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A polysaccharide isolated from *Dictyophora Indusiatapromotes* recovery from antibiotic driven intestinal dysbiosis and improves gut epithelial barrier function in a mouse model

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Despite the tremendous biological activity of polysaccharides from the mushroom Dictyophora indusiata, its role in the restoration of gut microbiota has not yet been explored. The present study aimed to investigate whether Dictyophora Indusiatapromotes polysaccharide (DIP) could modulatethe recovery of gut microbiota composition and intestinal barrier function after broad-spectrumantibiotic-driven dysbiosis. Alteration and restoration in the microbial communities were elucidatedby the Illumina MiSeq platform. Colon histology, expression of tight-junction associated proteins, and serum/ tissue endotoxin and cytokine levels were evaluated. Two-week daily oral administrationof clindamycin and metronidazole resulted in reduced bacterial diversity and richness, andperturbed the microbial flora at various taxonomic levels (altered Firmicutes/Bacteroidetes ratioand increased relative abundance of harmful flora (Proteobacteria, Enterococcus and

Bacteroides),whereas DIP administration reversed the dysbiosis and increased beneficial flora, including Lactobacillaceae (lactic acid-producing bacteria), and Ruminococaceae (butyrateproducing bacteria).In addition, it resulted in the reduction of endotoxemia (through lipopolysaccharides (LPSs))and pro-inflammatory cytokine (tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-α), interleukin 6 (IL-6), andinterleukin 1β (IL-1β)) levels, with the increased expression of tight-junction associated proteins(claudin-1, occludin, and zonula occludens-1). These findings not only suggested a comprehensiveunderstanding of the protective effects of a DIP in the restoration of gut microbiota but alsohighlighted its role in the enhancement of gut barrier integrity, reduction of inflammation andlowering of endotoxin levels in mice.

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