

**Table S1.** *B. cereus*'s maximum growth rate (log.conc/h), double time (hours), maximum population density (MPD; log CFU/g) and lag time (hours) estimated through ComBase predictor software ([www.combase.cc](http://www.combase.cc)) from an initial contamination level of 2 Log CFU/g and 3 Log CFU/g in water buffalo mozzarella cheese (with a pH 5.7 and an  $a_w$  0.997) at three temperature (15, 18 and 22°C).

Init. Level	Phys.state	pH	AW	Temp (°C)	Max.rate (log.conc/h)	Dbl. time (Hours)	MPD (log CFU/g)	Lag time (Hours)
2	$2.7 \times 10^{-4}$	5.7	0.997	15	0.105	2.876	7.61	33.92
				18	0.16	1.878	7.61	22.26
3				22	0.268	1.125	7.61	13.29