

## Comment on “Production of 2-butanol from crude glycerol by a genetically-engineered *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strain [Oh et al., Biotechnol Lett (2014) 36:57–62]”

Xiao-Jun Ji

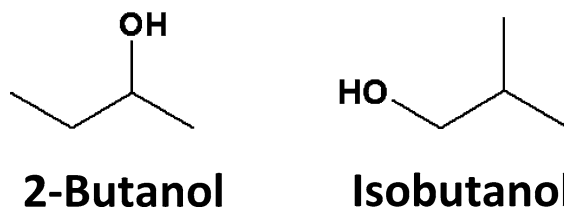
Published online: 14 November 2015  
© Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht 2015

In the otherwise admirable research by Oh et al. (2014), an obvious error was noted. In this paper, Oh et al. (2014) mistook the chemical synthesized by the new constructed metabolic pathway as ‘2-butanol’. In fact, it should be ‘isobutanol’ (or more correctly, ‘2-methyl-1-propanol’). The authors thought that these two descriptions were the same. However, they are two different ‘butanol’ isomers (Ji et al. 2012; Smith and Liao 2011) (Fig 1).

Therefore, the corresponding descriptions in the paper (Oh et al. 2014), both in title and text, are likely need to be revised to avoid misleading the readers.

### References

Ji XJ, Huang H, Nie ZK, Qu L, Xu Q, Tsao GT (2012) Fuels and chemicals from hemicellulose sugars. *Adv Biochem Eng Biotechnol* 128:199–224



**Fig. 1** The chemical structures of ‘2-butanol’ and ‘isobutanol’

Oh BR, Heo SY, Lee SM, Hong WK, Park JM, Jung YR, Kim DH, Sohn JH, Seo JW, Kim CH (2014) Production of 2-butanol from crude glycerol by a genetically-engineered *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strain. *Biotechnol Lett* 36:57–62  
Smith KM, Liao JC (2011) An evolutionary strategy for isobutanol production strain development in *Escherichia coli*. *Metab Eng* 13:674–681

X.-J. Ji (✉)

State Key Laboratory of Materials-Oriented Chemical Engineering, College of Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Engineering, Nanjing Tech University, No. 30 South Puzhu Road, Nanjing 211816  
People’s Republic of China  
e-mail: xiaojunji@njtech.edu.cn