

Original Research Article

<http://dx.doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2016.507.063>

Synergistic Effect of Xylose and Sucrose Enhance Accumulation of Stilbenes in Endophytic Fungus: *Aspergillus stellatus*

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Endophytic fungus,
Aspergillus stellatus
Xylose, Sucrose,
Stilbenes.

Article Info

Accepted:
20 June 2016
Available Online:
10 July 2016

The aim of the work presented was to determine the stilbenes accumulation in fungal cultures of *Aspergillus stellatus* at different sugars xylose, maltose, fructose, glucose, galactose and sucrose on mycological medium Czapek Dox. Xylose and sucrose were selected for maximum accumulation of stilbenes in the fungal culture. Four concentrations of xylose and sucrose: 10, 30, 50 and 70 g·l⁻¹ were analysed and studied that Xylose showed maximum production at 30 g·l⁻¹ with 591 µg g⁻¹ dry mass (DM) of stilbenes and sucrose produced 617 µg g⁻¹ DM of stilbenes at 50 g·l⁻¹. In different experiment, their interaction were studied, 50g·l⁻¹ of xylose and sucrose marked enhanced in stilbene accumulation with 773 µg g⁻¹ DM at 12 day.

Introduction

Endophytes are chemical synthesizer inside plants grow intra-and/or intercellularly in the tissues of any part of the plants without causing over symptoms on the plants in which they live, and have proven to be rich sources of bioactive natural products (Li *et al.*, 2008; Tan *et al.*, 2001). The endophytes may provide protection and survival conditions to their host plant by producing a plethora of substances which, once isolated and characterized, may also have potential for use in nutraceutical, pharmaceutical areas (Strobel *et al.*, 2004; Strobel *et al.*, 2003).

Bioactive natural compounds produced by endophytes have been promising potential

usefulness in safety and human health concerns, although there is still a significant demand of drug industry for synthetic products due to economic and time-consuming reasons.

Endophytes provide a broad variety of bioactive secondary metabolites with unique structure, including alkaloids, benzopyranones, chinones, flavonoids, phenolic acids, quinones, steroids, terpenoids, tetralones, xanthenes, and others. Such bioactive metabolites find wide-ranging application as agrochemicals, antibiotics, immunosuppressants, antiparasitics, antioxidants, and anticancer

agents (11). Polyphenolics like stilbenes are associated with many health benefits that include antioxidant, anti-cancer and anti-atherosclerosis properties (Waffo *et al.*, 2008; Baur *et al.*, 2006; Delmas *et al.*, 2006). Phytoalexins from the *Vitaceae* constitute a rather restricted group of polyphenolic secondary metabolites belonging to the stilbenes family (piceid, resveratrol, viniferin, ampelopsin). In the present communication, report the synergistic effect of Xylose and sucrose on stilbenes accumulation in endophytic cultures of *Aspergillus stellus*.

Materials and Methods

Endophytic cell cultures

Alternaria sp. was grown at 28 °C on Czapek Dox medium (CD) plates for 5 days and then prepared into a spore suspension of 1×10^7 spores/mL (measured using a hemacytometer) by washing the culture with sterile water. A 2-mL aliquot of the spore suspension was inoculated into 100 mL liquid Czapek dox broth (CDB) in a 250-mL flask and cultivated at 28 °C in a rotary shaker (120 rpm). After 4 days, the cells were collected by centrifugation at $1,136 \times g$ for 10 min at 4 °C using a refrigerated. The cells were washed twice with sterile water and used to produce stilbenes throughout the study.

Three different experiments were conducted, First all sugars Xylose, Maltose, Fructose, Galactose, Glucose and Sucrose of same concentration 30gL^{-1} were used, second selected the best two sugars at different concentration 10,30,50,70 gL^{-1} and in third studied the interaction of selected sugars xylose and sucrose. All Sugars were added in the Czapek Dox medium and were co-autoclaved with the medium at 121°C for 15 min.

Sample preparation

The cell cultures were harvested after 12 days of treatment, washed with distilled water and filtered under mild vacuum. The cells were weighed to obtain the fresh weight per 100 ml medium Fresh Weight (FW) and dry mass (DM) was then determined by drying the cells powder in liquid nitrogen to a constant weight. Dried homogenized cells (50 mg) were extracted in acetone–water 3:2 (v/v) for 12 h (room temperature) on a test tube rotator, centrifuged at Relative centrifugal force (RCF) 750 for 15 min and then the supernatant was concentrated under vacuum at 40LC till the complete removal of acetone, the aqueous extract was partitioned twice with equal amount of ethyl acetate; finally the ethyl acetate phase was concentrated under vacuum till dryness. All the residues were redissolved in HPLC grade methanol and analyzed by using HPLC (pump L2130, auto sampler L-2200, FL detector L-2485, Merck-Hitachi). In brief, separation was accomplished on a (LichroCART) 250 9 4 mm LiChro-spher (5 μm) RP-18 column protected by a guard column of the same material. The solvent system used was: Solvent A-0.0025% trifluoroacetic acid in water; solvent B-80% acetonitrile (E. Merck, India) in solvent A. The mobile phase consisted of solvent (A) and (B). The step gradient programme of solvent B was as follows: 0–3 min: 14–18%; 3–12 min: 18–18%; 12–25 min: 18–22%; 25–30 min: 22–22%; 30–38 min: 22–40%; 38–43 min: 40–40%; 43–46 min: 40–60%; 46–48 min: 60–70%; 48–50 min: 70–70%; 50–52 min: 70–80%; 52–54 min: 80–80%; 54–56 min: 80–85%; 56–58 min: 85–100%; 58–60 min: 100–100%; 60–62 min: 100–14%; 62–65 min: 14–14%. Separation was performed at a flow rate of 1.0ml min^{-1} and chromatographic peaks were monitored at k_{exc} 300 nm and k_{em} 390 nm (Krisa *et al.*,

1999). The spent medium was extracted with 100 ml ethyl acetate and analyzed by HPLC for stilbenes released in the medium.

Standard all the four compound resveratrol, viniferin, piceid and ampelopsin were purchased from Sigma Chemical Co. (St Louis, MO, USA) These were dissolved in methanol to yield a final concentration of 1.0 mg ml⁻¹ and standard curve were prepared using all the standards with concentrations ranging from 50 to 500 ng ml⁻¹. The amount of the other compounds was calculated on the basis of all the four standard compounds.

Statistical analysis

All results were averaged over two separate analyses from two flasks for the estimation of stilbenes and two consecutive experiments with six replicate flasks in each treatment for growth value determination. The results were expressed as µg g⁻¹ dry mass.

Results and discussion

Effect of Sugars

Maltose, xylose, fructose, galactose ,glucose and sucrose of 30gL⁻¹ were found stilbenes accumulation 198, 591,190, 287,92 and 617 µg g⁻¹ DM in the culture medium (Table 1) Sucrose was given highest accumulation

stilbenes 617 µg g⁻¹ DM followed by Xylose 591 µg g⁻¹ DM. Xylose and sucrose were selected and studied their intraction of 1 ,3,5,7 % concentrations in the culture medium a. Xylose of 3% concentration produced maximum stilbene production 591 µg g⁻¹ DM while sucrose of 5% concentration produced maximum stilbene production 786 µg g⁻¹ DM in Czapek Dox medium (Table 2 and 3).All the concentration from (1 to 7 %) of both the sugars were added together in the Czapek dox medium observed that the 5% concentration accumulate maximum stilbenes in the cell culture while dry mass of cell was found more in 3% 7.2 (g L⁻¹) as compare to 5 % where dry mass was observed 7.0 (g L⁻¹), suggested that growth of cell is not proportional for the production of stilbenes (Table 4). Maximum stilbenes accumulation (4361 g l⁻¹) was recorded in the cells grown in the medium supplemented with 5 % of xylose and sucrose. When these two sugars were combined, the accumulation and yield were more as compare to the individual sugar.

Our study showed that Xylose being effective at a 5 % and sucrose at 3% concentration for accumulation of stilbenes but both were independent of cell growth. The influence of carbon concentrations on fungi has been extensively studied (Godinho and Fox, 1981, Griffin, 1994, Cho *et al.*, 2002, Suhr *et al.*, 2002).

Table 1 Effect of different sugars on cell culture growth and stilbenes production in the *Aspergillus stellatus* after 12 days cultures in Czapek Dox medium

Sugars(3%)	DM (g l ⁻¹)	stilbenes content µg g ⁻¹ DM					
		Piceid	Resveratrol	Viniferin	Ampelopsin	Total	Yield µg l ⁻¹ DM
Maltose	1.7±0.2	42±0.5	22±0.1	56±0.9	78±5.3	198	337
Xylose	4.6±3	55±4	20±2	198±4	318±2	591	2719
Fructose	2.6±3	35±4	11±2	48±4	96±2	190	494
Galactose	1.3±0.1	79±2	31±0.8	102±8	75±5	287	373
Glucose	1.2±1	29±1	13±4	21±3	29±2	92	110
Sucrose	5.5±0.0	40±4	46±2	199±2	332±5	617	3394

Table 2 Effect of different concentration of **Xylose** on cell culture growth and stilbenes production in the *Aspergillus stellatus* after 12 days cultures in Czapek yeast extract agar medium

Xylose(%)	DM (g l ⁻¹)	stilbenes content µg g ⁻¹ DM					Yield µg l ⁻¹ DM
		Piceid	Resveratrol	Viniferin	Ampelopsin	Total	
1	2.6±0.2	52±0.5	24±0.1	88±0.9	118±5.3	282	733
3	4.6±3	55±4	20±2	198±4	318±2	591	2719
5	3.6±3	55±4	20±2	98±4	110±2	283	1019
7	3.3±0.1	79±2	31±0.8	140±8	135±5	385	1271

Table 3 Effect of different concentration of **sucrose** on cell culture growth and stilbenes production in the *Aspergillus stellatus* after 12 days cultures in Czapek yeast extract agar medium

Sucrose (%)	DM (g l ⁻¹)	stilbenes content µg g ⁻¹ DM					Yield µg l ⁻¹ DM
		Piceid	Resveratrol	Viniferin	Ampelopsin	Total	
1	3.4±0.1	32±1	133±4	114±1	343±6	622	2114
3	5.5±0.0	40±4	46±2	199±2	332±5	617	3394
5	6.0±0.2	85±0.9	87±3	213±1	401±8	786	4716
7	3.1±3	36±2	40±3	108±4	288±2	472	1463

Table 4 Combined effect of different concentration of Maltose and Sucrose on cell culture growth and stilbenes production in the *Aspergillus stellatus* after 12 days cultures in Czapek yeast extract agar medium

Xylose(%)	sucrose(%)	DM (g l ⁻¹)	stilbenes content µg g ⁻¹ DM			
			Piceid	Resveratrol	Viniferin	Ampelopsin
1	1	6.1±0.6	68±2	43±0.3	103±0.3	144±0.5
3	3	7.2±0.4	100±8	66±6	101±3	138±20
5	5	7.0±0.3	126±2	94±0.6	196±5	357±5
7	7	5.8±0.3	52±7	46±5	78±8	92±14

The obtained results of this study revealed that the mycelial weight, colony diameter and secondary metabolites of *A.stellatus* significantly affected with the sugars concentrations.

Sucrose proved to be the most promising carbon source to produce bioactive compounds. This explains that a fungal sp may have the ability to utilize a particular carbon source for vegetative growth but may not be able to use it for production of specialized structural molecules. Carbon source promote primary metabolism and feeding with more slowly metabolizable compounds may lead to the formation of secondary products. There is usually a dilemma between achieving maximal cell growth rates and maximal production

because conditions that allow fast cell growth could be unfavorable to metabolite production (Arora *et al.*, 2010) This also proves that Czapek dox's medium is most effective for metabolite production responsible for Stilbenes production. This shows that the growth medium can also have a significant effect on secondary metabolites and enhancement of secondary metabolites can only be achieved through systematic manipulation of parameters.

Acknowledgements

The authors acknowledge the financial support obtained from Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, New Delhi, India for providing DBT BioCARE Women Scientist Fellowship under Grant

Ref. BT/Bio-CARe/03/420/2012 & 03-09-2013 and Gujarat University where the Research work has been conducted.

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How to cite this article:

Chetana Roat and Meenu Saraf. 2016. Synergistic Effect of Xylose and Sucrose Enhance Accumulation of Stilbenes in Endophytic Fungus: *Aspergillus stellatus*. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci*. 5(7): 571-575. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2016.507.063>