	n	n	n	na	na	na	na
M	WATER	3	B7.2	mesentery	nsent	n	n	n	n	na	na	na	na
M	WATER	3	B8.2	liver	nsent	n	n	n	n	na	na	na	na
M	WATER	3	B8.2	kidney	mineralized foci	y	mineralization	mf	mf	collecting ducts	tubular epithelial cells	na	na
M	WATER	3	B8.2	spleen	nsent	n	n	n	n	na	na	na	na
M	WATER	3	B8.2	mesentery	nsent	n	n	n	n	na	na	na	na
F	IBACC	3	B1.3	brain	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	glial rests	na
F	IBACC	3	B2.3	brain	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	glial rests	na
F	WATER	3	B3.3	brain	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	glial rests	na
F	WATER	3	B4.3	brain	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	glial rests	na
M	IBACC	3	B5.3	brain	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	glial rests	na
M	IBACC	3	B6.3	brain	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	glial rests	na
M	WATER	3	B7.3	brain	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	glial rests	na
M	WATER	3	B8.3	brain	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	glial rests	na
F	IBACC	3	B1.4	lungs	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	IBACC	3	B1.4	heart	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	IBACC	3	B1.4	thymus	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	IBACC	3	B2.4	lungs	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	IBACC	3	B2.4	heart	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	IBACC	3	B2.4	thymus	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	WATER	3	B3.4	lungs	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	WATER	3	B3.4	heart	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	WATER	3	B3.4	thymus	na	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	WATER	3	B4.4	lungs	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	WATER	3	B4.4	heart	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	WATER	3	B4.4	thymus	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	IBACC	3	B5.4	lungs	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	IBACC	3	B5.4	heart	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	IBACC	3	B5.4	thymus	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	IBACC	3	B6.4	lungs	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	IBACC	3	B6.4	heart	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	IBACC	3	B6.4	thymus	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	WATER	3	B7.4	lungs	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	WATER	3	B7.4	heart	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	WATER	3	B7.4	thymus	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	WATER	3	B8.4	lungs	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	WATER	3	B8.4	heart	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	WATER	3	B8.4	thymus	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	IBACC	3	B1.5	cortical bone	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	IBACC	3	B1.5	bone marrow	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	IBACC	3	B1.5	growth plate	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	IBACC	3	B2.5	cortical bone	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	IBACC	3	B2.5	bone marrow	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	IBACC	3	B2.5	growth plate	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	WATER	3	B3.5	cortical bone	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	WATER	3	B3.5	bone marrow	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	WATER	3	B3.5	growth plate	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	WATER	3	B4.5	cortical bone	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	WATER	3	B4.5	bone marrow	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
F	WATER	3	B4.5	growth plate	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	IBACC	3	B5.5	cortical bone	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	IBACC	3	B5.5	bone marrow	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	IBACC	3	B5.5	growth plate	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	IBACC	3	B6.5	cortical bone	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	IBACC	3	B6.5	bone marrow	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	IBACC	3	B6.5	growth plate	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	WATER	3	B7.5	cortical bone	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	WATER	3	B7.5	bone marrow	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	WATER	3	B7.5	growth plate	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	WATER	3	B7.5	cortical bone	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	WATER	3	B7.5	bone marrow	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
M	WATER	3	B7.5	growth plate	nsent	n	na	na	na	na	na	na	na

Table S3. Serum biochemistry values for all animals in histopathology study. Missing values are due to limited amount of serum available for particular animals.

P values are two-tailed Mann-Whitney (MW; [http://www.statskingdom.com/170median\\_mann\\_whitney.html](http://www.statskingdom.com/170median_mann_whitney.html)) comparing all Cry5B IBaCC-treated hamsters versus all Water-treated hamsters for any given parameter.

Further breakdown (based on gender, days post last gavage or days post) are not possible due to limited number of animals per group. Only average sodium levels were statistically different (slightly elevated 142 mEq/L in IBaCC vs 138 mEq/L in Water).

Columns in color are relevant for determining any potential hepatic and renal injury. NA = no statistical comparison possible due to nature readout but clearly no difference between IBaCC and Water groups is seen.

treatment	gender	days	pos	Glucose mg/dL	Urea mg/dL	Creatinin mg/dL	Phosphoru mg/dL	Calcium 2 mg/dL	Magnesiur mg/dL	Total protei g/dL	Albumin g/dL	Globulins g/dL	A/G ratio	Sodium mEq/L	Chloride mEq/L	Potassium mEq/L	tCO2(Bicar mEq/L	AGAP	NA/K	total bi mg/dL	Alkaline Ph U/L	GGT U/L	ALT U/L	AST U/L	Creatine U/L	Choles mg/dL	Triglycer mg/dL	Amyla U/L	Osmolarity mmol/L	
IBaCC	M	10		126		0.2	15.5	11.3	5.4		3.7			146	92	8.4				17		163	<1	79	50	487	117	360	2869	
IBaCC	M	10		500		0.4	25.6	12.3	7.1	6.2	3.7	2.5	1.5	138	85	14			10		173	<1	161	183	2077	108	459	2620		
IBaCC	F	10		182	23	0.2	16.7	13.8	5.7	6.9	3.7	3.2	1.2	144	89	11.4	25		13		235	1	57	156	1653	110	306	2488	307	
IBaCC	F	10				0.2		16.1	6.7		3.8			142	88	16.2			9		239	1	55	52	586	108	255	2548		
IBaCC	F	3		334	24	0.2	14.5	15.7	6.7	6.3	3.6	2.7	1.3	143	90	14	27		26	10	<0.1	225	<1	57	43	725	108	265	5758	319
IBaCC	F	3		389	22	0.2	16.3	16.3	7.1	6.4	3.6	2.8	1.3	142	88	16.5	27	27	9	<0.1	226	<1	57	35	387	115	264	6638	324	
IBaCC	M	3						14	5.4		3.5			141	91	14.3			10		173		82		1986	115				
IBaCC	M	3		488	25	0.3	16.2	15.7	6.8	6.6	3.9	2.7	1.4	142	91	17	18		33	8	<0.1	138	<1	69	119	1117	125	291	4454	332
Water	M	10		573	25	0.4	17.1	13	7	5.9	3.5	2.4	1.5	131	80	9.8	16		35	13		152	<1	283	161	755	107	349	4826	303
Water	M	10		500		0.2	16.8	13.3	7		3.7			133	83	18.1			7		176	<1	98	88	646	102	346	3303		
Water	F	10		274	21	0.2	16.9	15.4	6.1	6.1	3.5	2.6	1.3	141	88	13.5	28		25	10	<1	243	<1	56	55	654	111	274	6289	310
Water	F	10				0.2		14.6	6.7		3.6			136	84	21.2			6		226	<1	318		903	96	318			
Water	F	3		458	21	0.2	20.2	16.8	7.2	6.5	3.7	2.8	1.3	139	89	21.2	25		25	7	<0.1	241	<1	68	70	626	106	267	6610	331
Water	F	3		349	23	0.3	18.3	14.6	5.9	6.1	3.5	2.6	1.3	145	93	9.6	26		26	15	<0.1	198	<1	86	84	451	71	138	5407	315
Water	M	3		490	26	0.2	15	15.6	7.2	6.5	3.9	2.6	1.5	139	87	16.8	25		27	8	<0.1	187	2	82	45	370	111	272	5664	326
Water	M	3		388	22	0.3	16.8	12.1	6	6.5	3.9	2.6	1.5	141	89	18.6	19		33	8	<0.1	154	<1	68	204	1744	132	430	3336	326
<b>P value (MW)</b>				<b>0.32</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>0.79</b>	<b>0.37</b>	<b>0.31</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>0.039</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.87</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>0.91</b>	