A Sustainable process by bio-scouring for cotton knitted fabric suitable for next generation

Abstract

Textile processing is a growing industry that traditionally has used a lot of water, energy and harsh chemicals. Bio-preparation is a developing and promising technique for lowering the consumption of chemicals specially in wet finishing where plenty of these compounds are used. The conventional scouring process involving the harsh environment is slowly being replaced with environment-friendly approach using enzymes. Enzymes are specific and fast in action and small amounts of enzyme can save large amounts of raw materials, chemicals, energy and water. In this study, samples of Cotton fabrics bio-scoured by Scourzyme L and they were scoured conventionally. Then, they were dyed with reactive dyes in conventional methods. Samples were analyzed by reflective spectrophotometer, mechanical tester, and then compared. Such a process enhanced the absorbency of the fabric without appreciable strength loss and also helped in the proper dyeing and finishing of the fabric. The described enzymatic procedure is accompanied by a significant lower demand of energy, water, chemicals, time and therefore costs. It was found that the water absorbing character of the Bio scoured fabric was found to be considerably higher than that of the conventionally scoured fabric. Also, the tensile strength of the cotton fabric was found to be higher for the sample treated using Scourzyme L enzyme than the sample treated conventionally. So it has advantages as well in terms of economy as in ecology.

Keywords: bio-preparation, cotton fabric, enzyme treatment, dyeing, eco-friendly, cost saving

Introduction

Textile industry is now growing rapidly because of its eco-friendly environment and improving the requirement for textile industries to overcome the pollution. And now it’s removed by the use of enzymes which require some chemical process of fibers. Enzymes mostly used now in the industry last 100 years.

Scouring is an important pre-treatment operation in the dispensation of cotton and cotton blended materials. The main objective of scouring is to remove the non-cellulosic ingredients of cotton fibre which make the fibre non-absorbent. Conventionally, scouring is done in a hot aqueous solution of NaOH to remove hydrophobic apparatuses from the primary wall (e.g. pectin, protein and organic acids) and the cuticle (waxes and fats). Enzymes in textile wet processing have added a new line research and likely eco-friendly substance to give a good solution to the problem of highly toxic chemicals causing environmental pollution.

Now a days, it is becoming important to consumers that the clothes they buy are well made and of high-quality material. Additionally, a growing number of consumers are also interested in clothes that are produced in an environmentally friendly way without the extensive use of harsh chemicals.

Untreated cotton contains various kinds of impurities, such as waxes, pectin’s, hemi celluloses and mineral salts, present in the cuticle and primary cell wall of the fiber. The goal of the cotton preliminary process is to remove the hydrophobic and non-cellulosic components and produce highly absorbent fibers that can be dyed and finished uniformly. These are responsible for the hydrophobic possessions of raw cotton and interfere with aqueous chemical processes on cotton. Therefore, before cotton yarn or fabric can be dyed, it needs to be pretreated to take away materials that inhibit dye binding. This step, named scouring, expands the wettability of the fabric and normally uses alkalis, such as sodium hydroxide. However, these chemicals also attack the cellulose, leading to reduction in strength and loss of fabric weight. Furthermore, there salting waste water has a high COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand), BOD (Biological Oxygen Demand) and salt content. Enzyme reactor bio scouring, leaves the cellulose structure almost intact, preventing cellulose weight and strength loss. Bio scouring has a number of potential advantages over traditional scouring. It is lower BOD, COD, TDS (Total Dissolved Solids), performed at neutral pH, which reduces total water consumption the treated yarn/fabrics retain their strength properties, the weight loss is reduced or limited compared with processing in traditional ways, and it increases cotton fiber softness. Several types of enzyme, including pectinases, cellulases, proteases, and lipases/cutinizes, alone or combined have been studied for cotton bio scouring, with pectinases being the most effective.

It has become an essential demand for the mill managers to sort out an alternative for the traditional caustic scouring process for some of its unavoidable limitations:

In traditional scouring process caustic soda causes damage to the fiber and its strength as well. Because, caustic works on swelling method and attacks the secondary cell wall being almost pure cellulose.

In practice, weight loss is around 8-12% which means an excessive loss of fabric weight unnecessarily. While, the recommended weight loss for caustic scouring is 3-8%. It should not be accepted.

As caustic works on swelling method by which all the necessary and unnecessary particles are removed from cotton fiber and most importantly it damages the actual structure of cotton fiber, it inspires the dye molecules not to fix according to our requirements and it causes a significant amount of dye loss.
In caustic scouring it takes around 95°C temperature. To raise and lower the temperature at this degree it requires a huge amount of energy on which sector we are struggling and it takes more time which reduces the productivity.

Caustic scouring needs several rinsing steps which increase the demand of amount of water volume and a high pH range (12-14), it needs to neutralize the scouring bath for the processes ahead.

A lot of harsh chemicals are used in traditional scouring process which is very much responsible to increase the amount of BOD, COD and TDS in the effluent water and increase the unwanted pressure on environment. Caustic scouring is responsible for the lion parts of the total effluent of a factory. It produces:

a. 54% to the total BOD
b. 49% to the total COD
c. 10-20% of the total pollution load generated during entire textile processing operation.

In traditional scouring, the longevity of the workers is badly affected by the handling of these harsh chemicals. The handling of harsh chemicals increases the possibilities of accident

### Literature review

Cotton is a delicate fiber that develops around the seeds of the cotton plant. The fiber is regularly spun into string and used to make a delicate, breathable material. Cotton is an important product in light of the fact that just about 10% of the crude weight is lost in preparing. When hints of wax, protein, and so forth are expelled, the rest of a characteristic polymer of unadulterated cellulose. This cellulose is orchestrated such that gives cotton one of a kind property of solidity, strength, and permeabilizes. The layers in the cell structure are, from the outside of the fiber to the inside, cuticle, primary wall, secondary wall, and lumen. These layers are different structurally and chemically. The primary and secondary walls have different degrees of crystalline, as well as different molecular chain orientations. The cuticle, composed of wax, proteins and pectin’s has 2.5% of the fiber weight and is amorphous. The primary wall is 2.5% of the fiber weight, has a crystallinity index of 30%, index of 70%, and is composed of cellulose. The lumen is composed of protoplasmic residues. Cotton fibers have a fibrillar structure. The whole cotton fiber contains 88 to 96.5% of cellulose, the rest are non-cellulosic polysaccharides constituting up to 10% of the total fiber weight.

Every fiber is comprised of twenty to thirty layers of cellulose curled in a perfect arrangement of regular springs. At the point when the cotton boll (seed case) is opened the filaments dry into flat, bent, strip like shapes and move toward becoming cramped together and interlocked. This interlocked shape is perfect for turning into a fine yarn.

Cotton is made out of unadulterated cellulose, a normally happening polymer. Cellulose is a starch, and the particle is a long chain of glucose (sugar) atoms.

Today cotton is created in numerous parts of the world, including Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas and Australia, utilizing cotton plants that have been specifically reared with the goal that each plant develops more fiber. In 2002, cotton was developed on 330,000km² of farmland. 47 billion pounds (21 million t) of crude cotton worth 20 billion dollars US was developed that year.

The cotton business depends intensely on synthetic substances, for example, composts and bug sprays, albeit a few ranchers are moving towards a natural model of generation, and concoction free natural cotton items are presently accessible. Generally, a standout amongst the most financially ruinous vermin in cotton generation has been the boll weevil.

Most cotton is collected mechanically, either by a cotton picker, a machine that expels the cotton from the boll without harming the cotton plant, or by a cotton stripper which peels the whole boll off the plant. Cotton strippers are commonly utilized in areas where it is too blustery to even think about growing picker assortments of cotton and by and large utilized after use of a defoliant or normal defoliation happening after a stop. Cotton is a perpetual product in the tropics and without defoliation or solidifying, the plant will keep on developing. Cotton is a nearby relative of okra and hibiscus.

The general state of knowledge of the chemical composition of a mature cotton fiber is presented in Table 1.

### Table 1 Typical values for the composition of a Mature Dry Cotton Fiber

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constituent</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cellulose</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pectin</td>
<td>1.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein</td>
<td>1.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wax</td>
<td>0.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral Matters</td>
<td>1.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Substances</td>
<td>1.60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 demonstrates that non-cellulosic materials represent just a little measure of the fiber weight. These materials are formless and are situated in the fingernail skin and the lumen. The fingernail skin frames a defensive layer to shield the cotton from ecological assaults and water entrance the Waxy materials are chiefly in charge of the non-spongy qualities of crude cotton. Gelatin may likewise ha ve an impact, since 85% of the carboxyl gatherings in the gelatines are methylated. Cotton filament needs to experience a few compound procedures to get properties reasonable for use with scouring, non-cellulose substances (wax, gelatin, proteins and hemicellulos that encompass the fiber cellulose center are expelled, and thus, strands wind up hydrophilic and appropriate for fading, coloring and other preparing. By expelling gelatin, it is simpler to evacuate all other non-cellulosic substances. The procedures of bioscouring that are being used today depend on the decay of gelatin by the proteins called pectinase.

Enzymes are organic impetuses that quicken the speed of artificial responses. Within the bio scouring method temperature and pH is crucial parameters for an honest outcome. A gentle pH and temperature offer U.S.A. the foremost ideal outcome. All Enzymes are fabricated from macromolecule and those them every have a quite sure three-dimensional form. The form is various for each macromolecule and each compound simply takes a trial at one substance or quite artificial response for instance enzyme accelerates the breakdown of starch into the sugar disaccharide. Enzyme accelerates the breakdown of oxide. The aim behind this is often the substrate fits into associate degree exceptional space of the compound known as the dynamic website. The response happens with lower feat vitality that is come back to by shaping a middle of the road chemical substrate. Later the substrate
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To decompose starches applied in sizing (Bio-de sizing)

Scouring of animal fibers, degumming of silk and modification of wool properties

Breaks down pectin’s in scouring (Bio-scouring)

Table 2 Major types of enzymes & their functions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of enzymes</th>
<th>Functions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pectinase</td>
<td>Breaks down pectin’s in scouring (Bio-scouring)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amylase</td>
<td>To decompose starches applied in sizing (Bio-de sizing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cellulase</td>
<td>Breaks down cellulose chains to remove protruding fibers by degrading &amp; create wash-down effect by surface etching on denims (Bio-denim washing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lipases</td>
<td>Elimination of natural triglycerides (in scouring) or present in De sizing (tallow compounds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proteases</td>
<td>Scouring of animal fibers, degumming of silk and modification of wool properties</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Moreover, cellulases, pectinases, hemicellulases, lipases and catalases are utilized in totally different cotton pre-treatment and finishing processes. Cellulase enzymes were 1st introduced once decades of enzyme usage as associate degree business customary for de sizing processes. Today, efforts among the textile business appear to specialize in substitution ancient natural-fiber scouring processes with enzyme-based solutions. Because the purpose of scouring is to get rid of natural impurities like compound substances like pectin’s, waxes and xyloma nans, among different from cotton or other natural fibers, there are many accelerators that may act on such impurities. Alkaline pectinases that loosens fiber structure by removing pectin’s between polyose fibrils and eases the wash-off of waxy impurities, is the key accelerator for a bio-scouring method. Different enzymes together with cellulases, hemicellulases, proteases and lipases are tested, however nowadays, the sole business bio scouring accelerator product ar supported pectinases. Associate degree economical bio preparation method ought to be supported a mix, ideally at the same time, of enzymes for de sizing, scouring and bleaching in one tub. Success in developing such a method would lead to a straightforward method, together with savings in water, time and energy consumption. Compared to standard alkaline boiling off, the benefits of bio scouring ar obvious that it will save water and time by reducing one rinse cycle: save energy by lowering the treatment temperature from boiling to around 50-60°C. Can allow less fiber weight loss and fewer COD and physical structure within the effluent. The novel accelerator permits for the system to perform at a lot of lower temperatures for bleaching and at neutral pH levels (Table 2).
process, including savings in water, time and energy consumption. Compared to conventional alkaline boiling off, the advantages of bio scouring are obvious that it can save water and time by reducing one rinsing cycle: save energy by lowering the treatment temperature from boiling to around 50-60°C and permit less fiber weight loss and less COD and BOD in the effluent. The novel enzyme allows for the system to perform at much lower temperatures for bleaching and at neutral pH levels.

Textile process has benefited greatly in each environmental impact and merchandise quality over the utilization of enzymes. From the 7000 enzymes famed, solely concerning seventy-five are normally utilized in textile business processes. The principal enzymes applied in textile business are hydrolyases (amyloses, celluloses, proteases, pectinases and lipases/esterase’s) and oxidoreductases (catalases). Amyloses are still wont to take away starch-based sizes from materials once weaving. Cellulases are utilized to enzymatically take away fibrils and fuzz fibers, and have additionally effectively been introduced to the cotton textile business to provide the aged look of denim and different clothes. Proteases were assessed for the removal of wool fiber scales, leading to improved anti-felting behavior. Esterase’s are with success studied for the partial reaction of fiber surfaces, up their hydrophilicity and aiding more finishing steps. Catalasas are wont to take away H₂O₂ once bleaching, reducing water consumption.

The bio-scouring method is constructed on peptidase, pectinase and enzyme enzymes that act on proteins, pectin’s and natural waxes to result scouring of cotton. Blessings of bio-scouring:

i. Milder conditions of process, low consumption of utilities, wonderful permeableness in merchandise.
ii. No oxy-cellulose formation and less strength loss attributable to absence of serious alkali in tub.
iii. Uniform removal of waxes ends up in higher levelness in coloring.
iv. Extremely appropriate for scouring of blends like silk, wool, viscose, modal, lyocel, and Lycra etc.
v. Low TDS in discharge.
vi. Material is softer and fluffier than typical scouring, ideal for terrycloth/knitted merchandise.

The integrated Bio-de sizing associate degree scouring system uses a through empirical observation developed accelerator formula, supported enzyme, pectinase, peptidase and enzyme that act synergistically, leading to American state filler and scouring of formulation, supported enzyme, pectinase, peptidase and enzyme that system uses a through empirical observation developed accelerator to result scouring of cotton. Blessings of bio-scouring:

- Once bleaching, reducing water consumption.
- Studied for the partial reaction of fiber surfaces, up their hydrophilicity leading to improved anti-felting behavior.
- Esterase’s are with success studied for the partial reaction of fiber surfaces, up their hydrophilicity and aiding more finishing steps.
- Catalasas are wont to take away H₂O₂ once bleaching, reducing water consumption.

Methods and materials

In the experiment, we’ve got used a Substrate of 100 percent gray cotton (knitted material textile) in 220 GSM fabric we tend to receive from Northan Tosrifa Ltd, Tongi. Basic we tend to used scourzyme L for scouring method (NaOH), Detergent, Sequestering Agent, Wetting Agent/Non-ionic surfactants, Reactive dyes, Soda ash, Glauber salt chemical are use additionally. For cloth testing, we’ve got to required Instruments of photometer, Crock meter & Crock fiber, Multi fiber equipment.

Experimental works

Materials: A single jersey Cotton cloth having GSM 220 was kindly provided from Northan Tosrifa cluster Ltd that consists of dirt, dust, oil, wax etc. we’ve got taken samples from it every consideration ten grams. Before the scouring treatment the substrate was washed in refined water to extract the soluble constituents and so dried in Laboratory kitchen appliance. Once laundry and drying the kitchen appliance dry weight of the samples was restrained in an electrical balance.

The materials foremost eroded with accelerator named Scour accelerator additional 3.5g/l consistent with the formula in presence of pH five.5 at 60°C minutes & liquor magnitude relation was 1:20. The analysis of the scouring result was performed by the water perm ableness and also the weight loss of the materials as a result of the protein method. Coloring experiments to gauge the result of the scouring was applied with Reactive dye (Reactive Red) for two shade, at 60°C for forty min & liquor magnitude relation was 1:15.

The materials were eroded by victimization chemical agent, NaOH, Sequestering Agent, Detergent within the Scouring method. it absolutely was applied for hour at 95°C at a liquor magnitude relation of 1:20. Then colored with Reactive Dye (Reactive red) for two shades at 60°C minutes. Liquor was 1:15.

After the completion of the bio-scouring method the samples were washed with plight. Then the samples were treated with carboxylic acid and washed with cold water and squeezed properly. Then the laboratory kitchen appliance was used for drying the samples. Once laundry and drying the kitchen appliance dry weight of the bio-scoured samples was measured with the assistance of an electrical Balance.

Fabric testing & analysis

Whiteness index: The values for the white index (WI) was measured on a remission photometer, Spectra flash SF600X (Datacolor, USA), victimisation the CIE methodology, consistent with nut ISO 105-J02:1997(E). Every sample was closed double to provide associate degree opaque sample with four plies, and also the white was measured 10 times at totally different surfaces.

Percentage of weight loss: Weight loss of the sample was analyzed through the distinction between the material before and once protein treatment. Once treatment, material was dried, weighed and so weight loss decided as below:

\[
A = \frac{\text{weight of the sample before scouring}}{\text{weight of the sample once scouring}} \times 100\%
\]

Drop Test: In this time, check was taken to soak up a colored drop on the material are measured that color drop comes from an answer of zero.1% reactive red dyes. The form of the drop was discovered and also the time to soak up the drop was measured.

Wicking test: A cotton material strip (18cm 5cm) was suspended higher than the H₂O surface during a glass beaker such the horizontal bottom edge touches the surface of the water. A spontaneous wicking was discovered thanks to capillary force. The peak of the liquid rise boundary was recorded for five, 10,15,20,25,30 minutes.

Rubbing test: We did the rubbing check by Dry and we tend to strategies. In we tend to rubbing we wet the rubbing fabric consistent with check methodology and provide rating by scrutiny the Staining with the grey scale.

Similarly, for dry rubbing we tend to check the rubbing with dry rubbing fabric and compare the staining with grey scale for ratings.
Color Fastness to rubbing may be a main check that is usually needed for each colored material either it’s written or colored.

If the color fastness to rubbing is nice then its different properties like laundry fastness and sturdiness etc. improves mechanically as a result of the rubbing may be a methodology to see the fixation of the color on the material. So, if the fixation, it’s rubbing properties are good.

Moisture regain test: Moisture Regain is well-defined because the weight of water during a material expressed a share of the kitchen appliance dried weight of the fabric.

At first, the material was kitchen appliance dried in 220c for two hrs. Then, the burden of the material was measured. Then, the material was unbroken during an accustomed atmosphere for twenty-four hrs. Again, the burden of the material was measured.

Let,

Oven dried weight of the fabric = D
Weight of water in the fabric = W
Moisture Regain, \( R = \frac{W}{D} \times 100 \)

Result and discussion

Absorbency test

Wicking test: In this test, we have observed that for 3g/l caustic soda treated sample the wicking height was 8cm, 1.3cm, 0.8cm, 0.5cm, 0.25cm, 0.2cm and for 4g/l caustic soda treated sample the wicking height was 8.3cm, 1.5cm, 1.2cm, 0.6cm, 0.4cm, 0.3cm and for 5g/l caustic soda treated sample the wicking height was 8 cm, 1.2cm, 0.9cm, 0.6cm, 0.3cm, 0.2cm after 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 min respectively.

In this test, we have observed that for 3g/l bio scoured sample the wicking height was 6cm, 2cm, 2cm, 1.3cm, 0.8cm, 0.8cm and for 4g/l bio scoured sample the wicking height was 8cm, 2.4cm, 1.2cm, 1.2cm, 0.8cm, 0.6cm and for 5g/l bio scoured sample the wicking height was 8.3cm, 2.7cm, 1.4cm, 1.3cm, 0.8cm after 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 min respectively (Figure 1) (Figure 2).

Among this test results we have found that for 4gm/l, the absorbency of the fabric is most consistent. That’s why we took 4 gm/l concentration of NaOH / Enzyme for further procedures.

Drop test: In this test, for Conventional sample, time to absorb the colored drop was 0.4, 0.4, 0.5sec for 3g/l, 4g/l, 5g/l respectively (Figure 3).

For Bio-Scouring sample time to absorb the colored drop was 0.2, 0.4, 0.5sec for 3g/l, 4g/l, 5g/l respectively (Figure 4) (Figure 5).
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Figure 3 Drop test of conventional scouring.

Figure 4 Drop test of bio-scouring.

Figure 5 Drop Test of Bio-Scouring & conventional.

Weight loss test: In this test, we have found that for caustic scouring the weight loss was 6.26%, 6.18%, 6.18% for 3g/l, 4g/l, 5g/l respectively.

In this test, we have found that for bio scouring the weight loss was 7.5%, 7.5%, 7.5% for 3g/l, 4g/l, 5g/l respectively.

Whiteness index: For caustic scoured whiteness index is 36.84, 40.55, 40.11 for 3g/l, 4g/l, 5g/l respectively and for Bio-scoured whiteness index is 11.64, 17.56, 12.29 for 3g/l, 4g/l, 5g/l respectively.

For Grey Fabric STD WI are 5.34 (Figure 6).

pH value

pH value for conventional: For caustic scouring pH value was 10.5 (Figure 7).

pH value for bio-scouring: For Bio-scouring the value was 5.5 (Figure 8).

**Colorfastness to wash:** For Conventional scouring dry rub grade is 4-5 & wet rub grade is 4-5 according to the grey scale (Figure 9).

![Figure 9 Colorfastness to wash for caustic scouring.](image)

For Bio-Scouring dry rub grade is 4-5 & wet rub grade is 4-5 according to the grey scale (Figure 10).

![Figure 10 Colorfastness to wash test for bio scouring.](image)

**Moisture regain test:** For Conventionally scoured Fabric Moisture Regain is 6.27% and for Bio-Scoured Fabric Moisture Regain is 6.78% (Figure 11).

![Figure 11 Color Fastness to wash test m/c.](image)

**Dyed fabrics**

(Figure 12) (Figure 13).

![Figure 12 Conventionally Scoured Dyed Fabric.](image)

![Figure 13 Bio-Scoured Dyed Fabrics.](image)

**Conclusion**

The textile industry was recognized as a key sector where opportunities accessible from adapting biotechnology are high but current awareness of biotechnology is low. In textile processing the enzyme can be effectively used for introductory process like de sizing, scouring and bleaching.

Bio scouring can be suggested as an adequate procedure for scouring of cotton. It is a simple, repeat able and safe process. The
removal of pectin components from cotton adequately improves the water absorbencies of the fibers and facilitates the penetration of the dye and other ingredients into the fiber. Natural qualities of the cotton fiber are preserved; the fabric is easier to the touch than after classic scouring. Fibers are also less damaged. These are just a few submissions of Biotechnology; however, much such potential are yet to be explored. Enzymes are not only beneficial from ecological point of view but they are also saving lot of change by reducing water and energy consumption which ultimately reduce the cost of production. It seems that in the future it will be possible to do every process using enzymes. Enzyme manufacturing companies constantly improve their products for more flexible application conditions and a more widespread use. The main hindrance in using enzymes is their high rate. If their cost can be managed, enzymes can be put to use in a much bigger way for textile dispensation applications.

Future directions

The possibility of leveraging inventions over industries could lead to new prospects for bio-based textile processes. Enzymes can be used in order to develop environmentally sociable alternatives to chemical processes in almost all steps of textile fiber processing. There are already some commercially effective claims, such as amylases for de sizing, celluloses and lacases for denim finishing, and proteases incorporated in detergent formulations. New enzymes with high specific movement, increased reaction speed, and acceptance to more extreme temperatures and pH could result in growth of continuous processes for bio scouring or bio finishing of cellulosic fibers. Progress of other processes in the future could also expand the use of enzymes on natural fibers into use on man-made fibers such as nylon and polyester. New and exciting enzyme claims are likely to bring benefits in other areas: less harm to the environment; greater efficiency &lower costs; lower energy consumption; and the enhancement of a product’s properties.

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Conflicts of interest

Author declares there is no conflict of interest in publishing the article.

References