

Table of Contents

- 1 Summary** **1**

- 2 Introduction** **9**
 - 2.1 *Listeria monocytogenes* 9
 - 2.1.1 Taxonomy, morphology and characteristics of *Listeria* 9
 - 2.2 *L. monocytogenes* infection 10
 - 2.3 Bacterial cell cycle 10
 - 2.3.1 Bacterial chromosome segregation 12
 - 2.4 Bacterial cell wall 14
 - 2.5 Bacterial membrane 15
 - 2.6 Cell wall-deficient bacteria 18
 - 2.6.1 Definition of L-forms 18
 - 2.6.2 History 19
 - 2.6.3 Bacterial L-form cells 20
 - 2.6.4 *Listeria monocytogenes* L-forms 21
 - 2.6.5 *Listeria* L-forms reproduction 22
 - 2.6.6 *Bacillus subtilis* L-forms 24
 - 2.6.7 *Escherichia coli* L-forms 26
 - 2.7 Pathogenicity of *Listeria* L-forms 28
 - 2.8 L-forms may provide insights on the primordial life 29

- 3 Manuscript 1** **43**

4 Manuscript 2	69
5 Manuscript 3	95
6 Conclusion and Outlook	111
7 Addendum	115
7.1 <i>Listeria</i> L-forms membranes comprise significantly more polar phospholipids . . .	115
7.2 Imaging analysis suggests a generation time of 265 minutes	116
7.3 DNA content and surface area correlate linearly over time	117
7.4 Three Dimensional Structured Illumination Microscopy of stable L-forms	118
7.5 Production of GUV with <i>Listeria</i> lipid extracts	119
7.6 <i>Listeria</i> protoplasts escape at the middle of the lateral wall	120
8 Material and Methods	125
8.1 Methods	125
8.1.1 Lipid composition analysis by mass spectrometry	125
8.1.2 Infection of THP1-macrophages with EGDe L-forms	125
8.1.3 Imaging analysis	126
8.1.4 Time-lapse of protoplast escape from its enveloping wall	126
8.1.5 <i>Listeria</i> L-forms lipids were extracted using a two-step protocol	126
8.1.6 Generation of GUVs out of <i>Listeria</i> L-forms lipid extracts	127
8.2 Culture Media	128
8.3 Buffers and Solutions	129