



# Butyric acid and derivatives: In vitro anti-inflammatory effects tested in porcine alveolar macrophages

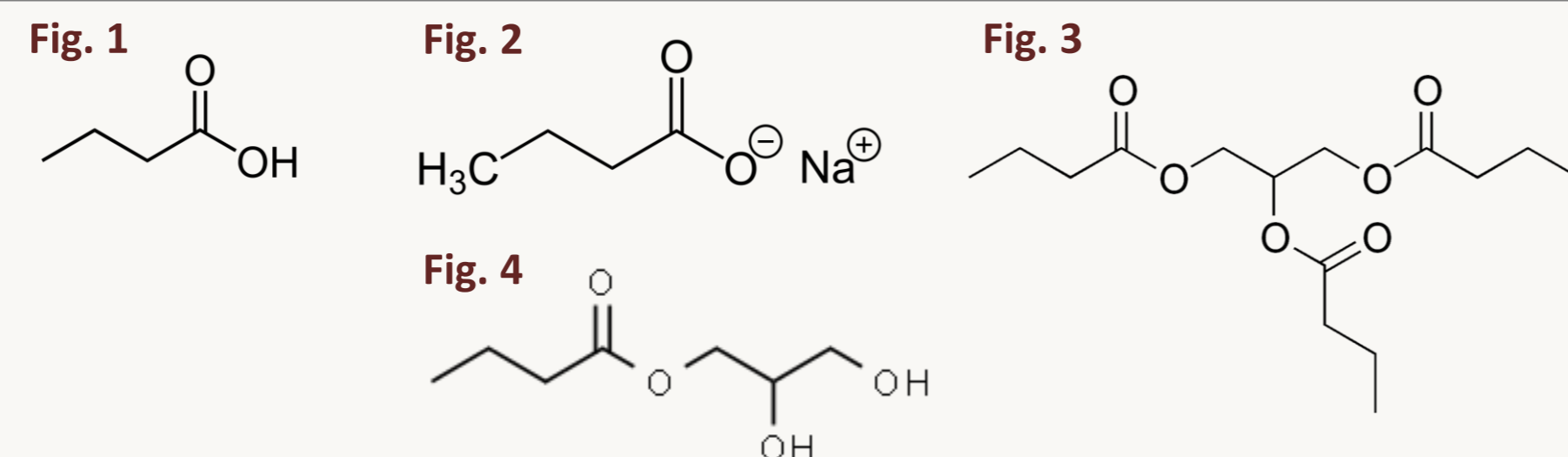
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## Background

- ❖ Butyric acid and its derivatives have beneficial effects when included in animal feed and they are currently under investigation for its effects on host cells *in vitro*.
- ❖ Butyrate may be an effective feed additive because it modulates immune response of host cells *in vitro* (Weber and Kerr, 2006; Chen and Vitetta, 2018).
- ❖ Porcine alveolar macrophages (PAMs) can be isolated from weanling piglets by methods described by Liu et al., (2013) and cultured with a lipopolysaccharide challenge to induce inflammatory response.
- ❖ Butyric acid (Fig. 1) and its derivatives, sodium butyrate (Fig. 2), monobutylin (Fig. 3), and tributyrin (Fig. 4) are different compounds which may deliver butyrate *in vivo*.



## Objective

To examine the anti-inflammatory effects of butyric acid, sodium butyrate, monobutylin and tributyrin using porcine alveolar macrophages (PAMs).

## Materials and methods

- ❖ Bronchial lavage with ~100 mL ice-cold PBS from 6 healthy weaned piglets was used to isolate porcine alveolar macrophages (PAMs).
- ❖ PAMs were seeded at 10<sup>6</sup> cells/mL and cultivated overnight.
- ❖ 2x5 factorial experimental design, n=12:
  - Factor 1: 5 levels of butyric acid or derivatives
    - Doses: Butyric acid, tributyrin—0, 0.5, 1, 2, 4 mM; Monobutylin, sodium butyrate—0, 1, 2, 4, 8 mM.
  - Factor 2: with or without 1 µg/mL lipopolysaccharide (LPS) challenge
- ❖ **MTT assay: Cytotoxicity of treatments**  
Colorimetric assay using 3-(4,5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-Diphenyltetrazolium Bromide (MTT) was performed to determine cell viability expressed as percent of control.
- ❖ **Anti-inflammatory effects**
  - Supernatants were collected after 24h with treatment.
  - Supernatants were analyzed by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for cellular secretion of tumor-necrosis factor alpha (TNF-α).

## Results

Figure 5. TNF-α secretion by LPS-challenged PAMs

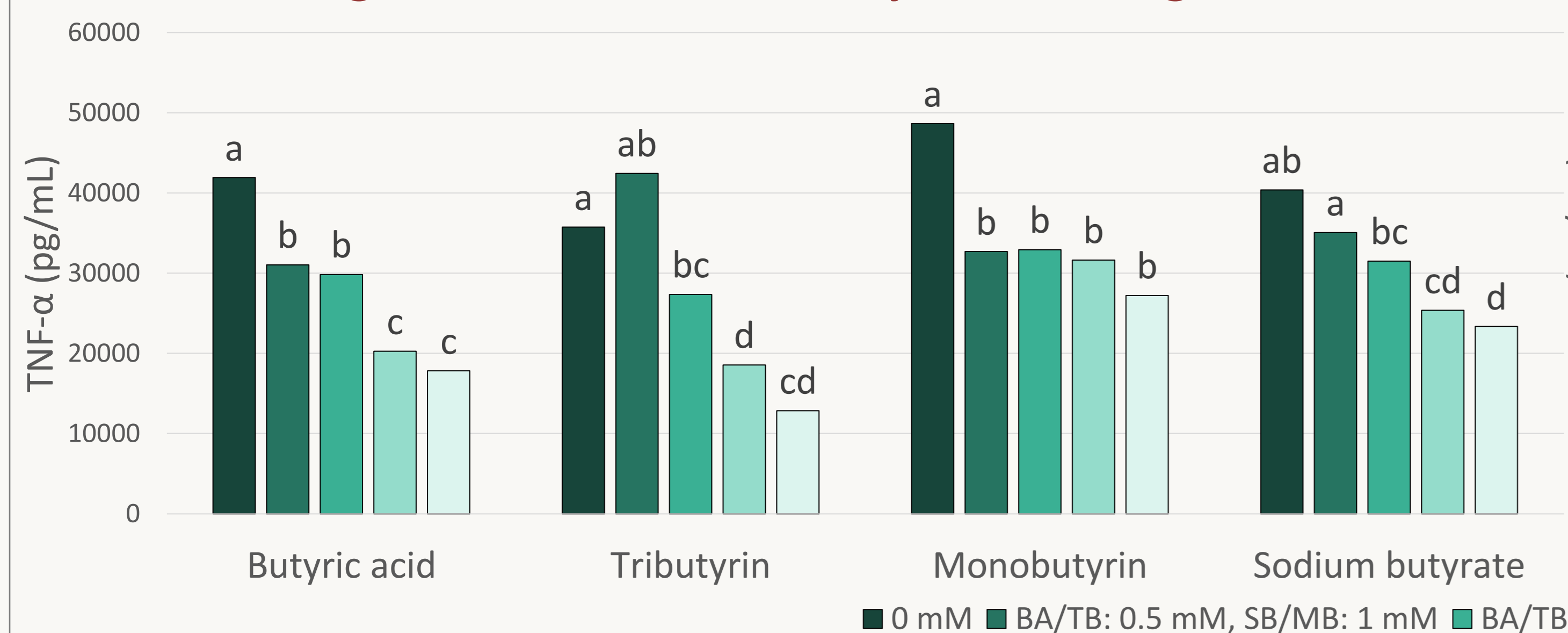
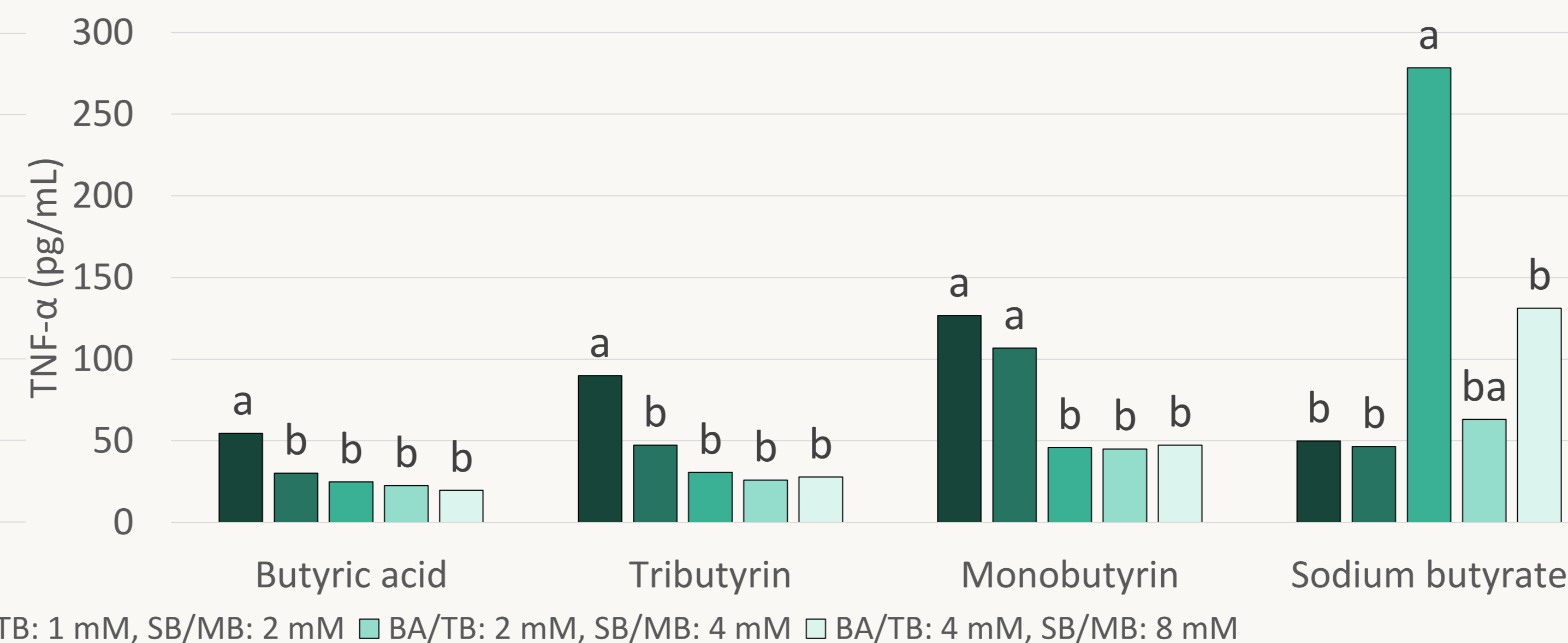


Figure 6. TNF-α secretion by non-challenged PAMs



- ❖ **MTT assay (data not shown)**
  - Cells at all tested doses were considered viable (≥76% of sham control)
  - Sodium butyrate at 2 and 4 mM dose exhibited (P < 0.01) a stimulatory effect on cell proliferation.
- ❖ **Anti-inflammatory effects**
  - LPS challenge remarkably stimulated (P < 0.0001) TNF-α secretion from PAMs.
  - All compounds reduced TNF-α secretion dose-dependently (P < 0.001) (Figure 5).
  - Non-challenged PAMs secreted less TNF-α compared with control for all compounds except sodium butyrate, which tended to increase TNF-α secretion at 2 mM (P = 0.056) (Figure 6).

## Conclusions

- ❖ Butyric acid, tributyrin, and monobutylin reduce TNF-α secretion in non-challenged cells.
- ❖ Sodium butyrate may induce TNF-α secretion at higher doses.
- ❖ Butyric acid, tributyrin, monobutylin, and sodium butyrate dose-dependently reduce the secretion of TNF-α by Porcine Alveolar Macrophages challenged with lipopolysaccharide (1 µg/mL).

## References

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## Acknowledgements

