

Characterisation of a Yeast Lipase (*Candida parapsilosis*) from Vegetable Oil Polluted Soil

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Abstract: Vegetable oil spills are becoming frequent and are potentially more challenging than petroleum hydrocarbon spills. Yeast lipases occupy a place of prominence among biocatalysts and have potential for remediation of vegetable oil spills. There is a need for extensive characterization of lipase for the treatment of vegetable oil-polluted sites. This work was carried out to preliminarily characterise the lipase of *Candida parapsilosis*.

Candida parapsilosis was screened for lipase production using standard methods. Temperature, pH, ion concentration (NaNO₃ and MgSO₄), enzyme concentration, nitrogen concentration, substrate concentration, time course and agitation speed were optimised for the lipase activity as well as growth.

Crude enzyme of *Candida parapsilosis* had the highest lipase activity and growth of 0.4 U/mL and 1.477 mg/mL respectively but when production was optimised higher activity 0.5 U/mL was seen in the use of glucose as substrate, use of ions like (NH₄)₂SO₄ and NaCl and at agitation speed of 120rpm. Different enzyme and substrate concentration which had optimum enzyme activities for *Candida parapsilosis* (0.5 U/mL), were 0.5 mL and 1.0 % respectively. Ion concentration (NaNO₃ and MgSO₄) had optimum growth (1.761mg/mL) at 0.05 %.

The enzyme has good potential for the hydrolysis of vegetable oils, which is an important factor in environmental cleanup of vegetable oil spill site.

Keywords: Lipase production, vegetable oil spill, characterisation.

1. INTRODUCTION

Lipases (triacylglycerol acylhydrolases) are a group of enzymes, which have the ability to hydrolyse triacylglycerols at an oil-water interface to release free fatty acids and glycerol. Lipases are present in microorganisms, plants and animals (Jisheng *et al.*, 2005).

Lipases catalyse a wide range of reactions, including hydrolysis, inter-esterification, alcoholysis, acidolysis, esterification and aminolysis (Joseph *et al.*, 2008). This hydrolytic reaction is reversible. In the presence of organic solvents, the enzymes are effective catalysts for various inter-esterification and trans-esterification reactions.

Further, microbial lipases show regiospecificity and chiral selectivity (Gupta *et al.*, 2003). Especially microbial lipases have different enzymological properties and substrate specificities. Many species of bacteria, yeast and molds are found to produce lipases (Liu *et al.*, 2008).

Their biotechnological potential is relying on their ability to catalyse not only the hydrolysis of a given triglyceride, but also its synthesis from glycerol and fatty acids. Therefore, microbial lipases have many industrial applications (Jaeger *et al.*, 1999). The temperature stability of lipases is the most important characteristic for industrial use (Choo *et al.*, 1997). Lipase catalysed reactions are widely used in the manufacturing of fats and oils, detergents and degreasing formulations, food processing, the synthesis of fine chemical and pharmaceuticals, paper manufacture, and production of cosmetics.

Lipases are also used to accelerate the degradation of fatty wastes and polyurethane (Jisheng *et al.*, 2005).

Among microbial lipases extensive reviews have been written on bacterial lipases (Jaeger *et al.* 1999; Arpigny and Jaeger., 1999). Yeast lipases have received a raw deal despite the fact that *Candida rugosa* is the most frequently used organism for lipase synthesis. Benjamin and Pandey (1998) have written a review exclusive on *Candida rugosa* lipase. The information on numerous other yeast lipases is scattered, hence the availability of this lipase with specific characteristics is still a limiting factor. Therefore, in this study, an attempt was made to assess the bio-potentials of the yeast enzyme *Candida parapsilosis* under laboratory conditions. By studying the effect of the environment on the growth and lipolytic enzyme production by the isolate and also characterising the lipolytic enzyme of the yeast isolate. The characteristics of this lipase were checked in order to understand enzyme functions better and enhance enzyme production by applying suitable substrate as well as process parameters optimisation.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Growth studies and Production of the Enzymes:

2.1.1 Growth Media:

Isolates were grown in a complex basal medium whose composition was a modification of the medium of Tsujisaka *et al.* (1973) with glucose omitted. This medium contained 5% peptone, 0.1% NaNO₃ and 0.1% MgSO₄, adjusted to the desired pH, before sterilisation. Sterile olive oil (Goya) was added as carbon source.

2.1.2 Lipase Production:

2.1.2.1 Preparation of Inoculum:

A loopfull of the pure culture of yeast were grown for three days in potato dextrose broth.

2.1.2.2 Production Procedure:

One milliliter from the above preparation was inoculated into 65.0ml of sterile medium in 250ml Erlenmeyer flasks and incubated at room temperature (27°C ± 2°C) from 24hrs to many days until the maximum lipase production was recorded. The medium was centrifuged at 30,000 g for 15min using Himac High-speed Refrigerated Centrifuge (Hitachi model CR21GII). The supernatant of the centrifuged culture broth was then decanted leaving the cells at the bottom. The cell-free extract acted as the crude lipase enzyme.

2.1.3 Growth of the Isolates:

Growth of the Isolates in the growth medium was examined spectrophotometrically using a Jenway 640 UV/VIS spectrophotometer at 540nm, absorbances were measured against blank (Gojkovic, 2009).

2.1.4 Lipase Assay:

Lipase activity was measured by a modification of the assay of Parry *et al.* (1966) using as substrate a 10% Olive oil-gum arabic solution emulsified by sonication for 2mins at 25watts output according to Linfield *et al.* (1985). One milliliter of cell-free fermentation broth prepared by centrifugation as describe above was added to 5ml of emulsion and incubated at room temperature for 1h with rapid stirring. Ethanol was added to stop the reaction and the free fatty acids produced were quantified by titration to pH 9.5 against 0.1N NaOH using a radiometer titration system. Blanks with 1ml of fermentation broth were employed in each experiment. Blanks ran with sterile or actual uninoculated broths were the same within experimental error. Samples were run in duplicate.

A unit of lipase activity was defined as the amount of sodium hydroxide (NaOH) used in the titration to bring the reaction mixture to a pH of 9.5 per min under the defined assay conditions. Alternatively, it is considered as the release of one micromole of free fatty acid (FFA)/min at room temperature.

2.2 Optimisation of Production Conditions:

2.2.1 Effect of pH on Lipase Production:

This was carried out using a modified method of Tsujisaka *et al.* (1973). Growth medium was prepared in 0.2M phosphate buffer and (0.1M citric acid mixed with 0.2M Na₂HPO₄) citrate phosphate buffer of varying pH (5.5, 6.0, 6.5,

7.0, 7.5, 8.0, 8.5). The lipase activity and the growth in the culture supernatant were determined using appropriate procedure.

2.2.2 Effect of Temperature on Lipase Production:

The effect of temperature on lipase activity was determined using the above method. The organism was cultivated in the growth medium at different temperatures, which ranged from 20°C, 27°C, 40°C, 50°C, 60°C to 70°C for 24 hours. The lipase activity and growth in the culture supernatant were determined.

2.2.3 Effect of Aeration on Lipase Production:

After inoculating the organisms into the growth medium, the flasks were continuously shaken at 27°C for 24 hours at varied revolutions per minute (80, 100, 120 and 140) using orbital shaker Stuart SSLI. The lipase activity and growth in the culture supernatant were then determined.

2.2.4 Time Course of Lipase Production:

The organisms were cultivated in the growth medium for different periods that ranged from 24 hours to 72 hours. Samples were removed periodically and growth and lipase activity in the culture supernatant were determined.

2.2.5 Effect of Different Nitrogen Sources on Lipase Production:

The main nitrogen source in the growth medium was replaced by other nitrogen sources such as casein, urea and yeast extract at the same concentration (5 %). The lipase activity and growth in the culture supernatant were then determined.

2.2.6 Effect of Different Substrates on Lipase Production:

To determine the suitable substrate (carbon source) for the production of lipase by the organisms, substrates such as; glycerol, soy oil, olive oil and a simple sugar (glucose) were used. They were individually tested by replacing the substrate present in the growth medium at the concentration of 2%. Thereafter, the lipase activities as well as growth in the culture supernatant were determined.

2.2.7 Effect of Metal ion on Lipase Production:

The growth medium in which the organisms were cultivated had their metal ions varied. ZnSO₄, FeSO₄, (NH₄)₂SO₄, KNO₃, AgNO₃, CaNO₃, Na₂CO₃ and NaCl were used in equimolar concentration (0.1 mM) instead of MgSO₄ and NaNO₃. The lipase activity and growth in the culture supernatant were then determined.

2.2.8 Furthermore, the effect of different concentrations of the substrate, nitrogen, anion and cation, crude enzyme and varied temperature on growth and lipolytic activity of *Candida parapsilosis* were also studied according to the assay method described above.

3. RESULT

Figure 3.1 shows the effect of pH on growth and lipase production of *Candida parapsilosis*, maximum growth and lipase production was recorded at pH 8.5 and pH 8.0 respectively. In the case of the effect on temperature as shown in figure 3.2, as temperature increase, growth and lipase production decrease. Agitation did not support lipase production in *Candida parapsilosis* as shown in figure 3.3. Growth increased for *Candida parapsilosis* with 1.8 mg/ml but lipase production decreased to 0.0 U/mL at 72 hours of incubation as shown in figure 3.4.

Figure 3.5 shows the effect of the different nitrogen sources on growth and lipase production by *Candida parapsilosis*, urea did not support growth (0.004 mg/mL) however yeast extract supported growth but not lipase production (0.0 U/mL). Figure 3.6 shows the effect of the different carbon sources on growth and lipase production of *Candida parapsilosis*, glucose enhanced lipase production (0.5 U/mL) whereas it was inhibited by glycerol. Figures 3.7 and 3.8 show the effect of metal ions on growth and lipase production of *Candida parapsilosis*, in the case of effect of cations on growth and lipase production of *Candida parapsilosis* both growth and lipase activity was inhibited by AgNO₃, but (NH₄)₂SO₄ supported both, 1.757 mg/mL and 0.5 U/mL respectively, this is as shown in figure 3.8.

Temperature 27°C had the maximum growth and lipase activity of *Candida parapsilosis* as shown in Table 3.1. Table 3.2, shows the effect of different concentration of substrate (Olive Oil) on growth and lipolytic activity of *Candida*

parapsilosis. At 1.0 % lipase activity was highest while growth was at 1.5 %. Table 3.3 shows the effect of different concentration of anion and cation on growth and lipolytic activity of *Candida parapsilosis* with maximum growth at 0.05 %. Effect of different concentration of crude enzyme on growth and lipolytic activity of *Candida parapsilosis* as shown in Table 3.4, concentration in which growth and lipolytic activity was maximum is 0.5 ml.

Table 3.5, shows the effect of different concentration of nitrogen source (peptone) on growth and lipolytic activity of *Candida parapsilosis* maximum growth was at 3.0 g.

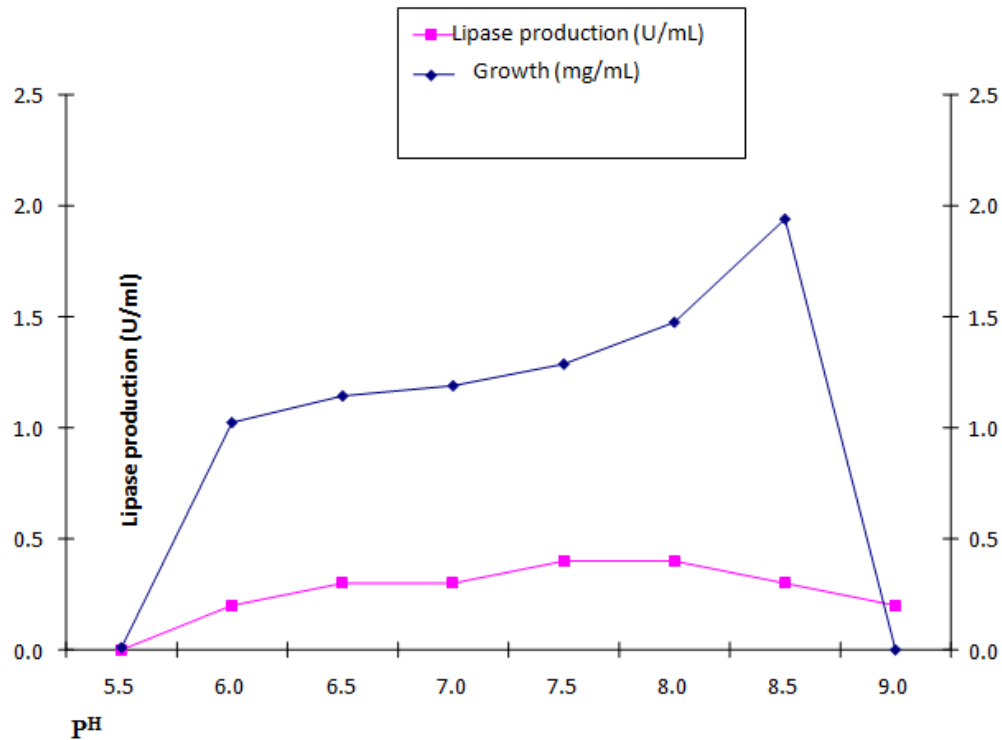


Fig 3.1: Effect of pH on growth and lipase production of *Candida parapsilosis*

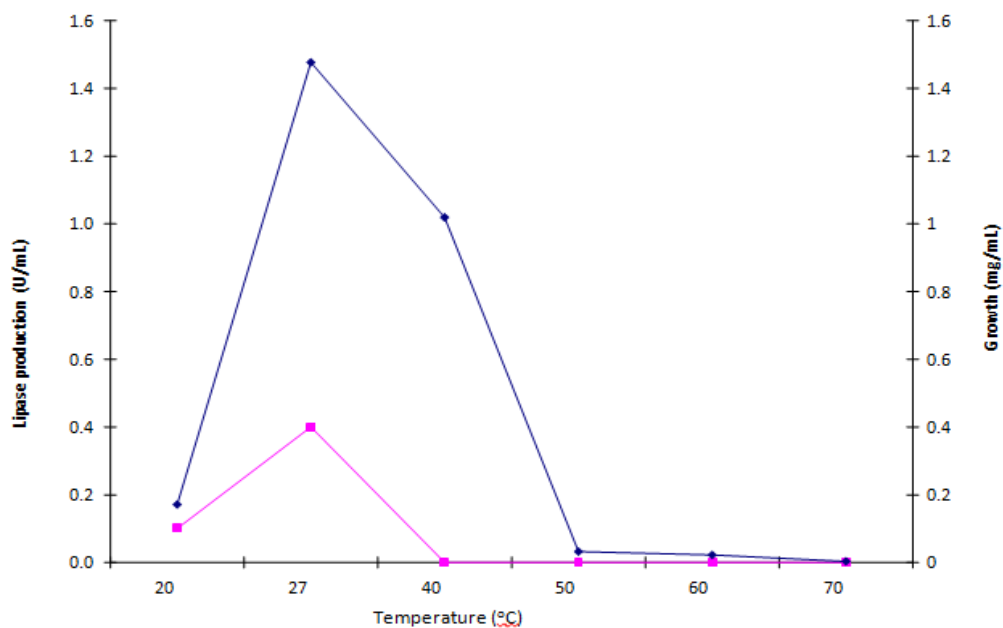


Fig 3.2: Effect of temperature on growth and lipase production by *Candida parapsilosis*

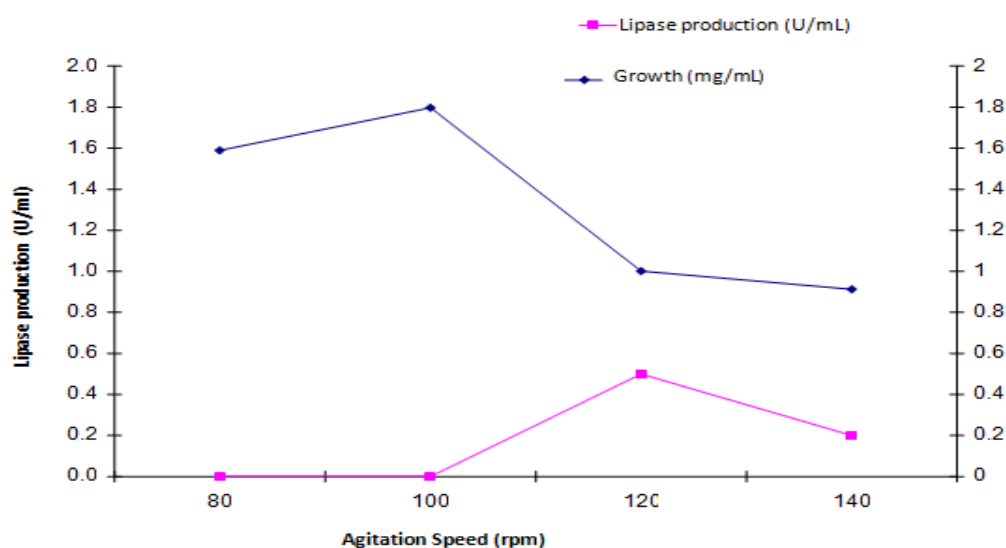


Fig 3.3: Effect of agitation on growth and lipase production by *Candida parapsilosis*

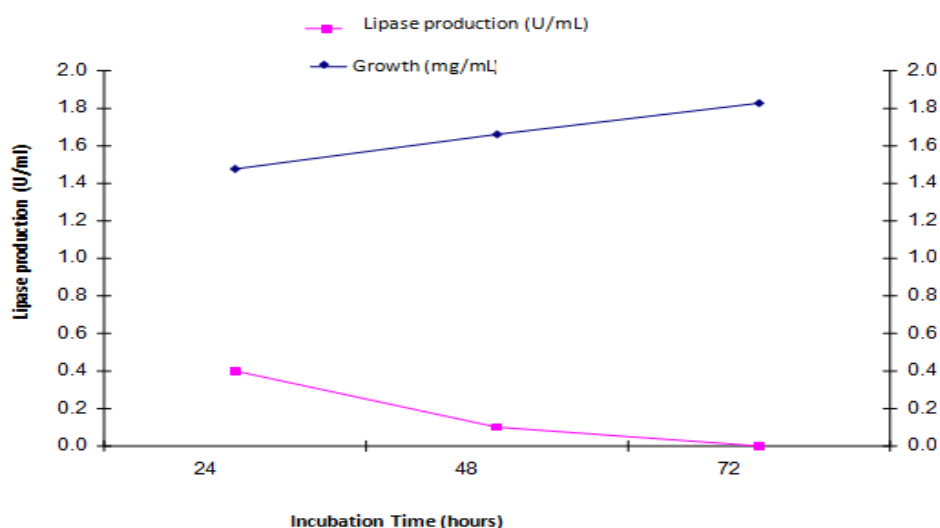


Fig 3.4: Effect of Incubation time on growth and lipase production by *Candida parapsilosis*

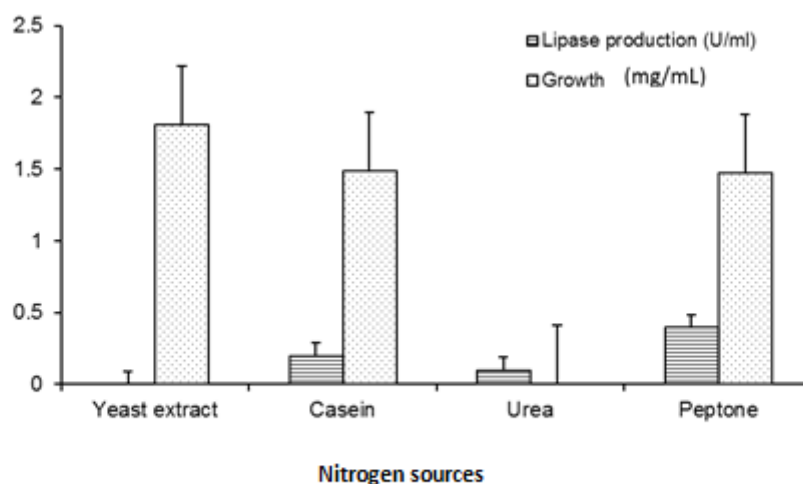


Fig 3.5: Effect of 5% different nitrogen sources on growth and lipase production by *Candida parapsilosis*

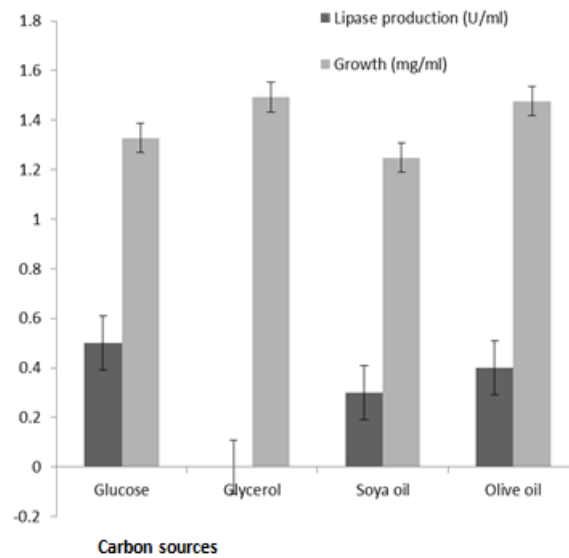


Fig 3.6: Effect of 2% different carbon sources on growth and lipase production by *Candida parapsilosis*

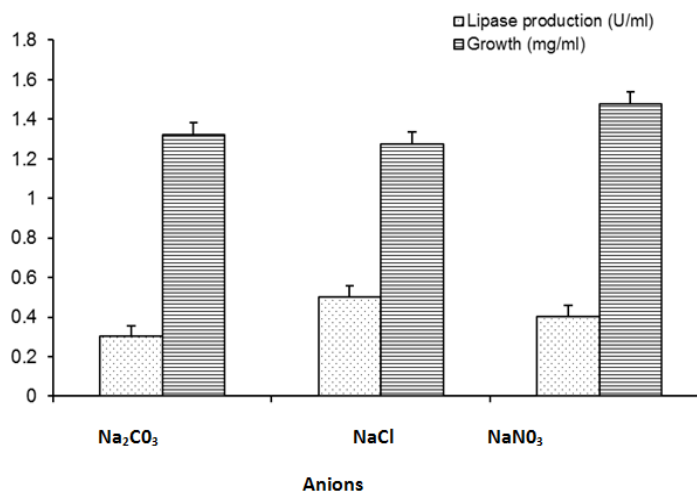


Fig 3.7: Effect of 0.1% different anions on growth and lipase production by *Candida parapsilosis*

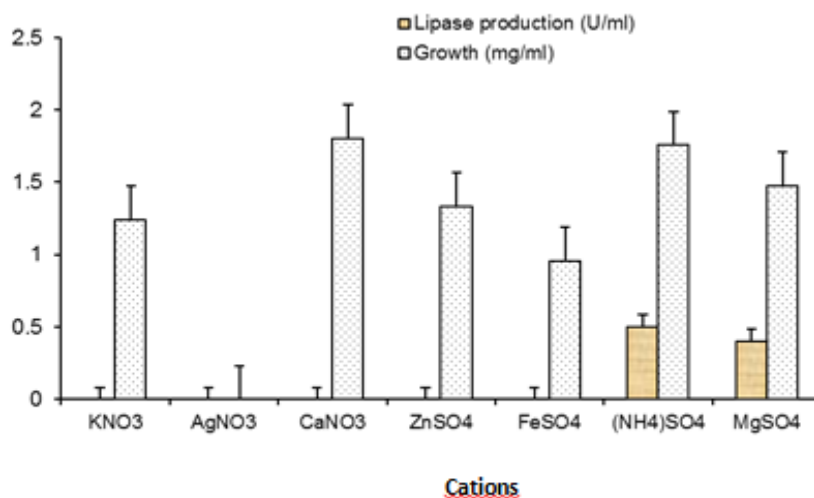


Fig 3.8: Effect of 0.1% different cations on growth and lipase production by *Candida parapsilosis*

TABLE 3.1: EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE ON GROWTH AND LIPOLYTIC ACTIVITY OF *Candida parapsilosis*

| PARAMETERS | Different Temperature Investigation | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| | 20°C | 25°C | 27°C | 30°C | 35°C | 37°C | 40°C |
| Growth (mg/mL) | 0.171±0.0005 | 1.067±0.0002 | 1.477±0.00015 | 1.300±0.005 | 1.068±0.00025 | 1.052±0.00005 | 1.019±0.0005 |
| Lipolytic activity (u/mL) | 0.100±0.005 | 0.100±0.005 | 0.400±0.005 | 0.100±0.005 | 0.000±0.000 | 0.000±0.000 | 0.000±0.000 |

Each value is a mean of duplicate determinations ± standard error

TABLE 3.2: EFFECT OF DIFFERENT CONCENTRATION OF SUBSTRATE (OLIVE OIL) ON GROWTH AND LIPOLYTIC ACTIVITY OF *Candida parapsilosis*

| PARAMETERS | Different Concentration of Olive Oil | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| | 0.5% | 1.0% | 1.5% | 2.0% | 2.5% |
| Growth (mg/mL) | 1.735±0.00005 | 1.738±0.0002 | 1.756±0.0002 | 1.500±0.005 | 1.358±0.00025 |
| Lipolytic activity (u/mL) | 0.000±0.000 | 0.500±0.0005 | 0.400±0.0005 | 0.400±0.005 | 0.000±0.000 |

Each value is a mean of duplicate determinations ± standard error

TABLE 3.3: EFFECT OF DIFFERENT CONCENTRATION OF ANION AND CATION ON GROWTH AND LIPOLYTIC ACTIVITY OF *Candida parapsilosis*

| PARAMETERS | Different Concentration of Mg SO ₄ and NaNO ₃ Tested | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 0.05% | 0.1% | 0.15% | 0.2% |
| Growth (mg/mL) | 1.761±0.00005 | 1.477±0.00015 | 1.474±0.00005 | 1.461±0.00015 |
| Lipolytic activity (u/mL) | 0.00±0.00 | 0.400±0.0005 | 0.100±0.0005 | 0.000±0.000 |

Each value is a mean of duplicate determinations ± standard error

TABLE 3.4: EFFECT OF DIFFERENT CONCENTRATION OF CRUDE ENZYME ON GROWTH AND LIPOLYTIC ACTIVITY OF *Candida parapsilosis*

| PARAMETERS | Different Concentration of Crude Enzyme | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 0.5ml | 1.0ml | 1.5ml | 2.0ml |
| Growth (mg/mL) | 1.523±0.00005 | 1.477±0.00015 | 1.435±0.00005 | 1.360±0.00005 |
| Lipolytic activity (u/mL) | 0.500±0.0005 | 0.400±0.0005 | 0.200±0.0005 | 0.100±0.0005 |

Each value is a mean of duplicate determinations ± standard error

TABLE 3.5: EFFECT OF DIFFERENT CONCENTRATION OF NITROGEN SOURCE (PEPTONE) ON GROWTH AND LIPOLYTIC ACTIVITY OF *Candida parapsilosis*

| PARAMETERS | Different Temperature Investigation | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 1.0g | 2.0g | 3.0g | 4.0g | 5.0g | 6.0g |
| Growth (mg/mL) | 0.968±0.00025 | 1.336±0.0002 | 1.638±0.00015 | 1.606±0.00005 | 1.477±0.00025 | 1.029±0.00005 |
| Lipolytic activity (u/mL) | 0.10±0.005 | 0.20±0.0005 | 0.20±0.0005 | 0.30±0.0005 | 0.40±0.0045 | 0.00±0.00 |

Each value is a mean of duplicate determinations ± standard error

4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Increase in microbial growth does not necessarily mean increase in lipolytic activity as generally observed from this study. On the contrary, Becker *et al.* (1999), Keenan and Sabelnikov (2000) used microbial growth parameters to measure lipids degradation. However, according to Kramer (1971) and as seen in this study (physiological study of *Candida parapsilosis*) an increase on biomass concentration may not produce an increase in lipid matter hydrolysis, because lipase production is not a function of cell growth or concentration.

The obtained yeast lipase was generally observed to work best in alkaline pH (7.5). In low and high medium pH tested, the lipase activity was less. As confirmed with the result of *Candida parapsilosis* in this study, it has been well-documented that the optimum pH range of yeast lipases is generally between pH 5 and 8, with a few exceptions acting at low pH optima of 2.0 (Oishi *et al.*, 1999; Kakugawa *et al.*, 2001; Vakhlu and Kour, 2006).

In this study the yeast had its optimum growth temperature and optimum lipase activity at 27°C. Temperature changes give rise to cleavage of hydrogen bonds between substrate and enzyme active sites. Optimum temperature value promotes binding potential of enzyme and substrate. However, in this study, increase in temperature above known optimum tends most likely to denature the enzymes, thereby reducing the enzyme activity.

In this study agitation supported growth better than lipase production on Ebrahimpour *et al.* (2008) showed that shallow layer (Static culture) where aeration is moderate produced much more lipase than shake cultures (high aeration). On the contrary Hala *et al.* (2010) reported that at 150 rpm, *Fusarium Oxyspirum* produced highest lipase activity compared with the static culture and even at 100rpm and 200rpm.

As observed in this research, maximum lipase activity for enzyme studied was obtained after 24hours of incubation, indicating that lipase was necessary for the first stages of growth. At longer incubation periods, and for all the isolates, the lipase activity decreased which might be due to the depletion of nutrients, accumulation of toxic end products, the change in pH of the of the medium, or loss of moisture. Other investigators have reported a different incubation period for optimal lipase production. Maximum lipase activity was achieved after 48hours of incubation by UI-Haq *et al.* (2002) with *Rhizopus oryzae*. In another study the maximum lipase activity by *Aspergillus niger* occurred after five days of incubation (Mahadik *et al.*, 2002). Benjamin and Pandey (1997) obtained maximum production of lipase by *Candida rugosa* after three days of incubation.

Peptone stimulated lipase production better than other nitrogen sources experimented with in this study. This is in agreement with the work of Tembhurkar *et al.* (2012).

In the case of substrate hydrolysis, almost all the substrates tested were hydrolysed by the tested organism. Most of the substrates have long carbon chains (Olive oil has C18:1) which may take time to dissolve. Since lipases hydrolyse esters in emulsion and usually water - insoluble substrates, the organisms take up the substrate at different concentration, form and time. Typically, triglycerides composed of long-chain fatty acids, whereas esterases preferentially hydrolyse "simple" esters and usually only triglycerides bearing fatty acids shorter than six carbon chains (C6). Thus, these results strongly suggest that the enzyme used in this study show lipase activity. The findings of Pogaku *et al.* (2010), olive oil supported good growth and increased lipase activity significantly. Olive oil in this case acted as an inducer of lipase production; hence lipase production has been shown to be induced remarkably in the presence of lipidic carbon sources like oils and fatty acids. Glucose was found effective in stimulating lipase production. Prabhakar *et al.* (2002) obtained maximum production of enzyme with glucose among various carbon sources studied.

The activity of lipase in synchrony with growth was found to be best at 0.1% concentration of MgSO₄ and NaNO₃ for the yeast enzyme. Islam *et al.* (2009) also found that higher concentration of Ca²⁺ decreased lipase activities. These metal ions may increase the binding affinity of enzyme to the substrate (Ece YaPasan, 2008). The enzyme of *Candida parapsilosis* had optimum lipase activity at substrate concentration of 1 %. Similar results have been observed by Sugihara *et al.* (1991) who reported lipase production from *Bacillus* sp in the presence of 1 % olive oil in culture medium. Several other scholars have observed different percentages of olive oil in the culture medium for lipase production by different enzymes. An example is Rajesh *et al.* (2010) who note lipase production by *Trichoderma reesei* at 2 % concentration.

The catalytic activities of the lipases in the current study was enhanced in the presence of Mg²⁺ and NH₃⁺, but inhibited by Fe²⁺, Zn²⁺, Hg²⁺ and Ca²⁺. Similar results have been reported by Chakraborty and Paul (2008). It can be explained by the fact that few metal ions have ability to interfere with the bonds between amino acid side chains of the enzyme which results in the denaturation of the active site or alter the activity by stabilising and destabilising the conformation of enzyme (Ebrahimpour *et al.*, 2011).

Lipase production is influenced by the type and concentration of carbon and nitrogen sources, the culture pH, the growth temperature and the dissolved oxygen concentration (Elibol and Ozer, 2001). The enzyme has good potential for hydrolysis of vegetable oils which is an important factor in environmental clean up of vegetable oil spill site.

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