

Original Research Article

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Screening of Tyrosinase Producing Soil Actinomycetes from Shirala Region of Maharashtra, India

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ABSTRACT

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A total seven soil samples were collected from the Shirala region Dist-Sangli. The total 70 Actinomycete isolates were obtained from soil by performing serial dilution technique and using Glycerol asparagine agar supplemented with Cycloheximide (100µg/ml). Actinomycete isolates were primarily identified to genus level on the basis of their microscopic and cultural characteristics. Biochemical and other characters were used to identify isolates to species level. A total 70 Actinomycete isolates were identified by using modified DOS based MICRO-IS software such as PIBWin. Out of 70 Actinomycete isolates total 82.85% isolates were belonged to genus *Streptomyces*, 10% isolates were belonged to genus *Streptoverticillum*, 2.8571% isolates were belonged to *Nocardia*, 2.8571% isolates were belonged to genus *Micromonospora* and rest of the 1.4285% isolate were belonged to *Actinomadura*. The primary screening of 70 isolates for tyrosinase production were carried out and isolates were showed positive tyrosinase activity.

Introduction

The word actinomycete was taken from the Greek. It has made from two different words such as "atkis" (a ray) and "mykes" (fungus), possess characteristics of both bacteria and fungi. Actinomycetes bear almost distinctive features than bacteria and fungi, so they fixed into separate class. Actinomycetes are aerobic, spore forming, Gram positive bacteria grouped as branching

unicellular organisms, belonging to order actinomycetales highlighted with substrate and aerial mycelial growth (Lechevalier and Lechevalie, 1981). Actinomycetes reproduce either by fission or by means of special spores or conidia. They possess high (G+C) content in their DNA which is above 55 mol percent. The evidences of 16s ribosomal cataloguing and DNA: rRNA pairing studies

suggested that phylogenetic relationship among the group of actinomycetes (Goodfellow and Williams, 1983; Korn-Wendisch and Kutzner, 1992). The domain bacteria has been currently proposed with 18 major lineages out of them actinomycetes represent one of the largest taxonomic unit. (Ventura, *et al.*, 2007) In soil actinomycetes from thread like filaments and which are most abundant organisms. The characteristic earthy smell of freshly turned healthy soil is due to hypae produced at the time of growth. (Sprusansky, *et al.*, 2005) The actinomycetes are found in various habitats in nature (George, *et al.*, 2012) and most prominent group of microbes distributed throughout the natural ecosystems around the world. (Srinivasan, *et al.*, 1971) They are initially represented as soil inhabitants. (Kuster, 1968)

Microbial secondary metabolites have great interest all over the world. Around 23,000 bioactive secondary metabolites are reported throughout the world in which 10,000 are produced only by actinomycetes, hence contributing 45% of all bioactive microbial metabolites discovered and among actinomycetes, near about 7,600 compounds are produced by *Streptomyces species*. (Berdy, 2005) Their metabolic potential offers a strong area of research. Accordingly, the role of actinomycetes in biotechnology and medicine is well known and these industries are always looking for novelty bioactive compounds.

The value of the world enzyme market has increased steadily from £110 million in 1960 to £200 million in 1970, £270 million in 1980, £1 000 million in 1990 and over £2 000 million in 2010. Food and beverage enzymes represented the largest sector of the industrial enzymes market in 2010, with a value of £750 million, and the market for enzymes for technical applications

(including diagnostic applications, research and biotechnology) accounted for a further £700 million. Estimates of future demand are in the range of £4000-5000 million between 2015 and 2016, growing at a rate of 6–7% annually. The developing economies of the Asia Pacific Region, the Middle East and Africa are now seen to be emerging as the fastest growing markets for industrial enzymes.

Tyrosinase (EC 1.14.18.1) is a copper-containing enzyme that have both monophenolase or cresolase and diphenolase or catecholase activity in which monophenolase or cresolase activity of an enzyme tyrosinase expressed by catalyzing the *o*-hydroxylation of monophenols to the corresponding catechols and diphenolase or catecholase catalysing the oxidation of diphenols or catechols to the corresponding *o*-quinones. The enzyme can be found in a wide variety of organisms, ranging from prokaryotes to mammals. Tyrosinase can take part in biosynthesis of melanin in which monophenolase or cresolase activity of an enzyme tyrosinase can catalyses substrate tyrosine into 3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanin or DOPA (*o*-diphenol) by ortho-hydroxylation reaction and an enzyme diphenolase or catecholase activity of an enzyme tyrosinase can catalyse substrate 3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanin or DOPA into dopaquinone (*o*-quinone) by oxidation reaction followed by *o*-quinone turn to melanin pigments through series of enzymatic and nonenzymatic reactions. (Robb, 1984; Whitaker, 1995) Along with tyrosine and L-DOPA numerous other substrates such as phenols and diphenols are converted to corresponding diphenols and quinones respectively by an enzyme tyrosinase. Basically, the monophenol hydroxylase and diphenoloxidase activities of tyrosinase are used in environmental technology for the detoxification of phenol-containing waste waters and contaminated

soils as a construction of a biosensor for the detection of phenolic compound. (Dos Santos, *et al.*, 2013) In pharmaceutical industries tyrosinase has been used for the production of *o*-diphenols such as L-DOPA and dopamine for the treatment of Parkinson's disease and also have been reported as a marker in melanoma patients (Gradilone, *et al.*, 2010) and as a target for the activation of prodrugs (Jawaid, *et al.*, 2009) in food industries for modification of food proteins via crosslinking affects. (Monogioudi, *et al.*, 2011) Synthetic melanin is also used for protection against radiation (UV, X-ray, and gamma ray), cation exchangers, drug carriers, antioxidants, antiviral agents, or immunogen. There is considerable information representing the great potential of this enzyme for food, medicine, and agricultural industries as well as for analytical and environmental purposes. (Claus and Filip, 1988)

While most of the studies on actinobacteria have focused on antibiotic production, only few reports have focused on their enzymatic potential. *Streptomyces* genus were extensively studied because of their capacity to produce antibiotics and enzymes of industrial importance (Bahrim and Negoita, 2007) Bacterial tyrosinase with new features like high-temperature stability, (Kong, *et al.*, 2000) or a broader substrate spectrum (Wang, *et al.*, 2000) open further areas of applications. The tyrosinase from *Streptomyces species* are non modified monomeric proteins with relatively low molecular mass. These enzymes are secreted to the surrounding medium, where they are involved in extracellular melanin production.

An enzyme tyrosinase has remarkable properties and many applications in different sectors as mentioned above. Different aspects of an enzyme tyrosinase have been

so far studied to some extent throughout the world by scientists. Geographically Shirala region is situated at heavy rain fall. No one had reported actinomycetes from this region which can produce tyrosinase. This study focuses on screening of actinomycetes which have ability to produce an enzyme tyrosinase.

Materials and Methods

Materials

1. Soil sample- seven soil samples were collected from the villages around Shirala region

Dist.-Sangli, M.S. India and used in this study for isolation of actinomycetes.

2. Glycerol asparagine broth, Glycerol asparagine agar and Cycloheximide.

3. Skimmed milk agar, Tyrosine agar, Peptone yeast extract iron agar, Tyrosine broth and Chloroform.

Methods

Isolation of Actinomycetes

The soil samples were collected from the villages around Shirala region Dist.-Sangli, M.S. India and enrichment of soil samples were carried out in Glycerol asparagine broth supplemented with Cycloheximide (100µg/ml). A 10-fold serial dilution of the sample was prepared up to 10^{-6} and 0.1ml aliquots of each dilution was inoculated into Glycerol asparagine agar (L asparagine-0.1g, K₂HPO₄-0.1g, glycerol- 1%, trace salt solution- 0.1ml, agar- 2.5g, distilled water-100ml pH-7.4). To avoid the growth of fungal contaminant medium were supplemented with Cycloheximide (100µg/ml). Plates were incubated at room

temperature (28°C) and monitored periodically over 5 to 7 days. Pure isolates were transferred on same medium as slants and preserved at 4±2°C for further study.

Identification of Isolates

Morphological characteristics were studied with cover slip culture technique. Cultural characteristics were recorded on Glycerol asparagine agar medium. Biochemical characters were recorded on the basis of sugar utilization potential, enzymatic activities and growth under inhibitory substances. On the basis of spore mass color, the substrate mycelium color, the shape of the spore chain, morphological and cultural characters of actinomycetes suspected to be *Streptomyces* were sorted. Biochemical characterisations of *Streptomyces* producing tyrosinase were carried out.

Primary Screening

The primary screening of tyrosinase enzyme producing actinomycetes were carried on Skimmed milk plates (pH 6.5–7.2); containing peptone-1%, sodium chloride-0.5%, yeast extract- 0.3%, agar-2% and skimmed milk-10%. All the plates were incubated at 30°C for 2– 3 days. After incubation, the plates were observed for the zone of clearness around the colony. The results were interpreted as follows ‘–’ no zone of clearness and ‘+’ shows zone of clearness.

Secondary Screening Method

Tyrosinase enzyme producing Soil actinomycetes were further screened by following different methods like tyrosine agar plate, peptone yeast extract iron agar and tyrosine broth

Tyrosine Agar

The isolates were streaked on tyrosine agar

(pH 7) containing Asparagine-0.1%, L-tyrosine- 0.5%, K₂HPO₄-0.05%, MgSO₄·7H₂O-0.05%, NaCl-0.05%, FeSO₄·7H₂O-0.000001%, CuCl₂·2H₂O-0.0000027%, CoCl₂·6H₂O-0.000004%, Sodium molybdate·2H₂O-0.0000025%, Zinc chloride-0.000002%, Boric chloride-0.000285%, Manganese chloride 4H₂O-0.00018%, Sodium tartarate-0.000177% and agar-2%. All the plates were incubated at 30°C for 48 hrs the occurrence of brown pigmented colonies that gradually changed its color to black (melanin formation) was indication of tyrosinase positive organism. (Gare and Kulkarni, 2015)

Peptone Yeast Extract Iron Agar

The isolates were streaked on Peptone yeast extract iron agar (pH 6.7) containing Peptic digest of animal tissue-1.5%, Protease peptone-0.5%, Yeast extract-0.01%, Ferric ammonium citrate-0.005%, K₂HPO₄-0.1%, sodium thiosulphate-0.008% and Agar-2%. Plates were incubated at 30°C for 48hrs to observe brown pigmented colonies that gradually changed its color to black were indication of tyrosinase positive organism. (Gare and Kulkarni, 2015)

Tyrosine Broth

The isolates were inoculated into 50 mL of 0.1% tyrosine broth with few drops of Chloroform in 100mL Erlenmeyer flask and incubated at 30°C for 48hrs. The deep red color shows the positive results. (Gare and Kulkarni, 2015)

MICRO-IS Identification of Actinomycetes

Microscopic and cultural characteristics of isolates were initially helpful to identify actinomycetes upto genus level. Species level identification of actinomycetes were carried out by using their biochemical and

other characteristics. Members of *Streptomyces* genus were used to identify isolates to species level by using PIBWin software. (Bryant, 2004) The software is modification of the DOS based software MICRO-IS. (Portyrata and Krichevsky, 1992) Probabilistic identification matrices used were *Streptomyces* species major cluster (Williams, *et al.*, 1983; Williams, *et al.*, 1985) and *Streptomyces* species minor cluster (Langham, *et al.*, 1989) and for *Streptoverticillium* species (Williams, *et al.*, 1985). Isolates belonging to other genera were identified manually (Langham, *et al.*, 1989).

Results and Discussion

Isolation and Identification of Actinomycetes

A total 70 actinomycete isolates were obtained from different soil environments. Among 70 isolates, 18 isolates from soil of

college region, 17 isolates from fertile soil of Shirala, 9 isolates from Sarud, 12 isolates from garden region of college and 14 isolates from Kokrud region. Out of 70 isolates studied 65 isolates were identified up to species level while remaining 05 were identified up to genus level. Among the total identified *Streptomyces*, maximum 12 isolates were *Streptomyces lydicus* followed by 11 *Streptomyces chattanoogensis* and 7 *Streptomyces rimosus* and *Streptoverticillium olivovercillatum* each. *Streptomyces cyaneus* and *Streptomyces luridus* each 4, *Streptomyces canus* and *Streptomyces xanthochromogenes* each 3, *Streptomyces cellulosa* and *Streptomyces varsoviensis* each 2, *Streptomyces albus*, *Streptomyces aurantiacus*, *Streptomyces californicus*, *Streptomyces chromofuscus*, *Streptomyces chromogenus*, *Streptomyces griseoluteus*, *Streptomyces phaeochromogenes* and *Streptomyces violaceus* each 1 (Table.1).

Table.1 Isolate Wise Identification of Actinomycete

Sr. No.	<i>Streptomyces</i> identified	No. of isolates
1.	<i>Streptomyces lydicus</i>	12
2.	<i>Streptomyces chattanoogensis</i>	11
3.	<i>Streptomyces rimosus</i>	7
4.	<i>Streptoverticillium olivovercillatum</i>	7
5.	<i>Streptomyces cyaneus</i>	4
6.	<i>Streptomyces luridus</i>	4
7.	<i>Streptomyces canus</i>	3
8.	<i>Streptomyces xanthochromogenes</i>	3
9.	<i>Streptomyces cellulosa</i>	2
10.	<i>Streptomyces varsoviensis</i>	2
11.	<i>Streptomyces violaceoniger</i>	2
12.	<i>Streptomyces albus</i>	1
13.	<i>Streptomyces aurantiacus</i>	1
14.	<i>Streptomyces californicus</i>	1
15.	<i>Streptomyces chromofuscus</i>	1
16.	<i>Streptomyces chromogenus</i>	1
17.	<i>Streptomyces griseoluteus</i>	1
18.	<i>Streptomyces phaeochromogenes</i>	1
19.	<i>Streptomyces violaceus</i>	1
20.	Unidentified	5
	Total	70

Table.2 Tyrosinase Production Potential of Actinomycete

Sr.No.	Isolate No.	Identification	Tyrosine agar	PYIA	Tyrosine broth
1	C7	<i>Streptomyces</i> spp.	+	+	+
2	C13	<i>Streptomyces chattanoogensis</i>	+	+	+
3	C15	<i>Streptoverticillium olivovercillatum</i>	+	+	+
4	C16	<i>Streptomyces chattanoogensis</i>	+	+	+
5	C22	<i>Streptomyces cellulosa</i>	+	+	+
6	C24	<i>Streptomyces lydicus</i>	+	+	+
7	C30	<i>Streptomyces chattanoogensis</i>	+	+	+
8	C33	<i>Streptomyces californicus</i>	+	+	+
9	C39	<i>Streptomyces chattanoogensis</i>	+	+	+
10	S1	<i>Streptomyces</i> sp.	+	+	+
11	S3	<i>Streptomyces cyaneus</i>	+	+	+
12	S29	<i>Streptomyces cyaneus</i>	+	+	+
13	S30	<i>Streptomyces chattanoogensis</i>	+	+	+
14	S31	<i>Streptomyces cyaneus</i>	+	+	+
15	S32	<i>Streptomyces aurantiacus</i>	+	+	+
16	S33	<i>Streptomyces chattanoogensis</i>	+	+	+
17	Kd8	<i>Streptomyces</i> spp.	+	+	+
18	Kd14	<i>Streptomyces cyaneus</i>	+	+	+
19	Sd11	<i>Streptomyces chromogenus</i>	+	+	+

* Where + = Pigmentation

70 isolates were classified in 5 different genera. These genera and percentages were recorded as *Streptomyces* 82.85%, *Streptoverticillum* 10%, *Nocardia* and *Micromonospora* each 2.8571% and *Actinomadura* 1.4285%.

Tyrosinase Producing Actinomycetes

Out of 70, 19 actinomycete isolates were showed blackish brown pigmentation on tyrosine agar and Peptone Yeast Extract Iron Agar (Table.2) while deep red color were observed in the tyrosine broth. Out of the total 19 reported tyrosinase producers maximum were from genus *Streptomyces* followed by *Streptoverticillum*. Percentage of tyrosinase production after qualitative test was recorded as 27.1%.

Gare and Kulkarni (2015) reported C7 as maximum tyrosinase producer and identified isolate C7 on the basis of morphological, cultural, biochemical and 16S rRNA gene sequencing as *Streptomyces luteogriseus*.

Gare and Kulkarni (2015) carried out qualitative tests for pigment melanin by inoculating in tyrosine broth supplemented with traces of chloroform and incubating at 30⁰ C for 48 hrs. Red color was reported in tyrosine broth indicated positive melanin production. On the basis of intensity of red color seen in the tyrosine broth Kd8 was selected for further study. Out of these isolates Kd8 isolate was identified on the basis of morphological, cultural, biochemical and 16S rRNA gene sequencing as *Streptomyces bikiniensis*. 0.8gm/100ml

pigment was extracted from peptone yeast extract iron agar. The antibacterial activity of pigment extracted from Kd8 has been investigated. The pigment from isolate kd8 showed inhibitory zone against *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus species* and *Salmonella typhi*.

Rao *et.al.*, (2012) studied *Streptomyces antibioticus* based on biochemical tests like urease, phenol red fermentation, nitrate reduction, starch hydrolysis and gelatine given positive results and indole, methyl red vogues proskauer, citrate utilization, carbohydrate utilization, phenyl alanine deamination, casein hydrolysis, colloidal chitin hydrolysis and catalase test negative results indicated that presence of *Streptomyces antibioticus* and tyrosinase. The results obtained after comparative studies indicated that isolation media and methods used in the present study are not only simple and reliable for large-scale bacterial identification but at the same time are more cost effective compared to commercially available diagnostic kits. This newly isolated and characterized tyrosinase may have potential applications in organic synthesis due to its high activity and stability at typically denaturing conditions.

In conclusion, Samples collected from all soil environment showed maximum percentage of *Streptomyces* genera. The actinomycetes isolated from soil sample were found to be the potential producer of tyrosinase.

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