



Original Research Article

Diversity assessment of *E. coli* collected from water bodies of Bhopal using sole source carbon utilization (SSCU) profile

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ABSTRACT

E. coli is the most prominent microbe and has a wide application in biotechnology industry. Carbone source for cultivation of any microorganism at laboratory to industrial level is important. Looking upon this fact, an experiment was conducted for assessment of diversity of *E. coli*, which was collected from 4 water bodies of Bhopal using their sole source carbon utilization (SSCU) profile. Two Samples were collected from Upper Lake while one sample each was collected from Lower Lake, Shahpura Lake and Kaliasot Dam. Samples were cultured, isolated and identified with selective media and their carbon utilization patter was observed. Based on observed data of 10 samples, analysed phylo-tree to identify similarity between microorganisms isolated from 5 different locations of Bhopal lakes. Samples collected from same location make separate cluster, which indicate that they utilize the similar carbon source. Four groups of the carbon sources show similarity with each other like first group was formed by DL Malic Acid, citric acid, malonic acid and succinic acid, while second group was made by dextrose and l-histidine. L (+) Rhmnose and D + cellobiose creates third group and sucrose, d-soribtol and D (+)_Maltose formed fourth group. *E. coli* acquire carbon source for their survival if availability of any carbon source is not sufficient, will substitute from their similar carbon source.

Keywords

E. coli,
Bhopal lakes,
Carbon source,
Sole source
carbon
utilization
(SSCU),
Selective
media

Introduction

Approximately 4 billion year ago, Microorganisms were the first form of life to develop on earth and about 3 billion year ago all organisms were microscopic. Microbial diversity comprises the diversity of bacteria, protozoans, fungi, unicellular algae and creates the most extraordinary reservoir of life in the biosphere (Schopf

1994). It is a key to human survival and economic wellbeing and provides a huge reservoir of resources that we can utilize for our welfare. Microbes play a vital role in the recycling of nutrients, production and consumption of gases that affect global climate, destruction of pollutants, treatment of our wastes and they can be used for

biological control of pests affecting plants and animals (Parr and Hornick 1992a; 1992b).

To solve new and emerging disease problems and to advance in biotechnology, study of microbial diversity is also significant. New technologies, mostly in nucleic acid analysis, analytical chemistry, computer science, and habitat sampling and characterization place the study of microbial diversity on the vanguard of science (Kapur and Jain 2004; Fatima *et al*, 2010).

Despite with the microbial diversity, *E. coli* is the most prominent microbe and has a wide application in biotechnology industry (Schiraldi *et al*, 2002). *E. coli* is a gram-negative bacterium of the family *Enterobacteriaceae* and is a normal inhabitant of intestinal tract of birds (Singleton and Sainburg 1981). It is the most widely used host organism for biopharmaceutical production of simple non-modified heterologous recombinant proteins and have their ability to quickly reach high cell densities in inexpensive media (Ferrer-Miralles *et al*, 2009).

E. coli is easily grown in the laboratory and the vectors are well characterized so it recommended obtaining recombinant enzyme for basic characterization. (Schiraldi *et al*, 2002). Presently, the genetically engineered *E. coli* bacteria were employed in the production of human insulin, human growth hormone and also the evidence of biofuel production (Kamionka 2011).

Low cost and simplicity of cultivating bacteria make the *E. coli* expression system a preferable choice for production of therapeutic proteins, enzymes and secondary metabolites both on a lab scale and in industry (Kamionka 2011). Utilization of same carbon source when supplied to all

isolates are been taken up by some and avoided by some (Silawat *et al*, 2010). In the present study, an experiment was conducted for the understanding of Carbon utilization pattern of *E. coli* by SSCU. This gives the evidence of diversity on the basis of physiological properties of genetically similar *E. coli*. This brings up the diversity based on physiological properties basically carbon utilization pattern.

Materials and Methods

The experiment was carried out at the Centre of Excellence in Biotechnology laboratory, MPCST Bhopal, India. The study was done with 10 water samples from 5 lakes of Bhopal region were investigated for the presence of *E. coli*. Out of these, 2 samples collected from each location (Table 1). A water sample of 20 ml was collected directly in sterile screw capped tubes. The isolation of bacterial colonies was done on MacConkey's agar (Oxoid, England). CFU were calculated and then the 30 isolated colonies were pure cultured through four way streak technique on same MacConkey's agar. Microorganisms grown on MacConkey agar are capable of metabolizing lactose which produces acid by-products that lower the pH of the media which causes the neutral red indicator to turn red, and if sufficient acid is produced, a zone of precipitated bile develops around the colony. The pure isolated colonies were then further subjected to series of procedures for identification.

Growth on selective media

EMB agar plates were prepared and isolates were grown to confirm the presence of *E. coli* and purified on selective media (Deshmukh 1997). Further single colony inoculated in EMB broth and incubated at 37 °C.

Staining

All the pure isolated cultures were subjected to Gram staining to identify the shape and gram positivity and gram negativity of the isolated culture.

Biochemical testing

Out of 30 positive samples, 10 were subjected to a series of biochemical testing for identification like Indole test, Kovac Indole test and Simon Citrate test (Ewing, 1986).

Sole source carbon utilization (SSCU) test

Carbon source

A total of 31 carbon sources were selected which were most relevant to compost community for isolates utilization. These included carbohydrates, amino acids and organic acids. D – Sorbitol, D – Mannitol, Dextrose Monohydrate, Lactose Monohydrate, Sucrose, D (+) Maltose Monohydrate, β – Cyclodextrin, D – Fructose, D (+) Galactose, L – (+) Rhamnose Monohydrate, D (+) Mannose, D (+) Arabinol, L (+) Arabinose, D (+) Cellobiose, D (+) Trehalose Dihydrate, DL Malic Acid, Citric Acid Anhydrous, Malonic Acid, Succinic Acid, DL – Methionine, L – Histidine Hydrochloride, L – Alanine, L – Leucine, L – Asparagine Monohydrate, DL – Aspartic Acid, DL – Alanine, L – Valine, L – Threonine, DL – Serine, L – Arginine Hydrochloride, L – Histidine.

Preparation of bacterial suspension

Total 10 samples were then streaked on King's B agar plate at 37 °C for 24 hour. Pure single colony of bacterial cultures were inoculated in 10 ml of King's B broth and incubated at 37 °C for 24 hour for two days

until log phase growth. Centrifugation was done to obtain pellet at 10,000 rpm for 10 minutes. Supernatant was discarded and remaining pellet was washed with 0.85% NaCl by Centrifugation at 10,000 rpm for 10 minutes. Above step was repeated 2 times and finally O.D. was taken at 456 nm (Jaspers and Overman 2004).

Preparation of micro titre plates: For growth test, each micro titre well received 50 μ l of bacterial suspension, 50 μ l of Triphenyl Tetrazolium Chloride dye (TTC) (0.5%), 50 μ l of C-source (10%) and 50 μ l of M-9 medium devoid of glucose. The plates were incubated for 5 days at $30 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$.

Data matrix: For the dendrogram, Data matrix was prepared from the results obtained from SSCU tests. 0 was written for negative result and 1 to 3 for positive results was given as per the intensity of carbon utilization.

Distance matrix and Dendrogram (Jaccard): Distance matrix was generated by PAST (Paleontological Statistics) Software (Hammer *et al*, 2001) using Jaccard's coefficient and UPGMA. Phylogenetic tree was prepared employing the unweighted pair group method with arithmetic average.

Results and Discussion

Total 5 locations were selected from Bhopal region from which 2 sample taken from each location. 10 samples were cultured on MacConkey medium at 37 °C for morphological characterization. After 24 hours, two types of colonies were observed under macroscopic examination. Some of the isolated colonies appear pinkish on MacConkey medium, while other are creamy yellow as shown in figure 1, simultaneously CFU (Colony forming unit)

has been calculated and the results are listed in Table 2.

E. coli was observed in highest concentration from water samples of different location of Bhopal lakes. Total 30 bacterial colonies were streak on MacConkey agar (figure 2) then purified 30 bacterial colonies indicated the presence of *E. coli* which was confirmed and identified by growth on selective EMB media (figure 3).

After plating, purified blue dotted single colony was transfer into EMB broth. Later on out of 30 *E. coli* samples, 10 *E. coli* samples were taken for different biochemical test. On the basis of Indole test, all the 10 isolates produced rich growth on Congo red medium. Out of 10 isolates 8 resulted in the growth of brick red colour colonies while the remaining 2 produced greyish white colonies after 96 hours of growth (figure 4) while out of 10 sample, 8 sample are Simmon Citrate positive and two are Simmon Citrate negative (figure 5, table 3).

The 10 samples were streaked on king's B agar (figure 6) and single colonies were inoculated on King's B broth. These bacterial suspensions were grown on micro titer plate and colour change of 10 isolated bacteria on microtitre plate was observed (figure 7). The observation was seen that acids like malonic acid, citric acid anhydrous, succinic acid and DL-malic acid and other carbon source like L-arginine were not utilize by the bacteria. While D-mannitol, D-arabitol and L-histidine hydrochloride completely utilized by bacteria. Different utilization pattern was observed in LL01, LL02, SHPL01, SHPL02, UL-KP01, UL-KP02, KSD01 and KSD02. These bacteria utilized carbon source in different pattern such as completely, partially and not utilized it means these

bacteria require more incubation time for complete utilization. But in UL-RG01 and UL-RG02 completely utilized all carbon sources within 24 hours except 4 different acids (Table 4).

Based on observed data of 10 samples, analysed phylo-tree to identify similarity between microorganisms isolated from 5 different locations of Bhopal lakes. This phylo-tree represents similarity among microorganisms. Samples collected from same location make separate cluster, which indicate that they utilize the same carbon source represent in phylo-tree (figure 8, table 5) while out of these 5 samples, SHAP and LL are more similar rather than others at the level between 0.85 and 0.9 (figure 9, table 6). This data shows coefficient of association which shows closely relatedness among species. Higher the values of coefficient of association more similarity will be occur between species.

Carbon utilization pattern of isolated *E. coli* accessions were studied and the basis of observed data by sole source carbon utilization technique which shows the relationship between 31-carbon source utilized by micro-organisms of 5 different locations. According to phylo-tree (figure 9) it was observed that four groups of the carbon sources show similarity with each other like first group was formed by DL Malic Acid, citric acid, malonic acid and succinic acid, while second group was made by dextrose and l-histidine. L (+) Rhmnose and D + cellobiose creates third group and sucrose, d-soribtol and D(+)_Maltose formed fourth group. *E. coli* acquire carbon source for their survival if availability of any carbon source is not sufficient, will substitute from their similar carbon source. From this analysis we conclude that for the growth of *E. coli*, we can use alternate carbon source to change the substrate or

feed product of bacterial culture at industrial level so that we reduce the running cost of product production that produce from the particular bacterial product or bacteria.

To observe different parameters on the basis of mathematical measures, diversity index comes in the picture. With the use various parameters in calculating diversity which represent species richness and evenness among different isolated samples (table 7). Various diversity parameters like Dominance_D, Simpson_1-D, Shannon_H, Evenness H/S, Brillouin, Menhinick, Margalef, Equitability_J, Fisher_alpha, Berger-Parker and Chao-1 were calculated for each locations using carbon utilization pattern of isolated *E. coli* of respective location. Over all diversity among isolated *E. coli* was analysed by the graph which is developed by calculated data (figure 11).

SSCU is basically a substrates utilization test which provides important information regarding the variant physiological activities in spite of same genetic makeup of closely related species (Chouhan *et al*, 2009). The functional diversity of microorganisms, mainly as defined by the substrates used for energy metabolism, is integral used for energy metabolism, is integral to our understanding of biogeochemistry (Silawat *et al*, 2010). Our result shows the relationship between 31-carbon sources utilized pattern of *E. coli* of 5 different locations. According to the phylo-tree, four groups of the carbon sources were observed which showed similarity of carbon utilization pattern. This analysis was conclude that, we can use alternate carbon source to change the substrate or feed product of bacterial culture at industrial level for the growth of *E. coli*. The BLOLOG redox technology based on tetrazolium dye reduction as an indicator of sole-carbon-source utilization was evaluated as a rapid, community-level method to

characterize and classify heterotrophic microbial communities (Bochner and Savagrace 1977, Bochner 1989).

Recombinant human insulin was made as the first medicine via recombinant DNA technology (Johnson 1983) and this technology fashions revolution for production of many industrially important enzymes. Using the recombinant DNA technology, many extreme environments adapted archaeal enzymes are also produced, which are appropriate candidates for applications in industrial processes that are performed under severe conditions, such as high ionic strength or high temperatures or in the presence of organic solvents (Schiraldi *et al*, 2002). Genes encoded numerous enzymes from extremophiles have been cloned in mesophilic hosts for overproduction of the enzyme (Ciaramella *et al*, 1995). *Escherichia coli* have been used successfully as mesophilic hosts for a number of archaeal genes (Jorgensen *et al*, 1997, Niehaus *et al*, 1999, Gritz and Davies 1983, Ishida *et al*, 1997).

Fed-batch culture technique of *E. coli* was used for efficient production of truncated thermostable xylanases (Nordberg-Karlsson 1999) while microfiltration bioreactor was used for Effective production of a thermostable α -Glucosidase (Schiraldi *et al*, 2000). May products were prepared by creation of mutation in the gene of *E. coli* (Voorhorst *et al*, 1995). To obtain a sufficient amount of a recombinant enzyme for basic characterization, *E. coli* expression is recommended, because this host is easily grown in the laboratory and the vectors are well characterized. Recombinant enzymes can also be obtained by cloning and expressing a synthetic gene. The modified gene encode P2 ribonuclease of *S.Solfataricus* consists codon which are extensively used to increase protein expression in *E. coli* (Fusiet *al*, 1995).

Table.1 Locations of sample collection and there codes

SL	Location	Sample Code
1	Upper Lake Kamla Park	UL-KP
2	Upper Lake Ret Ghat	UL-RG
3	Lower Lake	LL
4	Shahpura Lake	SHPL
5	Kaliasote Dam	KSD

Table.2 CFU (Colony forming unit) of isolated samples

SL	Sample	E. coli colony	Fecal colony
1.	UL-KP01	37	59
2.	UL-KP02	19	10
3.	KSD01	4	40
4.	KSD02	5	64
5.	LL01	94	10
6.	LL02	92	12
7.	SHPL01	15	8
8.	SHPL02	20	19
9.	UL-RG01	88	19
10.	UL-RG02	74	20

Table.3 Biochemical test for confirmation of *E. coli*

SL	Sample source	Indole test	Kovacindole	Simmon citrate test
1.	LL 01	Positive	Positive	positive
2.	LL 02	Positive	Positive	positive
3.	SHPL 01	Positive	Positive	positive
4.	SHPL 02	Positive	Positive	positive
5.	BT KP 01	Positive	Positive	positive
6.	BT KP 02	Positive	Positive	positive
7.	BT RG 01	Positive	Positive	positive
8.	UL-RG02	Positive	Positive	positive
9.	KSD 01	Positive	Positive	Negative
10.	KSD 02	Positive	Positive	Negative

Table.4 Carbon source utilization pattern of *E. coli*

SL	Carbon source	LL01	LL02	SHAP 01	SHAP 02	UL-KP 01	UL-KP 02	UL-RG 01	UL-RG 02	KSD 01	KSD 02
1.	D-Sorbitol	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	2
2.	D-Mannitol	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	2
3.	Dextrose	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4.	Lactose	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	2	2
5.	Sucrose	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	2
6.	D(+) Maltose	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	2
7.	β-Cyclodextrin	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	3	0	2
8.	D-Fructose	2	2	1	1	2	3	3	3	2	2
9.	D(+) Galactose	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	3
10.	L (+)Rhmnose	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	2
11.	D(+) Mannose	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	3
12.	D(+) Arabitol	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	3	3
13.	L(+) Arabinose	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3
14.	D(+) Cellobiose	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	2
15.	D(+) Trehalose	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	3	2	2
16.	DL Malic Acid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Citric acid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Malonic Acid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Succinic acid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	DL-methonine	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1
21.	L-histidine	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
22.	L-Alanine	3	2	2	2	1	1	3	3	3	3
23.	L-Leucin	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	2
24.	L-Asparagine	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
25.	DL-Asparatic Acid	1	1	2	2	1	1	3	3	1	0
26.	DL-Alanine	1	1	2	2	1	1	3	3	2	2
27.	L-valine	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	2
28.	L-Threonine	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	3
29.	DL-Serine	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1
30.	L-Arginine (Hydrochloride)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
31.	L-Histidine hydrochloride	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3

3=Carbon source comply utilized.
 2= Carbon source partially utilized
 1= Carbon source less partially utilized
 0= Carbon source not utilized

Table.5 Similarity Indices of 10 *E. coli* samples Carbone utilization pattern

	LL_01	LL_02	SHAP_01	SHAP_02	UL-KP_01	UL-KP_02	UL-RG_01	UL-RG_02	KSD_01	KSD_02
LL_01	1.000									
LL_02	0.975	1.000								
SHAP_01	0.879	0.886	1.000							
SHAP_02	0.890	0.898	0.993	1.000						
UL-KP_01	0.847	0.879	0.847	0.863	1.000					
UL-KP_02	0.803	0.843	0.808	0.824	0.946	1.000				
UL-RG_01	0.476	0.472	0.473	0.477	0.550	0.534	1.000			
UL-RG_02	0.606	0.607	0.613	0.613	0.701	0.681	0.916	1.000		
KSD_01	0.797	0.812	0.754	0.766	0.719	0.712	0.519	0.644	1.000	
KSD_02	0.754	0.767	0.734	0.745	0.796	0.788	0.523	0.649	0.794	1.000

Table.6 Similarity Indices of 5 sampling location according to their *E. coli* samples Carbone utilization pattern

	LL	SHAP	UL-KP	UL-RG	KSD
LL	1	0.89	0.83564	0.526	0.78042
SHAP	0.89	1	0.83709	0.48416	0.71849
UL-KP	0.83564	0.83709	1	0.51784	0.73064
UL-RG	0.526	0.48416	0.51784	1	0.67107
KSD	0.78042	0.71849	0.73064	0.67107	1

Table.7 Diversity profile of Sampling locations according to carbon utilization pattern of *E. coli*

	LL	SHAP	UL-KP	UL-RG	KSD
Taxa_S	48	48	52	54	50
Individuals	94	85	84	158	115
Dominance_D	0.02445	0.02561	0.02438	0.01875	0.02155
Simpson_1-D	0.9756	0.9744	0.9756	0.9813	0.9784
Shannon_H	3.781	3.759	3.828	3.981	3.87
Evenness_e^H/S	0.9141	0.894	0.884	0.9922	0.9592
Brillouin	3.173	3.116	3.146	3.497	3.311
Menhinick	4.951	5.206	5.674	4.296	4.663
Margalef	10.34	10.58	11.51	10.47	10.33
Equitability_J	0.9768	0.9711	0.9688	0.998	0.9894
Fisher_alpha	39.3	45.65	58.22	28.95	33.66
Berger-Parker	0.03191	0.03529	0.03571	0.01899	0.02609
Chao-1	56	71	107.1	54	50.38

Figure.1 Isolated bacterial colony on MacConkey medium

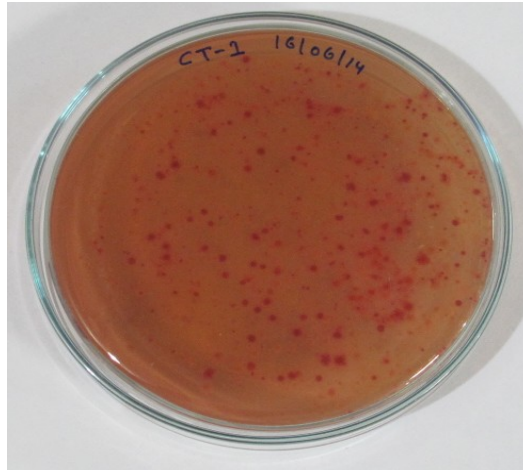


Figure.2 Bacterial colonies streak on MacConkey agar

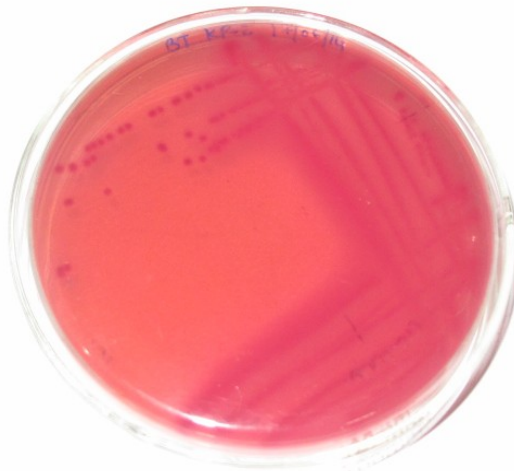


Figure.3 Bacterial growth on selective EMB media

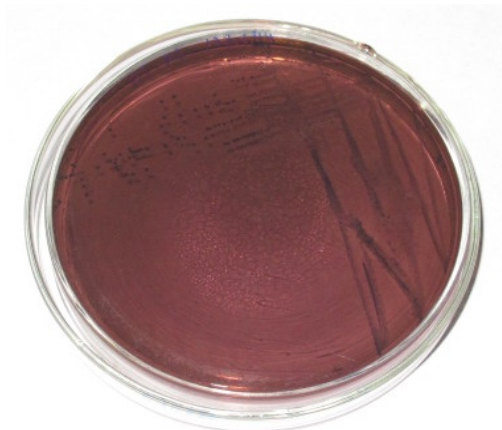


Figure.4 Indole test of isolated *E. coli*

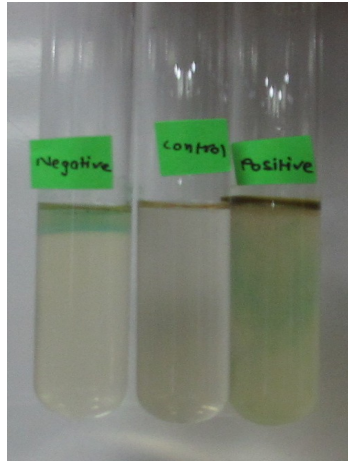


Figure.5 Simmon Citrate of isolated *E. coli*



Figure.6 Isolated *E. coli* were streaked on king's B agar

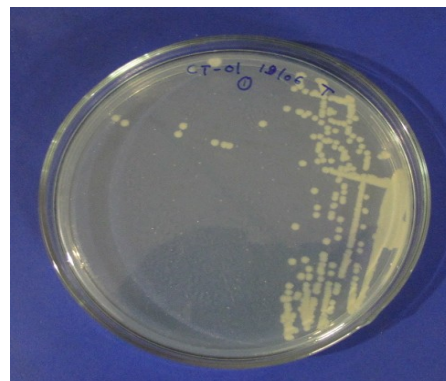


Figure.7 Colour change of 10 isolated bacteria on micro titre plate

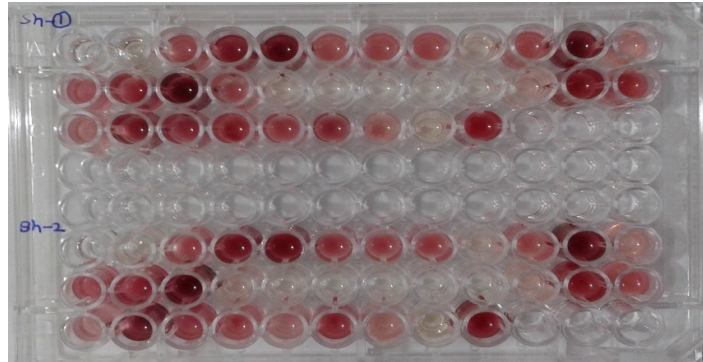


Figure.8 Phylo-tree of 10 *E. coli* samples Carbone utilization pattern

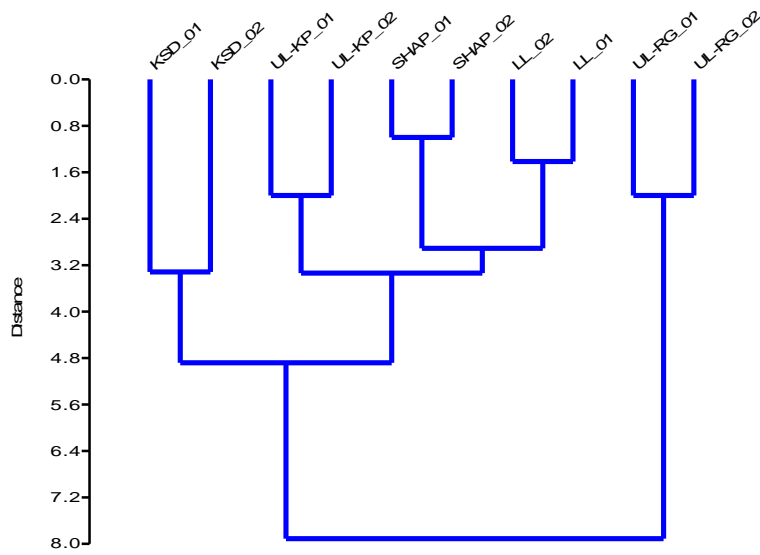


Figure.9 Phylo-tree of 5 sampling location according to their *E. coli* samples Carbone utilization pattern

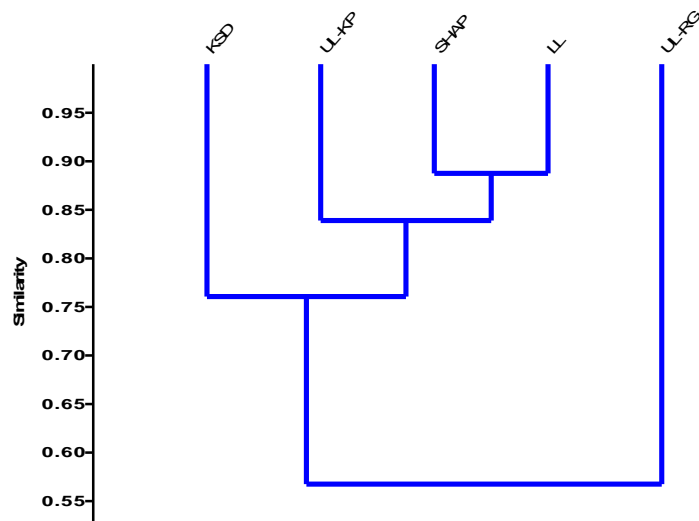


Figure.10: Phylo-tree of *E. coli* Carbone utilization pattern for all 10 samples

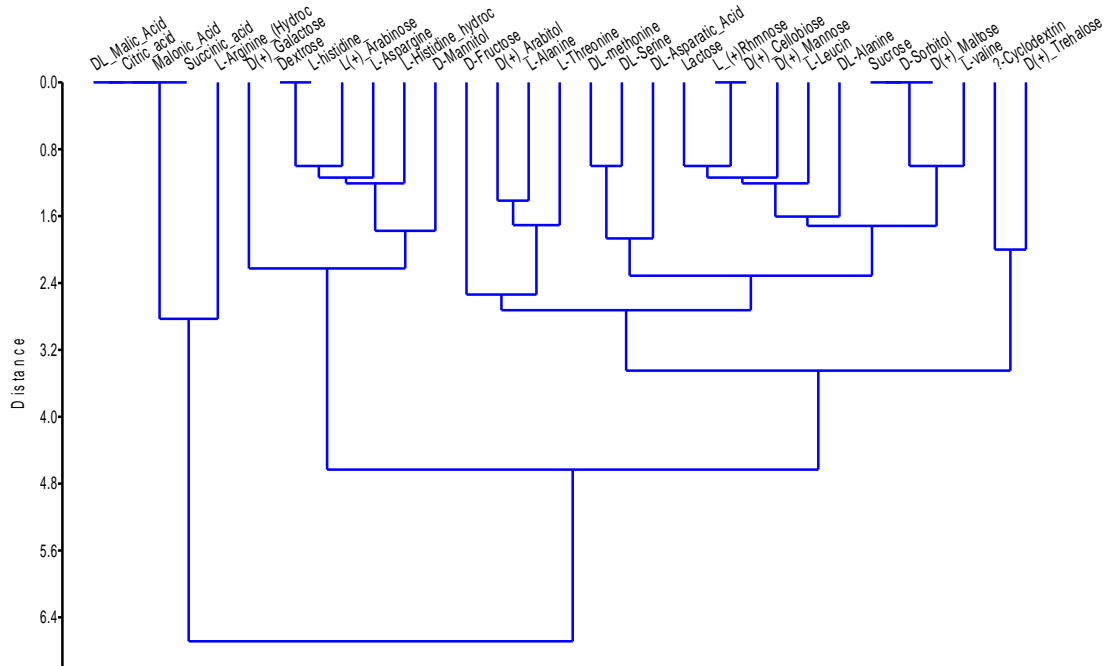
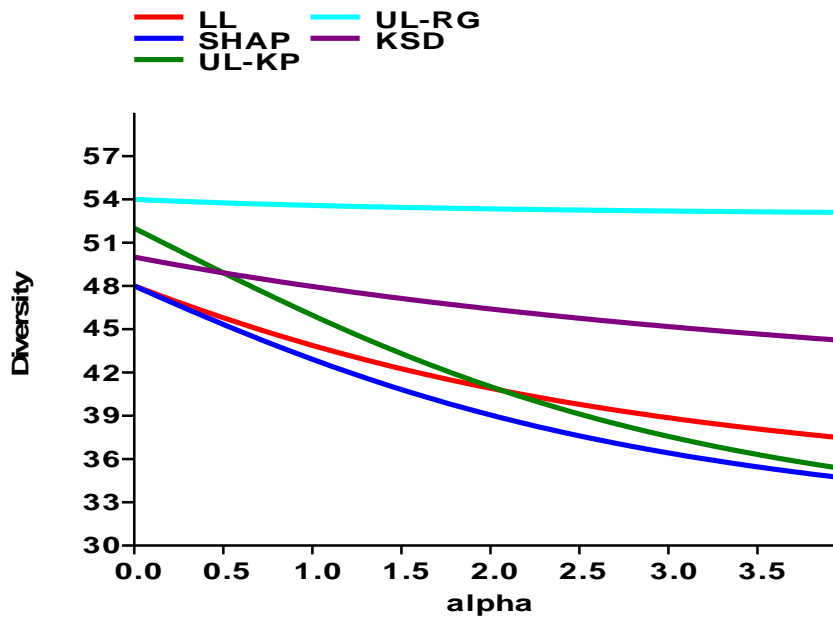


Figure.11 Diversity profile of sampling locations according to carbon utilization pattern of *E. coli*



Carbamoyl phosphatase synthetase (CPSase) gene from *Pyrococcus abyssi* was successfully cloned and expressed in *E. coli* (Purcarea *et al*, 2001). TFE and TDFE coding sequences were fused to obtain a new chimeric protein that converts dextrans to trehalose at high temperature (75 °C)(De Pascale *et al*, 2002). The well-characterized *E. coli* model has now become the bases of the development of molecular genetic techniques, e.g., genetic markers and gene transfer, in halophilic members of the Archaea (Holmes *et al*, 1991).

New expression vectors can be obtained by manipulating *E. coli* genome for research. Some shuttle vectors like pEXSs (Cannio *et al*, 1998) and pKMSD48 (Stedman *et al*, 1999) were constructed using an *E. coli* plasmid and *Sulfolobus* natural virus which can be stable in both *S. solfataricus* and *E. coli*. Although the advancement in genetic engineering tools may have no direct industrial application, but will play an important role in the development of methods for the large-scale production of archaeal enzymes with potential applications in industry (Schiraldi *et al*, 2002).

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