

A Culturing of Fungi for Phytase Production by Solid State from Different Sources

JYOTSNA VIHNUDAS^{1*}, MALATHI JOJULA² and M.A. SINGARACHARYA³

¹Department of Pharm. Biochemistry, Sri Shivani College of Pharmacy, Warangal (India).

²Department of Pharm. Microbiology, Sri Shivani College of Pharmacy, Warangal (India).

³Department of Microbiology, Kakatiya University, Warangal (India).

(Received: June 03, 2012; Accepted: June 29, 2012)

ABSTRACT

Supplementation with phytase is an effective way to increase the availability of phosphorus in seed-based animal feed. Fifteen different types of thermophilic fungi such as *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Curvularia*, *Penicillium* Sp, *Mycrothecium*, *Helimentosporium*, *Fusarium Throderna*, *Alternaria* Spices were majorly found during our study they were classified based on the morphological characterization and staining methods. These isolates were isolated from the compost of different various localities. Among all isolates, *Aspergillus* sp was found to be the best isolate for the phytase production. Three different types of materials (rice bran, Poultry soil, Kudithi) were evaluated as growth substrate for phytase production by *Sporotrichum thermophile*. Of all the sources tested, rice bran supplemented with diluent containing (g/L); $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$; 5.0, KH_2PO_4 ; 1.0, Yeast extract; 2.0 gave maximum production (4.16 U/mL/min) when 4% volume of the 250 mL conical flask was used after 96 hrs spore inoculation at 45°C using solid-state fermentation.

Key words: Phytase, Kali, Kudithi.

INTRODUCTION

A phytase (myo-inositol hexakisphosphate phosphohydrolase) is any type of phosphatase enzyme that catalyzes the hydrolysis of phytic acid (myo-inositol hexakisphosphate) — an indigestible, organic form of phosphorus that is found in grains and oil seeds— and releases a usable form of inorganic phosphorus¹. While phytases had been found to occur in animals, plants, fungi and bacteria, phytases had been most commonly detected and characterized from fungi². In modern age of biotechnology, enzymes have proved their market demand over other products of biotechnology with annual sales close to 2.0 billion dollars. Phytases (EC 3.1.3.8), phosphatases that catalyze the hydrolysis of phosphate moieties, have a big share in enzyme business due to its widespread application as a feed supplement³⁻⁶. The phytases enhance the bioavailability of minerals, protein and phosphorus in monogastric animals. They reduce the phosphorus pollution in areas of intensive livestock production^{7,8}. The

thermostability of phytase suggests potential biotechnological applications in the pulp and paper industry as a biological agent to remove plant phytic acid. The enzymatic degradation of phytic acid will not produce toxic by-products, so it is environmental friendly¹⁰. A large number of microbes including bacteria, yeast and filamentous fungi has been used for phytase production. Selection of particular microbe depends on the nature of substrate, environmental conditions and desired final product. Thermophilic fungi have complex or unusual nutritional requirements and well-known microbes to produce phytase¹¹⁻¹⁴. In view of increasing demand for phytase it is essential to produce phytase in a cost-effective manner. Phytase required for commercial feed preparation must meet following specifications i.e., thermo stability and activity over wider pH range, which is only possible with thermophilic fungi. Poultry manure is a useful nutrient source supplies phytase and high available phosphorus corn diets on the solubility and plant uptake of P, Cu, and Zn in poultry manure and soils amended with

manure. Therefore, the present study was conducted with the aim to isolate a potent strain of thermophilic fungi from local habitat and optimize after screening for the production of phytase.

Aims and objectives

1. To isolate and characterize the fungal organism, which hydrolyses phytase enzyme in high amounts.
2. To estimate the amount of Phytase enzyme produced from fungal microorganisms from open natural fermenters and from soil near poultry farms.
3. Optimization of the condition for the activity of the enzyme phytase.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Source of samples

Soil sample from Poultry farm waste, 2 Kali is a fermented waste water of rice and this is used by villagers to cook cereal food. These liquid feed of cattle are a good source of microbes, contributing to vitamins and enzymes in food. They contain a lot of bran – derived materials including phytase.

Isolation of organisms

Three different samples were used to isolate fungi which have the ability to produce phytase enzyme during the growth cycle. The poultry soil, Kali and Kudith samples were collected from Warangal and its surrounding areas. Samples were processed by serial dilution method¹⁵. Soil samples of poultry farms were collected in sterile polythene bags. One gram of sample was suspended in 100 mL of sterilized distilled water and allowed to settle overnight at room temperature. The soil suspension was further diluted up to 10⁴-10⁶ times. One millilitre of this dilute suspension was then transferred to individual Petri plates containing potato dextrose agar medium. The fungal cultures were further purified from bacterial contaminants by using 10 mg/L combination of penicillin and streptomycin (1:1 ratio) in the Petri plate medium. Two other samples Kudithi and Kali were collected in sterile bottles from different cattle sheds and from different houses of suburban localities of Warangal town.

Morphological appearance

All the isolates of fungi were identified by microscopic examination^{16,17,18}. Independent colonies of each identified isolate were picked up and transferred to potato dextrose agar (PDA) slants for culture maintenance. The cultures were stored in a refrigerator at 4°C for further studies.

Inoculum

The spores from 3-5 days old slant culture were wetted by adding 10 mL of sterilized 0.005% Monoxal O.T (diacetyl ester of Sodium sulphosuccinic acid) to each slant. The spores were scratched with sterilized inoculating needle and the tubes were shaken gently to break the clumps of spores. Spore suspension was used as an inoculum. Inoculum size was measured by measuring the density of spore (number of spore per unit volume) with Haemocytometer, Neubauer improved; Precidior HBG, Germany (Tiefe depth profondeur 0.10 mm and 0.0025 mm² area).

Phytase assay

Phytase activity was assayed after some modification of¹² and¹³ methods using Sodium phytate as substrate and the inorganic phosphorus released was measured spectrophotometrically by using the Taussky-Schoor reagent. Half milliliter of Sodium phytate (0.00682 M) was added to 0.1 mL of MgSO₄ (0.05 M) and 0.1 mL of Sodium acetate buffer (0.2 M). Enzyme solution (0.1 mL) was added to above mixture and the mixture was incubated at 50°C for 30 minutes. After incubation, 1.0 mL of 10% tricarboxylic acid (TCA) was added along with 2.0 mL of distilled water. Mixed well and 5.0 mL of Taussky-Schoor reagent was added. Taussky-Schoor reagent was prepared when 10.0 g Ammonium molybdate was mixed with 10.0 mL H₂SO₄ (10 N) and further diluted with 70.0 mL of deionized water. Then 5.0 g of ferrous sulphate heptahydrate (FeSO₄.7H₂O) was added and made the final volume up to 100.0 mL. Absorbance was measured at 660 nm by using spectrophotometer and liberated inorganic phosphate was estimated after comparing the absorbance with known concentration of KH₂PO₄ using same assay conditions instead of enzyme. One unit of phytase activity is defined as "the amount of enzyme that liberates one μmol of inorganic phosphate at temperature (50°C) and pH (5)".

Statistical analysis

Duncan's multiple range tests in the form of probability <p> values were used to find out the significant difference among replicates. Treatment effects were compared after Snedecor & Cochran (1980) using computer software Costat, 3.03 Berkeley, CA 94701.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Both Kudithi and Kali contained microbes which had ability of producing phytase. Fungi Seven strains of five different thermophilic fungi such as *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Humicola insolens*, *Rhizomucor miehei-I & II*, *Sporotrichum thermophile*, *Thermomyces lanuginosus-I & II* were isolated from compost soil and were screened for phytase production. *Aspergillus fumigatus* produced 0.04 U/mL/min of phytase while *Humicola insolens*, *Rhizomucor miehei-I & II*, *Sporotrichum thermophile*, *Thermomyces lanuginosus-I & II* gave 0.22, 0.20, 0.76, 2.20, 0.20 and 0.53 U/mL/min respectively. Of the seven thermophilic fungal strains screened for phytase production, *Sporotrichum thermophile* was found to produce higher extracellular phytase when grown on solid state wheat bran (Table 1). Chadha *et al.*, (2004) isolated and screened out thermophilic fungi and found nine thermophilic strains having the potential of phytase production like *Rhizomucor pusillus*, *Humicola grisea*, *Sporotrichum*

thermophile, *Humicola insolens*, *Thermomyces lanuginosus-I*, *Thermomyces lanuginosus-II*, *Rhizomucor miehei-I*, *Rhizomucor miehei-II* and *Aspergillus fumigatus*. Singh & Satyanarayana (2008) also investigated that *Sporotrichum thermophile* has the potential for enhanced production of phytase. The main product of a fermentation process often determines the choice of carbon source, particularly if the product results from the direct dissimilation of it. It is common practice to use carbohydrates as carbon source in microbial fermentation processes. The most widely

CONCLUSIONS

Phytase which is liberated during the growth cycle of microbes especially fungi and bacteria, the phytase enzyme plays a vital role in improving the nourishment of plants which is a rich source of carbon source, the study was based on the background of Indian village feeds for animals which is rich source of proteins and carbohydrates. These components are utilized by the fungi when they grow in Kali and Kudhithi and release phytase enzyme. This phytase in Kali and Kudhithi was used as feed for animals but there is a complication in digestion of phytase by animals. This is liberated out as indigested product into the environment. Excreta of animals can be used as manure in fields.

REFERENCES

- Mullaney EJ, Daly CB, Ullah AH. "Advances in phytase research". *Adv Appl Microbiol* **47**: 157-199 (2000). doi: 10.1016/S0065-2164(00)47004-8. PMID 12876797.
- Mullaney EJ, Ullah AH. "The term phytase comprises several different classes of enzymes". *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* **312**(1): 179-184. doi:10.1016/j.bbrc.2003.09.176. PMID 14630039
- Becerra, M. and M.I.G. Siso. Yeast β -galactosidase in solid state fermentation. *Enzyme Microb. Technol.*, **19**: 39-44 (1996).
- Bogar, B., G. Szakacs, J.C. Linden, A. Pandey and R.P. Tenggerdy. Optimization of phytase production by solid substrate fermentation. *J. Ind. Microbiol. Biotechnol.*, **30**(3): 183-189 (2003).
- Chadha, B.S., H. Gulati, M. Minhas, H.S. Saini and N. Singh, Phytase production by the thermophilic fungus *Rhizomucor pusillus*, *World J. Microbiol. Biotechnol.*, **20**: 105-109 (2004).
- Ciofalo, V., N. Barton, K. Kretz, J. Baird, M. Cook and D. Schanahan., Safety evaluation of α -phytase, expressed in *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, intended for use in animal feed. *Regul. Toxicol. Pharm.*, **37**(2): 266-292 (2003).
- Clark, W.D., K.E. Wohlt, R.L. Gilbreath and P.K. Zajar. Phytate phosphorus intake

- and disappearance in the gastrointestinal tract of high producing dairy cows. *J. Dair. Sci.*, **69**: 3151-3155 (1958).
8. Cooney, D.G. and R. Emerson. Thermophilic fungi: An account of their biology, activities and classification. W.H. Freeman & Co., San Francisco, Calif. (1964).
 9. Domsch, K.H., W. Gams and T.H. Anderson. Compendium of soil fungi. Academic press, New York, Toronto, San Francisco. (1980).
 10. Ebune, A., S. Al-Asheh and Z. Duvnjak. Production of phytase during solid state fermentation using *Aspergillus ficuum* NRRL 3135 in canola meal. *Biores. Technol.*, **53**: 7-12 (1995)
 11. Greiner, R. and U. Konietzny. Phytase for food application. *Food Technol. Biotechnol.*, **44**(2): 125-140 (2006).
 12. Harland, B.F. and J. Harland. Fermentative reduction of phytic acid in rye, wheat and wholewheat bread. *Cereal Chem.*, **57**(3): 226-229 (1980).
 13. Heinonen, J.K. and R.J. Lahti. A new and convenient colorimetric determination of inorganic orthophosphate and its application to the assay of inorganic pyrophosphatase. *Anal Biochem*, **113**: 313-317 (1981).
 14. Hughes, M.N. and R.K. Poole. Metals and Microorganisms. Chapman and Hall, London. Hughes, M.N. and R.K. Poole. 1991. Metal speciation and microbial growth - the hard and soft facts. *J. Gen. Microbiol.*, **137**: 725-734 (1989).
 15. Koneman, W., E. Allen and W.C. Washington. *Diagnostic Microbiology*, 3rd Ed, p. 608. Lynd, L.R., P.J. Weimer, Z.W. Van and I.S. Pretorius. 2002. Microbial cellulose utilization: fundamentals and biotechnology. *Microbiol. Mol. Biol. Rev.*, **66**: 506-577 (1991).
 16. McCoy, M. Enzymes emerge as big AG feed supplements. *Chem. Eng. News*, 4: 29-30. Onion, A.H.S., D. Allosopp and O.W. Eggins. 1986. *Smith Introduction to Industrial Mycology*, 7th Ed, Edward Arnold Publishers, London, 187-188 (1998).
 17. Pandey, A., G. Szakacs, C.R. Soccol, J.A. Rodriguez-Leon and V.T. Soccol. Production, purification and properties of microbial phytases. *Bioresour. Technol.*, **77**(3): 203-214. Saha, C. 2003. Hemicellulose bioconversion. *Ind. Microbiol. Biotechnol*, **30**: 279-291 (2001).
 18. Singh, B. and T. Satyanarayana. Phytase production by thermophilic mold *Sporotrichum thermophile* in solid-state fermentation and its application in dephytinization of sesame oil cake. *Appl. Biochem. Biotechnol.*, **133**(3): 239-250 (2006).